

it not for the brave and effective actions of our men and women in uniform. They deserve our highest level of respect and gratitude.

While we must continue with our daily lives, let us not forget those who have had their lives permanently altered by this event, and let us also use this tragedy as a daily reminder of how fragile life is and how to make the most of the time that we have.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I simply urge our colleagues to join Mr. HINCHEY in supporting this resolution.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 340, a resolution that expresses sympathy to the victims, families and friends of the tragic act of violence at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, NY.

My heart goes out not only to the victims and families of this senseless tragedy but to the entire city of Binghamton, New York. I am deeply saddened by the violence that has afflicted that community and that together, the citizens can regain a sense of safety and hope. I would also like to thank and commend the first responders and all of law enforcement who responded to the crime scene and who continue to help the community cope with this tragedy. Binghamton, New York has a long history of welcoming people from all backgrounds, nationalities, and religions, as well as immigrants and visitors from abroad and the American Civic Association in Binghamton has been at the heart of these efforts. For over 80 years, the American Civic Association has served its community assisting immigrants and refugees with counseling, resettlement, citizenship, family reunification, language skills, and other critical services that have played a vital role in the effort to pursue the dreams of immigrants seeking legal citizenship.

Many of those who sought a haven in the Association had escaped the violence of war and tyranny in their home countries to create a better life in the United States. It is a sad irony that instead, they found tragedy.

In the midst of tragedy, I respectfully remind my colleagues that we will continue to be vigilant against these cowardly acts of violence and that our condolences are with the victims and their friends and families. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LYNCH. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 340.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR ALABAMA SHOOTING VICTIMS

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 341) expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama, on March 10, 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 341

Whereas the communities of Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama have endured a tragic event in southeast Alabama that resulted in the loss of 10 lives and injuries to several others;

Whereas, on March 10, 2009, a man fired at members of his family and other innocent bystanders throughout several towns in Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama;

Whereas the result of this shooting spree resulted in the deaths of Bruce Maloy, Lisa McLendon, Andrea Myers, Corrine Gracy Myers, Sonya Smith, James Starling, James White, Virginia White, Dean Wise, and Tracy Wise;

Whereas State Trooper Mike Gillis, Greg McCullough, Ella Meyers, and Jeffrey Nelson, were wounded as a result of the shootings;

Whereas the first responders, State Troopers of the Dothan Troopers Post, officers of the Geneva Police Department, officers of the Geneva County Sheriff's Department, and an officer of the Conservation and Natural Resources department pursued and eventually found the gunman deceased; and

Whereas the grieving and celebration of the lives of those lost in this senseless tragedy will be with the communities of Geneva and Coffee Counties for months and years to come: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama on March 10, 2009; and

(2) conveys its gratitude to the city and county officials, and all the police, fire, sheriff, and emergency medical teams who responded swiftly to the scene and helped prevent further violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. 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 Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I solemnly join my colleagues in the consideration of House Resolution 341, which expresses our heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Geneva and Coffee Counties of Alabama on March 10, 2009.

House Resolution 341 was introduced by our colleague Congressman BOBBY BRIGHT of Alabama on April 21, 2009, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on April 23, 2009, by voice vote. This measure has the support and cosponsorship of 58 Members of Congress.

On March 10, 2009, the people of Geneva and Coffee Counties in southeast Alabama suffered senseless shootings that resulted in the loss of 10 lives and a number of injuries. On that tragic day, the reckless killings began at the shooter's, Michael McLendon, residence in Kinston, Alabama, where he killed his own mother and in addition set the house on fire. The shooter then drove a dozen miles southeast to Samson in Geneva County, where he gunned down six more victims, including four members of his own family. The victims of this senseless act included James Alford White; Tracy Michelle Wise; Dean James Wise; and 74-year-old Virginia E. White, the shooter's own grandmother. Also killed were the wife and daughter of local sheriff's deputy Joshua Myers, Andrea Myers and Corinne Myers, who was only 18 months old.

The shooter continued on his rampage, killing three more people. These random and innocent victims were James Irvin Starling, Sonja Smith, and Bruce Wilson Malloy.

The rampage ended another 12 miles farther east in Geneva at the metals plant where, with a valiant attempt to end the rampage, the State troopers of the Dothan Post, the police department, and county sheriff's department and an officer of the Conservation and Natural Resources Department were among the first to respond and help resolve the situation. After a gun battle with police, Mr. McLendon took his own life.

The memory, the pain, and the grief of this reckless killing spree will remain with the victims in the communities of Geneva and Coffee, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, with this bill we have the opportunity to acknowledge the lives lost and the courage and resolve of the many law enforcement officials and community members that helped end the situation. I would like to thank the gentleman from Alabama for introducing and ushering through this House such a thoughtful and considerate measure which can only express the heartfelt sympathy we all feel on behalf of those Americans that were impacted by this tragic event.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow colleagues to support the adoption of House Resolution 341.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the passage of this resolution recognizing the tragedy that befell the communities of Geneva and Coffee Counties, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution seeks to take a moment to reflect on the impact one man's senseless acts of violence can have on a community, a State, and a Nation.

On the afternoon of March 10, 2009, the worst killing rampage in Alabama's history began as a disturbed

man started his shooting spree in Samson, Alabama. He indiscriminately fired at passersby and finally took his own life 12 miles away at a manufacturing plant in Geneva, Alabama, where he was once employed.

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Once the terror ended, the gunman had left a trail of death and destruction across two counties. Tragically, the lives of Bruce Maloy, Lisa McLendon, Andrea Myers, Corrine Gracy Myers, Sonya Smith, James Starling, James White, Virginia White, Dean Wise and Tracy Wise were taken. Along with the devastating news of the 10 deaths, many others were injured, including four State troopers: Mike Gillis, Greg McCullough, Ella Meyers and Jeffrey Nelson.

It is appropriate that we take this opportunity to express our support and sympathy for the families and friends of the murder victims of this horrible act. In addition, we must take a moment to thank the first responders on that day, the Dothan Troopers Post, the Geneva Police Department, the Geneva County Sheriff's Department, the Conservation Natural Resources Department and the medical professionals that all played a role in quelling what could have been an even larger massacre.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the chief sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT).

Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 341, which expresses heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama.

On Tuesday, March 10, a lone gunman began a rampage in the Town of Kinston and continued into Samson and Geneva that would leave 11 dead and four injured in southeast Alabama. Without question, it was the worst tragedy Alabama has seen in recent memory.

When I first arrived in Geneva County a day after the shootings, I saw a community still in shock. You never think something like this could happen to you until tragedy strikes in your own backyard. Residents of the Wiregrass were left questioning how one of their own could commit such a heinous and violent crime on his family and neighbors.

A community can never fully prepare for events like these, but first responders, local citizens and elected officials responded to the incident with flying colors. Sympathy for the Wiregrass quickly spread, and an outpouring of aid and goodwill poured into Alabama from across the country. To my colleagues in the House and to people watching across the country, we thank you for your support.

I was impressed by the courage of the people and the ability for everyone to

come together and get through this crisis. I truly believe Americans will remember the Wiregrass as a place that will do whatever it takes to help its fellow citizens. One of our greatest strengths as a country is our ability to collectively respond to tragedy and help our fellow men and women in their times of need. The response to the events of March 10 certainly epitomized the strengths of the American spirit.

After the dust settled, it became clear that the incident could have been much worse without quick and decisive action by our local law enforcement. Much has been said about the actions of law enforcement during and after the shootings, and indeed we cannot thank them enough. Without their heroic efforts, the number of casualties could have been much worse. It was a reminder of how much we appreciate those who are on the front lines protecting and defending us every day. We owe a debt of gratitude to our law enforcement officials for what they do to protect us each and every day.

Though it has been nearly 2 months since the tragedy occurred, the loss of so many in a small community still weighs heavy on the minds of the people in the Wiregrass area. To make problems worse, Geneva and Coffee Counties have experienced intense flooding and violent tornadoes over the last several weeks, inflicting hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to an already grieving community.

While the resolution on the floor today can offer little solace to the families and friends of those who lost loved ones, I wanted the people of Geneva and Coffee Counties to know that my colleagues in Washington are thinking about them and offering their sympathy and continued support.

I hope this resolution offers some peace of mind to the families of those killed: Bruce Maloy, Lisa McLendon, Andrea Myers, Corrine Gracy Myers, Sonya Smith, James Starling, James White, Virginia White, Dean Wise and Tracy Wise; and that it provides moral support and encouragement to those injured and still recovering: State Trooper Mike Gillis, Greg McCollough, Ella Meyers and Jeffrey Nelson.

And finally, we cannot forget the law enforcement and public officials who provided so much support to a community in shock. Their actions are truly appreciated and heroic.

Additionally, I would like to thank the Alabama congressional delegation, my colleagues, Representatives ADERHOLT, BACHUS, BONNER, DAVIS, GRIFFITH and ROGERS, and the 50 other cosponsors of this resolution. The people of southeast Alabama will forever appreciate your unwavering support and sympathy for my constituents in the Second Congressional District of Alabama.

I urge passage of House Resolution 341.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this point I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my friend of 10 years, the gentleman from Alabama, BOBBY BRIGHT, for introducing this resolution and giving the House a chance to vote on it and pass it today, and let me pick out just two things to say about this unspeakable tragedy, if I can.

One of the mysteries of human existence is that evil can exist in a divinely inspired world. The people who live in south Alabama are some of the most humble, God-fearing, patriotic people on the face of this Earth. Their God and their faith is an animating principle to them, and it is enormously difficult to contemplate how such good people could have been visited by such remarkable afternoon horror.

I am comforted, as I know the people in that community were comforted, by all of the expressions of support from around the United States of America, by all of the people who came to their aid, by all of the people who lent their good wishes.

The second observation I would make is there is one thing that stood out to me beyond the television images. We all saw the television images, which were sheer terror. But the next morning I made a phone call to one of the chiefs of the police in one of these small communities and I asked him if he knew any of the people who had been killed or injured. Without missing a beat, he said into the phone, "Mr. Davis, I knew them all. I knew them all." He went on to say, "We are a small town. We go to church together. We play ball together. We meet at each other's homes for holidays. We celebrate events together. We all know each other."

That is the other unique thing about this event, Mr. Speaker, that this event ripped such a hole in the soul of a community of people who were knit close together. That is the special tragedy.

My final observation, I want to thank again BOBBY BRIGHT from the Second District. When I called him the morning after this event, his first instinct was to think like the very good mayor that he was until he came here. He said, "I am getting on a plane. I am going back home because I want to know if they need anything. I want to know if they need help."

That is how executives think, that is how this mayor thought, and the people of the Second District are very privileged and fortunate to have that kind of individual, whose first instinct was "what can I do?", not just to lend support, but to be of assistance.

So I extend my condolences to these individuals and to their families. May God bless the souls of the lost, and may He mend the bodies of those who are left and wounded.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman has no further speakers, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I simply urge my colleagues to join with Congressman BRIGHT and Congressman DAVIS in support of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 341.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BRIAN K. SCHRAMM POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1595) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1595

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

SECTION 1. BRIAN K. SCHRAMM POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Brian K. Schramm 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 "Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present H.R. 1595 for consideration. This legislation will designate the United States postal facility located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, as the Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building.

Introduced on March 18, 2009, by my colleague Representative CHRIS LEE of New York and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on April 2, 2009, by unanimous consent, H.R. 1595 enjoys the support of the entire sitting New York House delegation.

A lifelong resident of the town of Greece in Rochester, New York, Lance Corporal Brian K. Schramm bravely served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. On October 15, 2004, Lance Corporal Schramm was killed in action at the age of 22 during an enemy shrapnel attack in Babil Province, Iraq.

Upon his graduation from Greece Olympia High School in 2001, Lance Corporal Schramm chose to fulfill one of his life's dreams and join the United States Marine Corps. He served his first tour of duty in Iraq shortly following the March 20, 2003, launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and he bravely returned to the region in June of 2004 for his second tour.

As noted by his devoted father, Keith, Lance Corporal Schramm was a genuine American hero who clearly knew what he wanted to do in life and he did it. Brian's loving family members also described the young soldier as a strong leader and motivator who was never down. He loved life and treated every day as an opportunity for adventure.

Lance Corporal Schramm's friends and teachers at Greece Olympia High School and the surrounding community similarly remember Brian for his depth of decency, his contagious sense of humor, and his refusal to quit any assignment or mission, regardless of the difficulties he faced or the challenges that he met.

Lance Corporal Schramm's genuine devotion to community service will also never be forgotten. In addition to his courageous military service, Brian frequently returned to his alma mater to discuss the war in Iraq, and was hoping to eventually become a police officer.

It is in light of Brian's character and devotion to public service that Greece Olympia High School has already established the Brian Schramm Scholarship, awarded annually to a college-bound senior who demonstrates the extraordinary qualities exhibited by Brian Schramm. And it is my hope that we can further honor this fallen hero through the passage of this legislation, to dedicate the Latta Road post office building in his name.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal Brian Schramm's life stands as a testament to the bravery and dedication of our heroic men and women who have served our Nation at home and abroad, and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting H.R. 1595.

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

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 1595, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York as the "Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building."

Today we honor one of our nation's fallen heroes—Marine Lance Cpl. Brian K. Schramm.

He embodied every sense of the word hero and paid the ultimate sacrifice on October 15, 2004 at the age of 22.

Lance Cpl. Schramm of Rochester, New York, assigned to the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, was killed by enemy action in Babil Province, Iraq. Schramm had spent five months in the Middle East and Iraq in 2003 and was deployed again to Iraq in June of 2004.

Babil Province was a hotspot south of Baghdad and the U.S. military had launched a major offensive in October of 2004 to try to put down the insurgency. Lance Cpl. Schramm was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq at the time.

Friends and family remember Lance Cpl. Schramm for his enduring sense of humor and decency. A high school friend of his described Schramm as "the most genuine person you'd ever meet in your entire life."

Lance Cpl. Schramm's father, Keith, speaks of Brian's desire to become a Marine early on in his childhood. "It was a lifelong dream" of Brian's to become a Marine.

It is with this in mind that we honor Brian today. With gratitude for his bravery and sacrifice to his country, I ask that all members join me in supporting H.R. 1595, which will rename the post office in Rochester, New York, in Lance Cpl. Brian K. Schramm's honor.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of New York (Mr. LEE), the original sponsor of this legislation.

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Mr. LEE of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I wanted to thank the chairman and the ranking member for helping to bring this legislation to the floor. I also want to thank the members of our New York delegation for cosponsoring this measure.

Last month, I visited with Army National Guardsmen based out of Western New York who spent part of 2007 and most of 2008 serving in Afghanistan. These are soldiers who put their lives on hold for more than a year to help train the Afghan national army and police. They take great pride in the work that they do over there, but what they are most proud of is the fact that everyone came home safe and sound. Of course, not all units are fortunate.

A great hero by the name of Brian Schramm, who grew up in Monroe County, a native of the town of Greece, heard the call to serve early on in his life. He signed up not long after graduating high school and went on to become a tremendous Marine.