

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is identified as a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the Interior, the only location in Akron, Ohio, with such a designation and one of only 2,200 nationwide;

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is one of Ohio's top 10 tourist attractions, is a Save America's Treasures project, and is accredited by the American Association of Museums;

Whereas more than 5,000,000 people from around the world have visited Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, with the number of visitors annually averaging between 150,000 and 200,000 since 1999;

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens contributes over \$12,000,000 annually to the greater Akron economy;

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is a recipient of the Trustee Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, only the fourth recipient of the Award after George Washington's Mount Vernon, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and Washington, DC's Octagon House; and

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens relies on more than 1,300 volunteers to ensure that its doors remain open to the public, including the Women's Auxiliary Board, the Friends of Stan Hywet, the Stan Hywet Gilde, the Stan Hywet Needlework Guild, the Stan Hywet Flower Arrangers, the Stan Hywet Garden Committee, the Carriage House Gift Shop, the Conservatory, Vintage Base Ball, Vintage Explorers, the Akron Garden Club, and the Garden Forum of Greater Akron: Now, therefore, be it

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, National Historic Landmarks are significant places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating the heritage of the United States. The U.S. Congress recognizes that Stan Hywet Hall, located in Akron, Ohio as a National Historic Landmark since December 21, 1981. Stan Hywet Hall was built between 1912 and 1915 by Franklin "F.A." Augustus Seiberling and his wife, Gertrude. This landmark is one of the finest examples of Tudor Revival architecture in the United States.

We are honoring Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens on its 50th anniversary and for its commitment to sharing its history, gardens, and art collections with the public.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative BETTY SUTTON for seeking to honor the 50th anniversary of Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens and urge the swift passage of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the reading). Without objection, the amendment to the preamble is considered as read.

There was no objection.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution honoring National Historic Landmarks."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MASTER SERGEANT SEAN MICHAEL THOMAS POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2765) to designate the facility of the United States

Postal Service located at 44 North Main Street in Hughesville, Pennsylvania, as the "Master Sergeant Sean Michael Thomas 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 Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 2765

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

SECTION 1. MASTER SERGEANT SEAN MICHAEL THOMAS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 44 North Main Street in Hughesville, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Master Sergeant Sean Michael Thomas 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 "Master Sergeant Sean Michael Thomas Post Office".

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Master Sergeant Sean Michael Thomas died on March 27, 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq. He was serving with the Harrisburg-based 28th Division Support Command. Master Sergeant Thomas joined the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1998 after 6 years in the Army Reserve. He had planned to attend Officer Candidates School in October and wanted to be a teacher when he returned to civilian life. His unit's commander, Colonel Jesse Deets, called Master Sergeant Thomas a model officer and friend.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative CHRISTOPHER CARNEY for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

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.

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS WEEK

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 442) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week should be established, 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 Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 442

Whereas about 42 million children participate in organized sports each year;

Whereas children participating in organized sports tend to perform better in school, develop excellent interpersonal skills, and lead healthier lives;

Whereas organized youth sports help children increase their self-esteem, develop an appreciation of health and fitness, and become leaders within the community;

Whereas organized youth sports provide for regular physical activity and help combat increasing rates of childhood obesity;

Whereas the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports was created, with great help and support from the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance, Positive Coaching Alliance, and National Recreation and Park Association, to restore the focus in youth sports on the child's experience and character development;

Whereas far too many children quit participating in youth sports at a young age, many telling coaches and parents, "It just wasn't fun anymore";

Whereas the National Recreation and Park Association has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month;

Whereas many youth sports organizations gather at local parks and recreation facilities across the country; and

Whereas designating the fourth week in July as National Youth Sports Week would raise awareness of the important physical and emotional benefits of participating in youth sports and the need to promote sportsmanship among players, parents, coaches, and officials: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week should be established to promote awareness of the importance of youth sports and the need to restore the focus in youth sports on the child's experience and character development.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, over 42 million children participate in youth sports all across our country, and their activities contribute greatly to their positive development and enrich the quality of life for all. There are a number of benefits reaped by children's involvement in sports, such as better grades, excellent interpersonal skills and a healthier lifestyle. Also, given the increasing numbers of children battling obesity, this is an important time for youth to become active in sports.

H. Res. 442 is a bill that designates the fourth week in July as "National Youth Sports Week." This legislation would raise awareness of the important physical and emotional benefits of participating in youth sports and the need to promote fun, sportsmanship, and character development.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative MIKE MCINTYRE for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING CRAIG BIGGIO OF THE HOUSTON ASTROS FOR REACHING 3,000 BASE HITS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 501) commending Craig Biggio of the Houston Astros for reaching 3,000 base hits as a Major League Baseball player and for his outstanding service to baseball and the Houston, Texas, region, 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 Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 501

Whereas Craig Biggio has reached 3,000 base hits as a Major League Baseball player and all while playing for the Houston Astros with an unmatched hustle and work ethic;

Whereas Craig Biggio is only the 27th player in Major League Baseball history to reach this historic milestone, joining such baseball greats as Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Tony Gwynn, Cal Ripken Jr., and Ty Cobb;

Whereas Craig Biggio is not only a member of the exclusive 3,000 hit club, but also holds the Major League record for most games played with one team at 2,768 and counting over the past 20 seasons;

Whereas Craig Biggio is 7th all-time in Major League Baseball with 653 doubles and should move into 5th place by the end of the current season;

Whereas Craig Biggio holds the Astros career records for games played, at-bats, runs scored, hits, doubles, and extra-base hits;

Whereas Craig Biggio is a tireless leader in the community for charitable causes, serving for the last decade as lead spokesperson for Sunshine Kids, which is an organization that supports children fighting cancer and their families;

Whereas Craig Biggio and his wife Patti have helped to raise nearly \$2,000,000 for Sunshine Kids and have impacted numerous cancer-stricken families throughout the Houston area by leading fun activities like attending Houston Astros, Rockets, and Texas games and The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo;

Whereas Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane, Jr. recently stated, 'No one has meant more to our community development than Craig and Patti Biggio.'; and

Whereas Craig Biggio has been honored with many awards to recognize his distinguished contributions to the sport of baseball and to the community, including the Hutch Award in 2005 for resilience and always showing a fighting competitive spirit, and being named one of Sporting News' Good Guys in 2004 for all his community service work off the field: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends Craig Biggio of the Houston Astros for reaching 3,000 base hits as a Major League Baseball player;

(2) recognizes his outstanding service to the community through his charitable work and dedication to the Houston Astros organization; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to Craig Biggio of the Houston Astros and to Astros team owner Mr. Drayton McLane, Jr. for appropriate display.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on June 28, 2007, Mr. Craig Biggio is the 27th professional baseball player in major league history to make 3,000 base hits. He is the ninth to do so while playing all of his games with one team.

In 1988, Mr. Biggio began his distinguished career with the Houston Astros as a catcher. In 1992, hoping to extend his career, the team moved him to various positions, first to the outfield, then to second base, where he is currently playing. He is the only player to be named an All-star as both catcher and second baseman. After playing baseball for 20 years, he has announced his retirement at the end of this season.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative KEVIN BRADY for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DOLPH S. BRISCOE, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2688) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, as the "Dolph S. Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building," 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 Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 2688

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

SECTION 1. DOLPH S. BRISCOE, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, shall be known and designated as the 'Dolph S. Briscoe, Jr. 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 'Dolph S. Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building'.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. DOLPH BRISCOE, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Dolph Briscoe, Jr. 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 "Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building".

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dolph Briscoe was born on April 23, 1923 in Uvalde, Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1942 and then served in the Army during World War II. After he returned from the war, he served in the Texas legislature from 1949 through 1957. He then left politics to manage his family's ranching and business interests.

In 1974, Mr. Briscoe was elected governor of Texas as a conservative, pro-business Democrat. He was one of the few governors to enact a balanced budget without raising or creating new taxes.

Currently, Mr. Briscoe continues to be active in the agricultural community as a rancher in Uvalde and serves his community as the Senior Chairman of the First State Bank of Uvalde.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative CIRO RODRIGUEZ for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, as the 'Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1230

ACKNOWLEDGING PROGRESS TO REBUILD GULF COAST REGION AFTER HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 551) acknowledging the progress made and yet to be made to rebuild the Gulf Coast region after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, 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 Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 551

Whereas Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the lives of 4.5 million people through loss of life and personal injury; destroyed homes, businesses, and public property; displaced people; and damaged cultural assets and economies across the Gulf Coast of the United States;

Whereas Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed nearly every home and business in Orleans Parish, St. Bernard Parish, Plaquemines Parish, and Cameron Parish; and thousands of homes in Calcasieu Parish and other coastal parishes also suffered flood damage;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina displayed winds peaking at 175 miles per hour;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina made landfall in the Gulf Coast region on August 29, 2005, as a powerful category 3 storm and the third strongest land-falling hurricane ever recorded in the United States;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina destroyed 275,000 homes, 18,750 businesses, and 875 schools in Louisiana, and is blamed for the deaths of 1,577 residents in Louisiana;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina caused four levees to breach, including the 17th Avenue Canal, the Industrial Canal, and the London Avenue Canal, resulting in flooding of the city of New Orleans and the parishes of St. Bernard and Plaquemines; and nearly two years later, work on those levees is still unfinished;

Whereas, because of an insufficient levee protection system, approximately 80 percent