

was known for his amiable political style and his deft skill in negotiations. As secretary, he used these qualities effectively to promote U.S. trade, expand foreign markets for American businesses and spur domestic job growth and economic development.

Secretary Brown's life was tragically ended in April 1996 when he was killed in a plane crash while in service to his country. It is fitting and proper we honor his civic contributions by this designation, and I urge passage of H.R. 837.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As you just heard from the gentlewoman from Maryland, this bill names the Federal building located in the United Nations Plaza in New York as the Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building.

This bill has already passed the House once before and, as you have heard the explanation, here it is in front of us.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 837, a bill to designate the United States Mission to the United Nations Building located at 799 First Avenue, New York, New York, as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building".

Enactment of this legislation is long overdue. I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for his steadfastness in supporting this bill. Congressman RANGEL introduced similar bills in the 108th, 109th, and 110th Congresses.

Last Congress, the House passed H.R. 735, to designate the United States Mission to the United Nations in honor of Ron Brown. Unfortunately, the Senate was unable to act on the bill. I am pleased that today we will again pass this bill and pay a fitting tribute to the life and achievements of this extraordinary American.

Ron Brown was a man who served his country in many capacities: lawyer, pragmatic bridge builder, statesman, mentor, and trusted friend.

He may be best known for his service as the first African-American Secretary of Commerce. In that position, he became a powerful and influential voice for promoting American products and trade abroad. He championed expanding markets for U.S. goods and services, in order to increase job opportunities and foster job creation here at home.

He also served President Clinton on the National Economic Council, the Domestic Policy Council, the Task Force on National Health Care Reform, the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, and the U.S.-Russia Business Development Committee.

Secretary Brown served on the Board of Trustees for Middlebury College and received his law degree from St. John's University in New York City. Prior to entering public service, he worked as a welfare caseworker in New York City.

In addition to his many talents and strengths, Secretary Brown was a passionate civil rights activist with a distinguished record of service to his community. His commitment to this nation and its citizens provides a model for us all.

Secretary Brown's life tragically ended in April 1996, when he was killed in a plane crash in Croatia while on an official Department of Commerce trade mission.

The Department of State requested that Secretary Brown personally undertake the trade mission to highlight and find opportunities for U.S. businesses to boost economic reconstruction of the war torn region of former Yugoslavia.

Congress has previously designated four Federal buildings that serve as Department of State facilities. In 2000, Congress designated the Department of State headquarters as the "Harry S Truman Federal Building" (P.L. 106-218). In 2004, Congress designated the Foreign Service Institute as the "George P. Schultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center" (P.L. 108-136). In 2005, Congress designated the United States Embassy Annex in Rome, Italy, as the "Mel Sembler Building" (P.L. 108-447) and designated the Federal building in Kingston, Jamaica, as the "Colin L. Powell Residential Plaza" (P.L. 109-89).

Secretary Brown died in service to his country. It is fitting and proper to honor this Federal building as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building". I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 837.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remaining part of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 837.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

R. JESS BROWN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 842) to designate the United States Courthouse to be constructed in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 842

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States Courthouse to be constructed at the site bounded on the north by Court Street, on the west by West Street, on the south by South Street, and on the east by President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 842.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 842, a bill to designate the courthouse to be built in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse. Attorney Brown was a towering figure in the history of the civil rights movement in the South and especially in Mississippi. He was a native son of Kansas, born in Coffeyville, Kansas, and raised in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He received his law degree from Texas Southern University and practiced law in Mississippi in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

As Associate Counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Brown filed the first civil rights suit in Mississippi in the 1950s in Jefferson Davis County seeking the enforcement of the right of black citizens to become registered voters.

In 1961, Brown represented James H. Meredith in his suit to be allowed to enter the University of Mississippi. His victory in this case opened the doors of that university to all of Mississippi's citizens.

While with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, he played a major role in fighting discrimination in the areas of transportation and other public accommodations working alongside Thurgood Marshall, who had later become Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

During his lifetime, he received numerous awards and honors, including the NAACP's Lawyer of the Year award, National Bar Association C. Francis Stradford Award, which is their highest award, and Mississippi Teachers Association award for extraordinary service to education in Mississippi.

I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to join me to pass H.R. 842.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we just heard, this bill names the United States Courthouse to be constructed in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

R. Jess Brown grew up and was educated in the public school system of Muskogee, OK. He attended Illinois State University, Indiana University, and the Texas Southern Law School.

Mr. Brown was actively involved in civil rights issues and dedicated his career to pursuing equality for all citizens.

In 1948, he was a co-plaintiff in a lawsuit brought on behalf of African-American teachers in Jackson, MS, seeking equal pay.

After being admitted to the bar in Mississippi, he became Associate Counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

As Associate Counsel, he filed a civil rights case in Mississippi seeking to enforce the right of African Americans to register to vote.

Later, in 1961, Mr. Brown represented James H. Meredith in a lawsuit that was filed and won. This case opened the door to allow Mr. Meredith and other African Americans to enter and study at the University of Mississippi.

Mr. Brown was active in many other cases that helped to break down barriers related to discrimination in the areas of public transportation and accommodations.

He was a leader not only in the civil rights movement, but also more broadly in the legal community. Among his many accomplishments, he co-founded the Magnolia Bar Association, served on the Board of the National Bar Association, and was admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court.

I have no objections to the passage of this bill and support its adoption.

I understand the other side has a speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 842, a bill to designate the United States Courthouse under construction in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, R. Jess Brown was born September 12, 1912, in Coffeyville, Kansas. His parents, Ernestine and Joe Brown, were jazz musicians, vaudeville performers and theater managers.

Jess received a bachelor of science in industrial arts from Illinois State Normal University and a master of science in education in the area of industrial education from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

After teaching at Alcorn State University, Mr. Brown moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where he taught industrial arts at Lanier High School, the only black high school in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, at that time. While teaching at Lanier, Mr. Brown became an intervening plaintiff in a lawsuit that sought equal pay for all teachers in Jackson, Mississippi.

After teaching in Jackson, Jess attended Texas Southern University Law School. Jess left the law school before receiving his juris doctorate, but was able to go back to Mississippi and pass

the Mississippi bar in 1953. After passing the bar, Mr. Brown began practicing law in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

As a young lawyer, Jess confined his practice to cases involving divorces, deeds, land titles and other practices that did not disturb white members of the bar. However, after the Brown v. Topeka Board of Education ruling, Brown felt compelled to defend the civil rights of African Americans.

In the fall of 1955, the conditions and hardships endured by black lawyers in the courts led Mr. Brown and seven other black attorneys to establish the Magnolia Bar Association. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Brown is credited with filing the first civil rights lawsuit in Mississippi. This lawsuit, on behalf of a Jefferson County minister, challenged laws that prevented blacks from voting.

Mr. Speaker, R. Jess Brown has an extensive record as a civil rights lawyer. Among his many cases, Mr. Brown represented Clyde Kennard after he was arrested while trying to enroll at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Jess served as co-counsel for James Meredith's lawsuit to enter the University of Mississippi. This case was the ultimate cause of the integration of that university.

Mr. Brown represented Dr. Gilbert Mason when he and others were arrested in their efforts to end racial segregation on the beaches of Biloxi, Mississippi.

He represented Medgar Evers and Dr. Aaron Henry as they fought for civil rights in the 1960s and 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Brown was admitted to practice law before all courts in Mississippi, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Brown also served on the executive board of the National Bar Association for approximately 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, on January 2, 1990, R. Jess Brown died in Jackson, Mississippi, at the age of 77.

Mr. Speaker, R. Jess Brown did many great things for the people of Mississippi, and he has received many accolades for his accomplishments. As I stand here today, in part because of the efforts of Jess Brown, I can think of few other people as worthy of having their name on the Mississippi courthouse under construction in Jackson, Mississippi, as R. Jess Brown.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 842.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 842, a bill to designate the United States Courthouse to be constructed in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

R. Jess Brown was born in Coffeyville, Kansas, on September 2, 1912. He was educated in the Muskogee, Oklahoma public schools, and later received a Bachelor of Education from Illinois State Normal University in 1935, a

Master of Education from the University of Indiana in 1943, and a Juris Doctorate from Texas Southern Law School.

He was admitted to the bar for the State of Mississippi in 1953 and admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. In 1955, he co-founded the Magnolia Bar Association, and he later served on the Board of the National Bar Association for nearly 15 years. In 1958, he was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

As associate counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Brown filed the first civil rights suit in Mississippi seeking the enforcement of the right of black citizens to become registered voters. In 1961, Brown represented James H. Meredith in his suit to enter the University of Mississippi, and his victory in this case opened the doors of that University to all of Mississippi's citizens. During his time at the NAACP, Brown also played a major role in fighting discrimination in the areas of transportation and other public accommodations working alongside Thurgood Marshall, who would later become a United States Supreme Court Justice.

Brown also served as counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, where he was successful in obtaining reversals of convictions of black defendants because of discrimination in jury selection. He represented numerous black defendants in cases where the State sought the death penalty, and as a result of these appeals, none of these defendants were ever executed.

R. Jess Brown died in Jackson, Mississippi, on January 2, 1990. He will be remembered as a brilliant attorney, an accomplished civil rights leader, and as a great American. It is appropriate that the U.S. Courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi be designated the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

In the 110th Congress, the House passed a similar bill to name the U.S. Courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, after R. Jess Brown. Regrettably, the Senate was unable to act on the legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me once again in supporting this designation and I urge the passage of H.R. 842.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if I may inquire from the gentlelady from Maryland if she has any other speakers at this time?

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. I have no further speakers at this time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 842.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. 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.

SCOTT REED FEDERAL BUILDING
AND UNITED STATES COURT-
HOUSE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 869) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 101 Barr Street in Lexington, Kentucky, as the "Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 869

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 101 Barr Street in Lexington, Kentucky, shall be known and designated as the "Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 869.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

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Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 869, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States Courthouse located at 101 Barr Street, Lexington, Kentucky, as the Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

From 1964 until 1969, Judge Reed was a member of the First Division of the Fayette Circuit Court when he was elected to the Kentucky Court of Appeals, then the highest court in the State, and was chosen by his colleagues on the Court of Appeals as Chief Justice. He became the first Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. His opinions from the Supreme Court of Kentucky were highly regarded and often cited by other jurisdictions. Judge Reed was a member of the Amer-

ican, Kentucky, and Fayette County Bar Associations.

On November 2, 1979, President Jimmy Carter appointed him as a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky. He became a Senior Judge August 1, 1988, and retired April 1, 1990.

He was a frequent lecturer to the National College of Trial Judges and was named to the Hall of Distinguished Alumni of the University of Kentucky on April 11, 1980.

Judge Reed was an exemplary lawyer and outstanding jurist. His public career serving the citizens of Kentucky spanned over 30 years. He served with great distinction at both the State and Federal judicial levels. It is both fitting and proper to honor his civic contributions with this designation, and I urge support for passage of H.R. 869.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, this bill designates the Federal building and United States Courthouse located on Barr Street in Lexington, Kentucky, the Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

At this time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the building, 799 United Nations Plaza, being named after my late friend, Ronald Brown. I want to thank his family and his community, the central Harlem community, for the support that they have given to this bill, as well as the community who loved and respected him all of his life. I want to thank Chairmen OBERSTAR and HOLMES NORTON for allowing this to become a part of our American history.

Ron Brown was an extraordinary human being. He was born in 1941. My relationship to him was really outstanding since, while I was in school, I was the desk clerk at a rather famous hotel in Harlem called the Theresa Hotel. Ron Brown's father was the manager of that hotel. So I got to know Ron at a very, very early age, and was able to see the remarkable career that he staked out for himself. Bright, articulate. He was one of those type of Americans that could do most anything that he wanted to do.

He worked for Senator KENNEDY; he went to St. John's Law School; he worked for the Urban League. He became an outstanding member of the Democratic Party. But the most remarkable thing about Ron Brown is that as Secretary of Commerce under the Clinton administration, he became one of the greatest ambassadors that the American government ever had abroad.

It wasn't that he was just extending trade and getting people to buy our goods and services. It's that he was extending love, attention, sensitivity and, especially in the developing countries, where we had not spent the time that we should have, he not only sold our wares, but he was able to sell our reputation as a country that wanted to help other countries.

And so it is with a great deal of pleasure for those of us from Harlem, those of us from New York, those of us who understood and knew Ron Brown, and even the Clinton administration, who gave him this great opportunity to have a building named right across from the United Nations, which would have the responsibility for all of the member nations, as well as the employees there, to be able to establish American policies and embassies throughout the world, that there will be a little bit of Ron Brown's reputation as being a great American in everything that we are able to do in that building.

So, I thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to join with the millions of Americans who believe that Ron Brown made us taller, made us more proud, and certainly more respected. God has taken his life far too early, but we praise God for allowing him to share his wonderful life with us.

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 869 is a bill to designate the Federal Building and United States Courthouse located at 101 Barr Street in Lexington, Kentucky, as the "Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

I can think of no other individual more deserving, no other public servant more worthy, and no other action more appropriate than naming the federal courthouse in Lexington after the Honorable Scott Elgin Reed. Prominent Central Kentucky attorney, first Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, and federal judge—Scott Reed exemplifies the definition of honor and dignity.

Born in Lexington, Kentucky, on July 3, 1921, Scott Reed graduated with distinction from the University of Kentucky. While in college, he was editor-in-chief of the Kentucky Law Journal and awarded the order of Coif, the highest academic award that can be given to a law graduate. He was also a member of the Phi Delta Phi Fraternity. He achieved many honors at the University of Kentucky, including the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medalion—a prestigious award recognizing outstanding character and humanitarian service.

Prior to his time on the bench, Scott Reed was County Attorney, retained as counsel for the Fayette County School Board, and distinguished himself as a trial lawyer of great integrity.

He served from 1948 through 1956 as an acting associate professor at the University of Kentucky College of Law. From 1964 until 1969, he was judge of the First Division of the Fayette Circuit Court. He then was elected to the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

As Chief Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, Judge Reed oversaw the passage of a constitutional amendment that unified and modernized Kentucky's court system. As part of the modernization, the Court of Appeals became the Kentucky Supreme Court. Reed was