

Learning Centers, the first ever Federal after-school initiative. Since then, we have watched it grow from a \$1 million demonstration project to a \$1 billion permanent program today because there is astonishing demand and tremendous unmet need for it.

In fact, according to a study conducted by the Afterschool Alliance, 40 percent of middle school children, the age when kids are most vulnerable to engaging in dangerous activities, are unsupervised for a good portion of the day. Parents need safe, structured environments where their kids can learn and play, make friends, and develop new interests, yet Congress is not doing what we should to ensure that our kids are safe and engaged while their parents are at work.

The Congressional After-School Caucus and the "Lights On!" celebration will focus on changing that. We will share the lessons we have learned to make sure after-school does not become an after-thought in our Federal education priorities. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, join the Caucus, and fight tooth and nail for every dollar available so that kids and their parents have access to these desperately needed programs.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), an original cosponsor of the resolution.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of "Lights on Afterschool!", and House Joint Resolution 66, which recognizes the goals and ideals of "Lights on Afterschool!"

"Lights on Afterschool!" started in 2000, celebrating the importance of after-school programs, and it continues to grow 6 years later. This year's celebration is scheduled for October 20, and roughly 1 million Americans are expected to participate.

After-school programs play an important role in keeping many kids safe and engaged in positive activities. The hours between 3 and 6 p.m. on school days represent the peak times for juvenile crime. During those few hours after school, kids are most likely to experiment with drugs, alcohol and cigarettes.

Today, there are currently over 6 million students, kindergarten through grade 12 participating in after-school programs, and these children are growing and learning in a safe and healthy environment. Congress must protect this opportunity for kids. Congress must do more to give families and children who are not currently participating the chance to do so.

"Lights on Afterschool!" reminds us all of our obligation to give children the resources they need to succeed in school and to succeed in the future. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution fits directly into my legislation, the Balancing Act, legislation that is intended to help working families bridge their responsibilities of work and their responsibilities to their families.

As this resolution notes, there are more than 14 million children in the United States who do not have a place to go after school. Yet in recent years, this President and this Congress have cut funding for after-school programs. So by all means, let us resolve today to support these programs, but when it comes time to put our money where our mouths are, let us support them financially as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a small farming village in Minnesota. There was no need for after-school programs because after school, everyone went back home to the farms to milk the cows, feed the animals, and so forth. We live in a different world today, and it is absolutely essential that children have appropriate, meaningful, and useful activities after school in today's world.

This resolution commemorates a very good program, the "Lights on Afterschool" program, which has been invaluable in many communities, and I am pleased to join in this resolution to honor that effort and to recognize it.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res 66, which recognizes the fifth annual celebration of Lights on Afterschool! on October 20 and honors the contributions of after-school programs to our communities.

As a former educator, I understand the importance of after-school programs. These programs enrich children's lives with artistic, athletic, and educational activities. They support working parents who want to know that their children are in safe, nurturing environments. After-school programs reduce crime by giving young people positive outlets for the energy. Schools, community members, volunteers and families come together every school day to make these programs successful.

Over six million students across the country benefit from after-school programs, and in New Jersey, there are 28,000 students attending these programs. Many after-school programs are federally funded including the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

My district is fortunate to have several of these centers. The Trenton Public Schools have partnered with several organizations, including the Boy Scouts, Imani Community Center and Passage Theatre Company, to integrate after-school, summer and adult education programs to better serve students. The Middlesex County Educational Services Commission provides educational and social activities for students with multiple disabilities, including autism. And the Princeton Regional Schools' after-school program benefits from its designation as a 21st Century Community Learning Center.

These programs, and others in my district, strengthen our communities and improve our children's lives. But we can do better. If the No Child Left Behind Act were fully funded,

another 64,000 students in New Jersey alone would have a safe place to go after school.

I applaud the staff and volunteers of after-school programs, and I am glad to join the one million Americans expected to celebrate Lights on Afterschool! on October 20th.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 66.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1445

STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL SCHAFFER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3703) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8501 Philatelic Drive in Spring Hill, Florida, as the "Staff Sergeant Michael Schaffer Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3703

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

SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL SCHAFFER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8501 Philatelic Drive in Spring Hill, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Staff Sergeant Michael Schaffer 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 "Staff Sergeant Michael Schaffer Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. 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 gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3703. I introduced this bill to honor the life of fallen U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer. On July 25 this year, while fighting extremist forces in Afghanistan, Sergeant Schafer made the ultimate sacrifice for our great Nation that he loved so dearly.

I sincerely appreciate leadership's willingness to schedule this legislation for consideration today. I can only hope that with the enactment of H.R. 3703, Michael's widow, parents, and family will be comforted by this small token on behalf of a Nation that is eternally grateful for Michael's service.

Michael Schafer, a native of the beautiful town of Spring Hill in my district, answered the call to service by enlisting in the Army in 1998. At the age of 25, Michael had already served tours of duty in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He became the team leader of the Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade. In addition to being an excellent soldier, he was a model citizen, a dutiful son, and a very caring husband.

Tragically, enemy combatants ambushed Sergeant Schafer and his squad in Oruzgan, Afghanistan, on July 25, 2005. They fired shots at the American forces. One shot struck Sergeant Schafer. Although wounded, he still managed to alert the rest of his team to the imminent danger and ordered them to evacuate the area. However, another shot then killed him.

The Army posthumously awarded Sergeant Schafer the Silver Star and Purple Heart. The Army recognized that his last act saved the lives of at least two of his own soldiers. I am deeply humbled by the brave and selfless actions of this young hero.

I urge my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the sacrifice made by Michael Schafer to defend the freedom of our great Nation, and I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for making possible House passage of this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) in consideration of H.R. 3703, legislation naming a postal facility in Spring Hill, Florida, after Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer, a courageous soldier who was killed in Afghanistan.

This measure, which was introduced by the gentlewoman from Florida on September 8, 2005, and unanimously reported by the Committee on Government Reform on September 15, 2005, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of many Members, including the entire Florida delegation.

Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer grew up in Spring Hill and enlisted in the Army in 1998, serving tours of duty in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Sergeant Schafer was the team leader of the Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

On July 25, 2005, Staff Sergeant Schafer was killed in action while leading his team on patrol in Oruzgan, Afghanistan. Enemy combatants ambushed his squad and wounded him with a bullet. Before the second fatal shot was fired, Sergeant Schafer alerted his team to the imminent danger and ordered them to run. The Army awarded him both the Silver Star and the Purple Heart, recognizing that his last actions saved the lives of at least two of his soldiers at the sacrifice of his own life.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the legacy of Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer whose loyalty to his company saved his soldiers' lives. I urge the swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3703.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RANDALL D. SHUGHART POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2062) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the "Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2062

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

SECTION 1. RANDALL D. SHUGHART POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Randall D. Shughart 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 "Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) and

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. 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 gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2062 honors a soldier of the highest distinction, Sergeant First Class Randall Shughart of the U.S. Army's Special Operations Command. Along with my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), I strongly support H.R. 2062 which designates this post office in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building.

On October 3, 1993, while serving as a sniper team member with the Special Operations Command with Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia, Sergeant Shughart embarked on a mission that would leave him fatally wounded.

While performing precision sniper fires at a helicopter crash site, Sergeant Shughart and his team leader, Master Sergeant Gary Gordon, volunteered to be inserted into the crossfire in order to save a wounded soldier below, knowing that there were no ground troops available to secure the area. After having to abort the first mission due to enemy ground fire, Sergeant Shughart descended 100 meters south of the crash site. Only armed with a long-range rifle and sidearm, SFC Shughart fought his way to the fallen helicopter facing tremendous opposition.

Upon arriving at the site, Sergeant Shughart secured the perimeter by offering protective fire for the pilot of the aircraft so he could escape to safety. Sadly, upon the depletion of his ammunition, Sergeant Shughart was killed in the crossfire. The unmistakable and important heroic acts by Sergeant First Class Randall Shughart were later depicted in the feature film "Blackhawk Down" in 2001.

I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) for his work on this very important issue, recognizing the courageous actions of a true American hero. The men and women who protect our country deserve appropriate recognition for their service and commitment to their country, and that is just what this bill does: it recognizes Sergeant First Class Randall Shughart, whose courageous actions in combat cost him his life, by naming a post office after him. This will serve as a constant reminder to the entire community of his brave actions when his Nation called.