

SECTION 1. STATE SENATOR VERDA WELCOME AND DR. HENRY WELCOME POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3000 Homewood Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, shall be known and designated as the “State Senator Verda Welcome and Dr. Henry Welcome 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 “State Senator Verda Welcome and Dr. Henry Welcome Post Office Building”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE PARREN J. MITCHELL POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4109) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6101 Liberty Road in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “United States Representative Parren J. Mitchell Post Office,” and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4109

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

SECTION 1. UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE PARREN J. MITCHELL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6101 Liberty Road in Baltimore, Maryland, shall be known and designated as the “United States Representative Parren J. Mitchell Post Office”.

(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 “United States Representative Parren J. Mitchell Post Office”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORPORAL JASON L. DUNHAM POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4515) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4422 West Sciota Street in Scio, New York, as the “Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office,” and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4515

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

SECTION 1. CORPORAL JASON L. DUNHAM POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4422 West Sciota Street in Scio, New York, shall be known and designated as the “Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office”.

(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 “Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 483) supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 483

Whereas 1 in 3 female high school students reports being physically abused or sexually abused by a dating partner;

Whereas over 40 percent of male and female high school students surveyed had been victims of dating violence at least once;

Whereas violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, who are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult re-victimization;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to increase if the pattern was established in adolescence;

Whereas 81 percent of parents surveyed either believed dating violence is not a problem or admitted they did not know it is a problem;

Whereas the week of February 6, 2006, has been recognized as an appropriate week for activities furthering awareness of teen dating violence; and

Whereas recognizing a “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week” would benefit schools, communities, and families regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or gender: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives should raise awareness of teen dating violence in the Nation by supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ISSA

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports an increased awareness among parents, schools, and communities that dating violence is a criminal act and the ideals of the National Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Week.

Ms. MILLENDER McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I offer heartfelt thanks to you for bringing this important resolution to the floor. Thanks to the Ranking Member as well. I join with my friend and co-sponsor, the gentlewoman from Connecticut, NANCY JOHNSON in bringing this very important legislation to the floor.

I am delighted to be able to say that my colleagues in this great Congress understand that protecting our children from violence is of utmost importance and that we as a body support the ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Protection Week through H. Res. 483.

Teen Dating Violence is the proverbial elephant in the room. Too many girls are the victims of abuse perpetrated by an intimate partner and yet too many parents are unaware that their daughters live with this tragic reality. The facts are horrifying:

Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest per capita rates of non-fatal intimate partner violence of all women.

Many of our teens report experiencing some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse.

Over half of a national survey of parents either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know to what extent it is an issue.

It is time to end this gap between what we believe about teen dating violence and what is actually happening to our sisters, daughters, and granddaughters in their relationships.

The only way we will be able to combat this epidemic is if we are educated about it. Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week is a crucial step towards acquiring this knowledge.

I am a mother of daughters and a grandmother of granddaughters. I hate to think of them engaged in a relationship where they may be at risk, emotionally, physically or mentally. But just because I do not want to think about this, does not mean I should not think about it.

Through communication and further education we will take away the stigma of coming forward to report abuse by a partner. We learn to recognize the signs that our girls are in trouble. We will help victims leave their relationships and get the help they need to embark on relationships that are worthy of their greatness.

I am passionate about this program because of its message of understanding and prevention, but also because teenager took it upon themselves to start this campaign towards consciousness on this issue.

I have deep admiration for the young women and men who attended the national awareness and education summit last year and were motivated enough to develop toolkits for schools and propose National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. I will be proud to stand with them during that week in February. These young people will be the future leaders of our country, and we should all applaud them!