

Bud Hawk embodies, in every sense, the word "hero." In June of 1945, President Truman placed a Congressional Medal of Honor around John "Bud" Hawk's neck on the Capitol steps in Olympia in his home State of Washington. With this bill, we are honoring John again, this time in the Nation's Capitol, and this time not only for his heroic efforts in World War II, but for his lifetime of service.

John first earned the Nation's gratitude and respect during World War II when his heroism was instrumental in destroying two enemy tanks and forcing the surrender of more than 500 enemy combatants in August of 1944.

Sergeant Hawk showed fearless initiative and heroic conduct, even while suffering from a painful wound. Under heavy enemy fire, John ran back and forth toward the enemy in order to give the American tanks correct targeting directions. John sacrificed his already wounded body to act as a human firing director for the American tanks. His action came at the end of the Battle of Normandy. In gratitude for his help in the liberation of their country, John was awarded France's Legion of Honor in 2007. John also received four Purple Hearts for four separate times he was wounded during his enlistment.

But John's heroics did not end when he returned home from World War II. A longtime teacher and principal in Bremerton, Washington, he has been a familiar face who has had tremendous impact on countless schoolchildren in his community. To this day, he remains a personal hero of his students for the humility and strength of character that he has instilled. That strength of character and humility is embodied in John Hawk and is, today, the reason that we recognize him as a hero and Medal of Honor recipient, and a lifetime hero to children in his home community.

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I urge my colleagues to support this bill that demonstrates our gratitude for the life and contribution of John "Bud" Hawk, from his heroics in the battlefield to one might say his heroics in the classroom.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 4 minutes to my good friend from the State of Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I would commend this resolution to the House. This really is a great American story of truly a great American hero.

John "Bud" Hawk is a son of Rollingbay, Washington. He grew up playing with his sister around the post office we're about to name in his honor in the little community of Rollingbay, Washington. And he's a fellow who answered the Nation's call in the 1940s and was a hero in the 1940s, but was a hero for several decades to the students he educated. And I just want to com-

mend him for both of those acts of heroism.

My colleagues have talked about why he won the Congressional Medal of Honor, and I have to tell you if you actually read this, you would be mightily impressed by a fellow who on one day at the Battle of the Falaise Gap essentially with his machine gun squad destroyed two enemy tanks while he was already severely wounded and, after he was severely wounded, leading to the surrender of hundreds of German prisoners, still refused medical treatment. He was a hero several times in 1 day, and he was then injured three more times during World War II, and we still honor him for that.

But I want to just highlight something that he earned not in 1 day but he earned the honor and affection of hundreds, if not thousands, of people in our community.

After he got back from World War II, he came home and got a degree in biology. He worked for 7 years to do that, and he started teaching fifth and sixth grade, first at Tracyton Elementary in Bremerton and later at nearby Brownsville Elementary. He eventually became a teaching principal and taught classes while he was running the school. He served 31 years as an educator and retired in 1983 as principal of Woodlands Elementary in Bremerton.

And I just want to read something that a lot of people feel in our community of Bainbridge and Bremerton, something a former student of Mr. Hawk's wrote in a University of Washington Alumni magazine, recalling 1 year he spent as Mr. Hawk's student. This former student wrote:

"Ascribe it to my then youthful impressionableness, if you will, but John Hawk was then and remains still a personal hero of mine for the humanity and strength of character he taught his students, along with the more mundane subjects of math, science, and history. I count myself fortunate to have spent that year as his student. And I relish the opportunity all these years later to say what I at age 11 didn't know to say: For both a year of education and for your lifetime of service to your country and to humanity, thank you, Mr. Hawk."

So on this day of honoring Mr. Hawk by naming the Rollingbay Post Office in his honor, we want to say thank you, Mr. Hawk.

I know Mr. ISSA noted the bagpipes we heard just a few moments ago. They were honoring a great Irishman who's now President, President Barack Obama. All of the Irish are celebrating John "Bud" Hawk's celebration. There is a young lad, a young Irishman, named Brody in Bainbridge Island. He's honoring Bud.

Thank you, Mr. Hawk. And thank you for the country in passing this resolution.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to say from the "O'Issas" to the "Obamas," everyone is an Irishman here today. I'm sure there isn't anyone

who isn't Irish here today. Perhaps a few with orange but most with green.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 955.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 955.

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.

#### REDUCING INFORMATION CONTROL DESIGNATIONS ACT

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1323) to require the Archivist of the United States to promulgate regulations regarding the use of information control designations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1323

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reducing Information Control Designations Act".

#### SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to increase Governmentwide information sharing and the availability of information to the public by standardizing and limiting the use of information control designations.

#### SEC. 3. REGULATIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION CONTROL DESIGNATIONS WITHIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO REDUCE AND MINIMIZE INFORMATION CONTROL DESIGNATIONS.—Each Federal agency shall reduce and minimize its use of information control designations on information that is not classified.

#### (b) ARCHIVIST RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) REGULATIONS.—The Archivist of the United States shall promulgate regulations regarding the use of information control designations.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations under this subsection shall address, at a minimum, the following:

(A) Standards for utilizing the information control designations in a manner that is narrowly tailored to maximize public access to information.

(B) The process by which information control designations will be removed.

(C) Procedures for identifying, marking, dating, and tracking information assigned the information control designations, including the identity of officials making the designations.

(D) Provisions to ensure that the use of information control designations is minimized and cannot be used on information—

(i) to conceal violations of law, inefficiency, or administrative error;

(ii) to prevent embarrassment to Federal, State, local, tribal, or territorial governments or any official, agency, or organization thereof; any agency; or any organization;

(iii) to improperly or unlawfully interfere with competition in the private sector;

(iv) to prevent or delay the release of information that does not require such protection;

(v) if it is required to be made available to the public; or

(vi) if it has already been released to the public under proper authority.

(E) Provisions to ensure that the presumption shall be that information control designations are not necessary.

(F) Methods to ensure that compliance with this Act protects national security and privacy rights.

(G) The establishment of requirements that Federal agencies, subject to chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, implement the following:

(i) A process whereby an individual may challenge without retribution the application of information control designations by another individual.

(ii) A method for informing individuals that repeated failure to comply with the policies, procedures, and programs established under this section could subject them to a series of penalties.

(iii) Penalties for individuals who repeatedly fail to comply with the policies, procedures, and programs established under this section after having received both notice of their noncompliance and appropriate training or re-training to address such noncompliance.

(H) Procedures for members of the public to be heard regarding improper applications of information control designations.

(I) A procedure to ensure that all agency policies and standards for utilizing information control designations that are issued pursuant to subsection (c) be provided to the Archivist and that such policies and standards are made publicly available on the website of the National Archives and Records Administration.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In promulgating the regulations, the Archivist shall consult with the heads of Federal agencies and with representatives of State, local, tribal, and territorial governments; law enforcement entities; organizations with expertise in civil rights, employee and labor rights, civil liberties, and government oversight; and the private sector, as appropriate.

(c) AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The head of each Federal agency shall implement the regulations promulgated by the Archivist under subsection (b) in the agency in a manner that ensures that—

(1) information can be shared within the agency, with other agencies, and with State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector, and the public, as appropriate;

(2) all policies and standards for utilizing information control designations are consistent with such regulations;

(3) the number of individuals with authority to apply information control designations is limited; and

(4) information control designations may be placed only on the portion of information that requires control and not on the entire material.

#### SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF INFORMATION CONTROL DESIGNATION REGULATIONS WITHIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Inspector General of each Federal agency, in consultation with the Archivist, shall randomly audit unclassified information with information control designations. In conducting any such audit, the Inspector General shall—

(1) assess whether applicable policies, procedures, rules, and regulations have been followed;

(2) describe any problems with the administration of the applicable policies, procedures, rules and regulations, including specific non-compliance issues;

(3) recommend improvements in awareness and training to address any problems identified under paragraph (2); and

(4) report to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Archivist, and the public on the findings of the Inspector General's audits under this section.

(b) PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes described in paragraph (2), the Archivist of the United States shall require that, at the time of designation of information, the following shall appear on the information:

(A) The name or personal identifier of the individual applying information control designations to the information.

(B) The agency, office, and position of the individual.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes described in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) To enable the agency to identify and address misuse of information control designations, including the misapplication of information control designations to information that does not merit such markings.

(B) To assess the information sharing impact of any such problems or misuse.

(c) TRAINING.—The Archivist, subject to chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, and in coordination with the heads of Federal agencies, shall—

(1) require training as needed for each individual who applies information control designations, including—

(A) instruction on the prevention of the overuse of information control designations;

(B) the standards for applying information control designations;

(C) the proper application of information control designations, including portion markings;

(D) the consequences of repeated improper application of information control designations, including the misapplication of information control designations to information that does not merit such markings, and of failing to comply with the policies and procedures established under or pursuant to this section; and

(E) information relating to lessons learned about improper application of information control designations, including lessons learned pursuant to the regulations and Inspector General audits required under this Act and any internal agency audits; and

(2) ensure that such program is conducted efficiently, in conjunction with any other security, intelligence, or other training programs required by the agency to reduce the costs and administrative burdens associated with the additional training required by this section.

(d) DETAILEE PROGRAM.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR PROGRAM.—The Archivist, subject to chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, shall implement a detailee program to detail Federal agency personnel, on a nonreimbursable basis, to the National Archives and Records Administration, for the purpose of—

(A) training and educational benefit for agency personnel assigned so that they may better understand the policies, procedures, and laws governing information control designations;

(B) bolstering the ability of the National Archives and Records Administration to con-

duct its oversight authorities over agencies; and

(C) ensuring that the policies and procedures established by the agencies remain consistent with those established by the Archivist of the United States.

(2) SUNSET OF DETAILEE PROGRAM.—Except as otherwise provided by law, this subsection shall cease to have effect on December 31, 2012.

#### SEC. 5. RELEASING INFORMATION PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

(a) AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The head of each Federal agency shall ensure that—

(1) information control designations are not a determinant of public disclosure pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Freedom of Information Act"); and

(2) all information in the agency's possession that is releasable is made available to members of the public pursuant to an appropriate request under such section 552.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent or discourage any Federal agency from voluntarily releasing to the public any unclassified information that is not exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Freedom of Information Act").

#### SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INFORMATION CONTROL DESIGNATIONS.—The term "information control designations" means information dissemination controls, not defined by Federal statute or by an Executive order relating to the classification of national security information, that are used to manage, direct, or route information, or control the accessibility of information, regardless of its form or format. The term includes, but is not limited to, the designations of "controlled unclassified information", "sensitive but unclassified", and "for official use only".

(2) INFORMATION.—The term "information" means any communicable knowledge or documentary material, regardless of its physical form or characteristics, that is owned by, is produced by or for, or is under the control of the Federal Government.

(3) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term "Federal agency" means—

(A) any Executive agency, as that term is defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code;

(B) any military department, as that term is defined in section 102 of such title; and

(C) any other entity within the executive branch that comes into the possession of classified information.

#### SEC. 7. DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION.

Regulations shall be promulgated in final form under this Act, and implementation of the requirements of this Act shall begin, not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I want to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS).

Mr. TOWNS. I would like to thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding me 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1323, the Reducing Information Control Designations Act, introduced by Representative DRIEHAUS, is an important piece of legislation that will improve public access to unclassified information. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill.

This week has been designated as Sunshine Week, and this bill will help bring more sunshine to the Federal Government. Our democracy requires that citizens be able to access information about how their government is working and how it is spending their tax dollars. This bill is the latest step that the Oversight Committee has taken to advance that goal.

In January we passed bills to open up presidential records and information on presidential libraries. The stimulus package requires that all spending information be posted online at recovery.gov, and we are holding a hearing on Thursday to examine how the transparency provisions of the stimulus bill are being implemented. And we are moving forward to obtain information from all Wall Street banks that receive bailout money, including AIG, on how they are spending that money, especially the bonuses. What these Wall Street firms need to understand is that if they are being supported by the taxpayers, which they are, sunshine applies to them also, and we will make that happen.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DRIEHAUS) for taking the lead on this bill and the Chair of the Information Policy Subcommittee, Mr. CLAY, for all his work on bringing sunshine to the government. I also want to thank the ranking member, Mr. ISSA, for working together with us on these sunshine bills.

President Obama has indicated repeatedly that we need more transparency in our government. In almost every speech, he has indicated that. I agree with that goal. And this bill is an important step towards it.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. And, of course, on that note I would like to just commend the gentleman from Missouri and, of course, the gentleman from California for their outstanding work.

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

Mr. Speaker, often we bring a bill under suspension that's considered not to be overly important. This one is just the opposite. Transparency in government is an effort that has to be ongoing, and this is an important step. This solution has to be government-wide in order to be effective.

For too long, Mr. Speaker, the Federal departments have insisted on

treating information that develops within their agency in a restricted fashion. We need to have government-wide solutions that make the maximum amount of information possible available to the public, and even if it is not available to the public, it must be classified at the most appropriate and lowest level in order to ensure its sensitive treatment.

For that reason I support, with the chairman, this piece of legislation that will reduce or eliminate the proliferation of terms such as "sensitive but unclassified" or "for official use only," designations which essentially mean nothing but clearly cause trepidation in the release of documents. Many organizations under the Freedom of Information Act have had to deal with redaction of these comparatively and usually meaningless terms.

So I join with the gentleman from Ohio, the chairman of the full committee, and the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. CLAY, in asking that this important piece of legislation be moved under suspension because, although important, it is not controversial and its time has come.

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

Mr. CLAY. I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. ISSA, for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize one of our newest members on the committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DRIEHAUS) for 5 minutes. And, by the way, this is his inaugural bill on the floor, so I want to congratulate him too.

Mr. DRIEHAUS. A happy St. Patrick's Day to you, Mr. Speaker.

I very much appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Missouri and certainly the comments of Mr. ISSA from California as well as our chairman. This is an important issue, and I appreciate having the support of both the ranking member and the chairman of the committee as we move forward on the Government Reform and Oversight Committee in really looking at how documents are classified in the United States Government.

As was mentioned by the chairman, this is Sunshine Week. And Sunshine Week is about shining the bright light on government to help people better understand what decisions are being made on their behalf because the information is the people's information.

But when we look at the records and we look at the classification of documents in the Federal Government, we find confusion. Since 1979 there have been six separate GAO reports talking about the over-classification of documents; yet nothing has been done by Congress to address this growing problem. Today there are over 107 different classifications. Some of these are official classifications, some of these are pseudo-classifications of documents in every administrative body in the Federal Government.

This bill is about the systemic issue of over-classification and the existence

of these pseudo-classifications within the government. The citizens of our Nation have an inherent right to the information that the government collects so long as it's not of a sensitive nature. The bill promotes transparency and government efficiency by promoting a common language within government. It was introduced by Congressman WAXMAN last year, who was chairing the committee, and passed this House without objection.

Specifically, the bill has several components. It instructs the Archivist to create regulations that control what is classified and how it would be classified with the input of agency stakeholders. It provides training for agency employees who classify information. It calls for random audits of these materials by Inspectors General to ensure compliance. It requires personal identifiers to be placed on classified information in order to track and uphold regulations. And it restricts information from being classified that is not of a sensitive nature.

Essentially, Mr. Speaker, what this bill does is it allows the agencies of our government to not only talk with each other, but it allows the people to have access to the information and the decisions being made by their government.

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It is an important step in the right direction. I would only give you one example to prove the point.

In 2008, and I think this was enlightening, there were over 362,000 requests under the Freedom of Information Act to the Federal Government; 121,833 of those requests still remain to be processed, and that is because of overclassification of documents.

It's not about documents of a sensitive nature not being turned over to the public, it is about making information available to the public in an easier fashion. That's what this bill is about.

I appreciate the support of the chairman and the ranking member.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes. I join with the gentleman in his comments and would only anecdotally tell you that this is the tip of the iceberg, and this committee is dedicated to drilling down deeply.

We want to know where our money has gone for TARP, we want to know where stimulus money is spent, both at the contractor and subcontractor level and beyond. We want to make sure that America's taxpayer dollars are well taken care of and transparent.

I will share with you something that perhaps you hadn't known, and that is that our government inflicts more wounds than you have yet seen, and you are going to see more in your time. Just last year I visited a location in Nevada, and since I was flying into Las Vegas people said, "Oh, are you going to Area 51?" I had been cautioned that I could not use that term, that that term was unacceptable. So I said, "Well, I can't tell you. I am just going to Nevada." So then when I returned I

googled Area 51, and, of course, I saw detailed maps or detailed photos of everything, including the airfield that perhaps someone would land at, well into that Nevada test range which Google identifies as Area 51.

So I would say that if the gentleman and, of course, the Chair, would continue to work with us on all these matters, we will, on a bipartisan basis, drill down to try to prevent these prohibitions on that, which certainly flies in the face of common sense.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1323, the Reducing Information Control Designations Act.

This bill is being considered with an amendment to address some concerns that have been raised with the provision in the bill requiring incentives for individuals who successfully challenge the information control designation. This amendment strikes the language requiring incentives but continues to require a process through which individuals can challenge the information control designation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1323 promotes transparency and government efficiency by promoting a common language within government. Therefore, I urge swift passage of the bill.

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

Mr. CLAY. 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 Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1323, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LANCE CORPORAL MATTHEW P. PATHENOS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1216) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1216

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

#### SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL MATTHEW P. PATHENOS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield,

Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos 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 "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I stand and join my colleagues from my home State of Missouri for the consideration of H.R. 1216, which names a postal facility in Chesterfield, Missouri, after Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos.

As stated, H.R. 1216 has the support of the entire House congressional delegation from Missouri but is sponsored by my friend, Representative Todd Akin. The bill was introduced on February 26 of 2009 and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee by voice vote on March 10.

As a member of the 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces and Reserve out of Bridgeton, Missouri, following in the footsteps of his older brother, Matthew Pathenos enlisted in military service with the hope of helping those who could not help themselves.

Unfortunately, on February 7, 2007, Lance Corporal Matthew Pathenos was killed while conducting combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq. In recognition of Corporal Pathenos' commitment to country and the concept of freedom, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in commemorating the life of this brave Marine by supporting the passage of H.R. 1216.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the Lance Corporate Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building.

Marine Lance Corporal Pathenos was a selfless patriot. He was a loving brother, son and friend. As one of his comrades in arms once reflected, "The best thing about Matt was his ability to wake up every day with a smile and hold it all day long." Even through the hardships of war, Matt strove to bring joy to his friends.

A native of Ballwin, Missouri, Matt was an avid golfer and accomplished pilot, earning his flying license at age 14. After graduating from high school in 2003, Matt followed in the footsteps of his older brother and mentor, Marine Sergeant Christopher Pathenos, who had enlisted in the Armed Forces in the wake of September 11.

In the words of one relative, "For Matty, the motivation was more about Christopher, seeing how the Corps treated him."

As a member of the 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, Matthew was one of 80 Marine members of his unit that were attached to a sister unit, the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, for deployment to Iraq in September of 2006.

Tragically, on February 6, 2007, Lance Corporal Pathenos lost his life near Fallujah when his Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device. His family will always remember him as a smiling young man who "sang as though no one could hear him and danced as though no one was watching him."

In a release shortly after the tragic loss, the family captured the sentiments of a grateful Nation. "Like his brother, Christopher, Matthew was proud to be a Marine and volunteered to serve his country. Matthew paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and the future generations of this country. He loved his country and family, and we will miss him terribly."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the chairman and myself in support of this courageous young man and the sacrifice he gave by naming the post office in his honor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Again, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Mr. AKIN, for introducing such a thoughtful measure.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of renaming the Town and Country Commons Post Office in Chesterfield, Missouri, after Lance Corporal Matthew Pathenos by passing H.R. 1216.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1216, a bill I introduced to honor the life of Matthew P. Pathenos by designating the post office in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building." A resident of Ballwin, Missouri, Lance Corporal Matthew Pathenos was part of the 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, of the Marine Forces Reserve. On February 7th, 2007, Lance Corporal Pathenos was killed during combat operations in the Anbar province of Iraq. Matthew was often described by family and friends as a friendly young man who always had a joke to tell and a smile on his face. Matthew decided to join the military in order to follow his older brother into his country's service with the hope of helping those who could not help themselves. Matthew's then girlfriend, Erin, calls Lance Corporal