

which this country was founded by forcing the Constitution to yield to a Senate rule, a predicament that should be untenable to all of us who have sworn to uphold that most sacred document.

The filibuster has been and continues to be useful when it comes to legislation. It should remain. However, judicial nominees deserve more and the American people deserve more. They deserve what the Constitution calls for, an up-or-down vote.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is undoubtedly the sacred bond between the United States Government and the American people. The Social Security debate is one about how to best protect the interests of today's seniors while preserving benefits for our children and our grandchildren.

When visiting citizens in my congressional district over the last several months, I was able to hear from students, seniors, employers and others about their thoughts on the problem facing the Social Security system. Undoubtedly, I heard the message that the Social Security system is headed for a crisis. In the 1930s when Social Security was created, there were more than 40 workers for every retiree. Today, there are just over three workers for every retiree. By 2018, there will be less than three workers for every retiree. These are the facts. This is our reality. To ignore this problem or to claim that there is no problem is plain irresponsible.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to produce a solution for the American people to save our Social Security system.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

□ 1030

FRANCIS C. GOODPASTER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1082) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 East Illinois Avenue in Vinita, Oklahoma, as the "Francis C. Goodpaster Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1082

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FRANCIS C. GOODPASTER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 East Illinois Avenue in Vinita, Oklahoma, shall be known and designated as the "Francis C. Goodpaster Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Francis C. Goodpaster Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform and its chairman, I rise to begin the consideration of H.R. 1082. This legislation honors a caring community leader who personifies much of what is good about America. Francis Goodpaster was a veteran, postmaster, philanthropist, teacher, church elder, and lifelong resident of the northeast Oklahoma town of Vinita. All members of the Oklahoma State delegation have joined the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN), the sponsor, as cosponsors of H.R. 1082.

Born in Vinita, Oklahoma in 1909, Francis Goodpaster became employed by the Post Office Department in 1937. He left his job and his home to serve our Nation in the Army in World War II. He retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel. In 1964 he became Postmaster in Vinita until his retirement in 1973.

In addition to his postal and military career, Mr. Goodpaster was very active in his native community. He served as Craig County Commissioner, President of the Vinita Lions Club, commander in the local American Legion, Red Cross board member, and he was even an elder at the Pilgrim Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Speaker, Francis Goodpaster passed away on March 3, 2002. We support this legislation that will memorialize his contributions to his hometown of Vinita, Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 1082, which will name the Vinita, Oklahoma Post Office after Francis C. Goodpaster.

Francis Goodpaster was a lifelong resident of Vinita, only leaving his hometown briefly to attend Oklahoma A&M and to serve his country during World War II. He was also a man who dedicated his life to public service. His service, however, was not only to the people of the great State of Oklahoma, but to the people of our Nation as well.

Mr. Goodpaster first entered service with the United States Postal Department in 1937. He remained in his post delivering mail to the people of Vinita until his retirement in 1973. In fact, his great service to the postal system and the people it serves earned him the position of Postmaster for the Vinita Post Office during the last decade of service. From what I am told, Francis Goodpaster put the "service" in the postal service, and he was proud to do so. In fact, I understand that several Christmases and several of those celebrations were put on hold in the Goodpaster household until all the packages were delivered to all the residents of Vinita. Again, this just shows the value that Francis Goodpaster saw in serving the public and making sure that his friends, neighbors, and community members were happy.

In addition to serving his community of Vinita, Francis Goodpaster was also a public servant for the State of Oklahoma. Upon returning from Oklahoma A&M, Mr. Goodpaster was elected by his peers to represent them as a representative in the Oklahoma State legislature. Having previously served in the Oklahoma legislature myself, I understand the respect that this deserves when the district sends someone to the State capital, and they did that with Francis Goodpaster.

Even more selflessly than being a public servant to his community and to his State, Francis Goodpaster was a public servant to his Nation. For a time during his early years in the postal service, Mr. Goodpaster served our Nation as part of the Greatest Generation in World War II. As a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army, he did his part to help ensure the freedoms that we enjoy here today. I feel that such selflessness should not go unacknowledged.

These are only a few of the many accomplishments in Francis Goodpaster's life. I could go on and on with many more examples of the great gifts of service that he gave to the State and the Nation, from filling a term as Craig County Commissioner to serving on the board of the Red Cross, to being a part of the State's Silver Hair Legislature for two terms. In the end, though, I