EVA HOLTZMAN POST OFFICE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5039) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at United States Route 1 in Ridgeway, North Carolina, as the ''Eva Holtzman Post Office''.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5039

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

SECTION 1. EVA HOLTZMAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at United States Route 1 in Ridgeway, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the ''Eva Holtzman 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 Eva Holtzman Post Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5039.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5039, a bill to designate this postal facility in Ridgeway, North Carolina, as the Eva Holtzman Post Office. All Members of the North Carolina delegation have cosponsored the gentleman from North Carolina's (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) legislation.

A community leader, a postal supervisor, a friend, a grandmother of seven, and a great-grandmother of four, Eva Holtzman was an exemplary role model for the small North Carolina community of Ridgeway.

Eva Holtzman served as postmaster of Ridgeway for 38 years, ultimately retiring at age 80. She was a wonderfully devoted postal supervisor. During her tenure as postmaster, this is great, the Postal Service once announced plans to close the community post office at which she worked in order to widen the county roads. In response, she went out and purchased land with her own money and oversaw the construction of a brand new post office.

Mr. Speaker, Eva Holtzman was perhaps best known for her community involvement. For more than 5 decades, she volunteered with the 4–H Club and taught Sunday school. Additionally, she volunteered with Warren County's health department and social services.

I urge my colleagues to honor Eva Holtzman, a benevolent lifetime resident and an institution in Ridgeway, North Carolina.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Special Panel on Postal Reform and Oversight of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 5039, legislation designating a U.S. postal facility in Ridgeway, North Carolina, after Eva Holtzman.

This measure unanimously reported by our committee on September 15, 2004, was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) on September 9, 2004, and enjoys the support and co-sponsorship of the entire North Carolina delegation.

As a lifelong resident of Ridgeway, Eva Holtzman was a well-respected, hard-working community leader. She worked at the Ridgeway Post Office for an extraordinary 50 years, serving 38 of those years as postmaster. Her dedication went far beyond a plaque on the doorway, however.

A perfect example of Ms. Holtzman's dedication to her fellow residents came in the early 60s when, following the closing of the local post office, she constructed her own post office and operated it herself.

Known to people who knew her well as Miss Eva, Eva Holtzman donated a substantial amount of her time to the community as well, starting a 4–H center and initially operating it out of her own home. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) has described her as being a model citizen: ''With the uncertainty and chaos that exists in our world today, I can think of nothing better than to honor the memory of one of North Carolina's finest citizens by naming the post office she loved and worked so hard for, the Eva Holtzman Post Office.''

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift passage of this bill.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), the sponsor of this legislation.

□ 1430

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the strong bipartisan support of my distinguished colleagues from the North Carolina delegation, both House and Senate, in their sponsorship of this bill.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member, and Denise Wilson, along with the entire staff from the Committee on Government Reform, for moving so quickly in seeing the value of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor a great woman, a great community leader and a great American who helped so many people throughout my home State of North Carolina.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we show our appreciation for an extraordinary woman, Ms. Eva Holtzman, by naming the post office in Ridgeway, North Carolina, in her honor. Affectionately called ''Ms. Eva'' by all who knew her, she loved the town of Ridgeway with all of her heart. She called Ridgeway her home. She lived and worked there her entire life. She reared four children and ultimately was laid to rest in that community.

Ms. Eva was born in 1918 and educated in Warren County public schools, graduating with honors from Norlina High School in rural North Carolina.

Ms. Holtzman was a strong force in the 4–H association, starting a chapter out of her home that eventually had to move to a local church because of its popularity. Her 50-year tenure with 4–H and teaching Sunday school at St. Paul's Lutheran Church did not go unnoticed when in the year 2000 she was presented with the Jefferson Award for her outstanding and selfless volunteerism by then-Governor Jim Hunt.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Holtzman was also a dedicated public servant. She worked at the post office for 50 years, 38 of those years as its postmaster. When the Ridgeway Post Office was closed in the early 1960s, Ms. Holtzman refused to let the town live without a post office and built a new one on her own. Sadly, Eva passed away 3 years ago, leaving behind her beloved post office that she worked so hard to preserve.

As one of her Sunday school students, who is now an adult, said, ''Everything I learned, I learned because of Ms. Eva.'' And when asked why she tirelessly dedicated her life to the citizens of North Carolina, she always said, ''It's just wonderful to be able to do things for others. I just enjoy people.''

Mr. Speaker, while Ms. Eva Holtzman is deserving of far greater accolades. I am sure they will come in time, but it is my great pleasure to offer this legislation on her behalf. I strongly urge this body to pass this bill.

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) has been given. He has had a family emergency in connection with his father. I know our prayers will be with him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5039.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HENRY JOHNSON ANNEX

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 480) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 747 Broadway in Albany, New York, as the ''United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex.''

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 480

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

SECTION 1. UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HENRY JOHNSON ANNEX.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 747 Broadway in Albany, New York, and known as the United States Postal Service Carrier Annex, shall be known and designated as the ''United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 480, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 480, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCNULTY), redesignates the Albany postal facility as the Henry Johnson Annex. This legislation honors Sergeant Henry Johnson, a hero of World War I and a native of Albany.

Sergeant Johnson was a member of the Army's all-black 369th Infantry Regiment, but because black soldiers were unable to fight in American combat units overseas, Sergeant Johnson actually fought on the allied side under the French flag during World War I. For his incredible valor and skill in combat, Sergeant Johnson posthumously earned a Purple Heart, a Distinguished Service Cross and even the greatest French military honor, the Croix de Guerre.

Mr. Speaker, one byproduct of the war on terror has been a renewed and sincere national appreciation for the sacrifices of the men and women in the Armed Forces. This bill, H.R. 480, gives this Congress a chance to publicly acknowledge and appreciate a great patriot of America's past. Sergeant Johnson was a terrific hero of World War I, about whom Americans should never forget.

I am hopeful that this postal facility will soon wear the name of Sergeant Henry Johnson, and I urge the other body to swiftly consider H.R. 480. I urge our colleagues to vote in favor.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCNULTY), for introducing this legislation which was unanimously reported by the Committee on Government Reform on September 15. It enjoys the full support of the entire New York delegation.

Sergeant Henry Johnson, an Albany native, served in the U.S. Army from June 1917 until February 1919. As an African American, he was unable to fight at that time in an American combat unit, and therefore, he became part of what was known as the ''Harlem Hell Fighters,'' who fought in Europe under the French flag with great courage and distinction.

While on duty, he single-handedly fought off a German raider party of more than 20 troops, and despite numerous wounds, he rescued a fellow soldier from capture and killed several enemy soldiers. As a result of his heroism, as our colleague has indicated, he received numerous medals.

When he returned from Europe to a segregated America, he experienced great difficulty and died unrecognized by his own country in 1929. I truly believe that it is never too late to reward a person for service to their country, and for that reason, I am pleased to join with the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCNULTY) and our other colleagues to redesignate a U.S. postal facility in Albany after Henry Johnson.

I urge swift passage of this legislation.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCNULTY), the author of this legislation.

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

On behalf of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) and all of the New York delegation, I am proud to support H.R. 480 which designates the U.S. postal service facility at 747 Broadway in Albany, New York, as the Henry Johnson Annex.

Henry Johnson was a native of Albany, served in World War I, and was an African American who joined the all-black New York National Guard unit, the 369th Infantry Regiment, based in Harlem.

Mr. Speaker, about 400,000 black soldiers served in the Armed Forces at that time. Half were sent overseas, and many were stationed in France. They were not allowed to serve with white soldiers. They were not allowed to fight with American combat units. But the members of the 369th soon proved themselves. They became known as the ''Harlem Hell Fighters,'' and that was not a name they took for themselves. That was a name given to them by their enemies.

No one personified the bravery of the 369th more than Henry Johnson. On guard duty on May 14, 1918, then-Private Johnson came under attack by a German raider party of two dozen. Despite sustaining 21 wounds, he single-handedly fought off the Germans and rescued one of his buddies . . . with only a rifle and his bare hands. He became the first American of any color—in any conflict—to receive the Croix de Guerre, France's highest military declaration.

His exploits got newspaper coverage in America and throughout Europe. He was featured in Teddy Roosevelt's book, ''Rank and File: True Stories of the Great War.'' The Army used Johnson's name and likeness to advertise for war bonds and to recruit minorities into service.

Yet, at that time, despite all he had done, Johnson received no official recognition from his government. None. That recognition came much later.

After the war, Henry Johnson returned to upstate New York and worked on the railroad. He later died penniless on the streets of Albany, New York.

Since integration of the military in 1950, some African American service men and women have been recognized for their gallant service. Recognition of African Americans prior to integration, alarmingly neglected for so many years, had finally begun.

It was not until 1997, Mr. Speaker, that Henry Johnson was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. I was proud to be there for that ceremony. In 2002, his grave was found in Arlington National Cemetery, not in the pauper's cemetery outside of Albany where he was believed to be buried. In 2003, at the Pentagon, in an official service, Herman Johnson, the son of Henry Johnson, a distinguished veteran himself, accepted the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's number two award, for his Dad.

In 2003, Mr. Speaker. Henry Johnson did all of these things in 1918, and it took until 2003 to award him the Distinguished Service Cross. Many of us