Federal law governing the placement of memorials, museums, and other facilities on the Mall. As I am sure Members know, the construction of new facilities on the Mall is a difficult and often contentious issue where the competing interests of particular advocates sometimes conflict with the need to protect the sightlines and openness of the Mall itself.

In order to deal with these issues fairly, ensure that all interested parties have a voice, and protect what is truly a national treasure, Congress has created the National Capitol Planning Commission, over which the Government Reform Committee has jurisdiction. It has also established in law a process for the consideration and approval of new facilities on the Mall in the Commemorative Works Act.

The bill before us, H.R. 4882, short-circuits that process in two ways. First, it would create an arbitrary deadline for the visitors center's approval—30 days from the date of enactment. Second, the bill designates the sight on which the center will be built—a small triangle of land between the Vietnam Veterans and Lincoln Memorials. This seems like the kind of micro-management that could be avoided if the Commemorative Works Act process was followed.

One of the requirements of current law is for an environmental assessment to be done on all new facilities on the Mall. It is my understanding that the lack of a completed environmental assessment for the Vietnam visitors center is what has held up the approval for the facility by the Nation Capitol Planning Commission. This assessment will provide critical information needed for final site approval, and it is my further understanding that this assessment is currently underway.

I believe that this approval process should be allowed to reach its own conclusion, without mandated deadlines and site selection. The National Capitol Planning Commission is working in good faith with the National Park Service, the General Services Administration, the government of the District of Colombia, and Vietnam Veterans groups to reach a timely conclusion to this approval process. They should be allowed to do so.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4882, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Deadline Enforcement Act.

I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), and also our ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), for their leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor.

In 2003, Congress authorized the construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Memorial to help provide information and educate the public about the memorial and the Vietnam War.

Unfortunately, over the past three years, progress in selecting a location for the visitor's center has stalled due to bureaucratic redtape. The legislation we are considering today will bring the site-selection process to a close by designating both a location for the center's construction and a deadline for its completion.

I believe an Educational Visitors Center will serve as an important learning tool for the millions of visitors who visit the Wall each year, especially those too young to remember Vietnam.

I strongly support this effort to at last make the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center a reality and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is no place more sacred for me than the Vietnam Memorial. A close second is the Lincoln Memorial. I visit and run by these poignant places on our National Mall on a nearly daily basis when Congress is in session.

When changes to the Mall are planned it is critical to have a process in place to protect the integrity of the memorials that honor our history. I'm appalled that a bill such as this is coming before Congress, which short circuits the well-functioning process currently in place.

This isn't about bureaucracy and the environment. This is about respect for two sacred places.

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

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4882, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. PEARCE. 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 question will be postponed.

H. GORDON PAYROW POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4786) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 535 Wood Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as the ''H. Gordon Payrow Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4786

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

SECTION 1. H. GORDON PAYROW POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 535 Wood Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the ''H. Gordon Payrow 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 ''H. Gordon Payrow Post Office Building''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 4786 to honor H. Gordon Payrow, a man who was wise beyond his years. He was a man who challenged the process and brought new and innovative ideas and policies to his community. In his early years, he attended Bethlehem High School and Allentown Preparatory School. After graduation, he went on to study at Lehigh University where he earned a degree in business.

After his marriage to Dorothy Parker in 1943, he was elected to the Bethlehem City Council in November of 1951. It was not long after that he was elected as mayor and named the first ''strong mayor'' to emerge from the mayor-council form of government first authorized in 1957.

At his inauguration in 1962, Mayor Payrow declared: ''Today marks the end of the North Side, South Side, and West Side. From here on we will only think of Bethlehem,'' thus bringing together a melting pot of cultures and proclaiming a new unity for the city. Payrow was extremely popular with both Democrats and Republicans, which led him to hold office for three consecutive terms.

During his tenure, Mayor Payrow never retreated from tackling controversial issues. Under Payrow, Bethlehem hired its first female police officer and began the construction of a new city hall. He oversaw the creation of the city's Fine Arts Commission, the Beautification Committee, and the Environmental Conservation Commission. He was also instrumental in laying the groundwork for a massive revitalization of Bethlehem's downtown area.

Further, during his three terms, the mayor worked to construct several fire stations, to demolish blighted housing developments, and to oversee the replacement and construction of several bridges critical to the transportation infrastructure of the city of Bethlehem.

Gordon Payrow was a man of great integrity and skill who believed in his city and in his constituents. The city of Bethlehem is a better place because of his influence, and it is only fitting and proper that a postal facility in the city be named after him.

I urge all Members to join me in honoring a great man that promoted excellence in government by passing H.R. 4786.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 4786, legislation naming a postal facility in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, after H. Gordon Payrow.

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This measure, which was introduced by Representative CHARLES DENT on February 16, 2006, and unanimously reported by our committee on March 9, 2006, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Pennsylvania delegation.

H. Gordon Payrow, Jr. served three terms as mayor of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, from 1962–1974. A dedicated public servant, Mayor Payrow was committed to improving the infrastructure of the city and beautifying the community. He was also instrumental in the construction and development of the Bethlehem City Center Plaza. After leaving office, Mr. Payrow continued his involvement in local issues and community service projects. He passed away in April 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is altogether fitting and proper that we honor his life and his work by naming the postal facility after him, and I urge swift passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think I am going to have any additional requests, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I too have no further speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4786.

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.

DR. JOSE CELSO BARBOSA POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3440) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Avenida RL Rodriguez in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, as the ''Dr. Jose Celso Barbosa Post Office Building.''

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3440

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

SECTION 1. DR. JOSÉ CELSO BARBOSA POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Avenida RL Rodríguez in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, shall be known and designated as the ''Dr. José Celso Barbosa 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 ''Dr. José Celso Barbosa Post Office Building''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3440, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO). This bill would designate the post office in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, as the Dr. Jose Celso Barbosa Post Office Building.

Dr. Barbosa received both his primary and secondary education in Puerto Rico. After graduating from the seminary, Barbosa tutored private students in order to save money to attend college. In 1875, he moved to New York to attend prep school, where he learned the English language in only 1 year. In 1876, he was admitted to the University of Michigan Medical School where he graduated valedictorian of his class in 1880.

On returning to Puerto Rico to set up his practice, he learned the Spanish Government would not recognize Barbosa's degree because it was not from one of the prestigious European universities. It took the American consul to intervene for Mr. Barbosa's degree to be recognized, and he became the first person on the entire island with an American medical degree. Barbosa practiced medicine across Puerto Rico and introduced the idea of employers paying a fee for the future health care needs of their employees, a very early health insurance system.

As well as being a respected physician, Barbosa was also an esteemed political activist. He formed the prostatehood Puerto Rican Republican Party on July 4, 1899, as an aftermath of the Spanish-American War in which Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States. In 1900, Barbosa became a member of the executive cabinet up until 1917 and a member of the Senate from 1917–1921.

In 1907, he established the newspaper El Tiempo, the first bilingual newspaper on the island. His daughter, Pilar Barbosa would one day become a renowned historian and a political activist who would carry on her father's work. Jose Celso Barbosa died in San Juan in December of 1921.

I urge all Members to come together to honor the perseverance and courage of Dr. Barbosa by passing H.R. 3440.

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 a member of the House Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 3440, legislation naming a postal facility in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, after Jose Celso Barbosa. This measure was introduced by Representative LUIS FORTUÑO on July 26, 2005, and unanimously reported by our committee on September 15, 2005.

Jose Celso Barbosa was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, in 1857. Dr. Barbosa was the first Puerto Rican to graduate from the University of Michigan, where he received his medical degree and graduated as valedictorian in 1880.

Upon returning to Puerto Rico, Dr. Barbosa worked in his private medical practice, became a professor of medicine in Puerto Rico, and entered political life as a firm defender of negotiating increased autonomy for Puerto Rico from Spain.

In 1899, after Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States after the Spanish-American War, Dr. Barbosa formed the Republican Party of Puerto Rico, which advocated for Puerto Rican statehood. He was the founder of the newspaper El Tiempo, and active in Puerto Rican politics, serving in the executive cabinet and, later, the Senate. He died in San Juan in 1921.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge swift passage of this legislation.

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3440, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3440.

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.

GENE VANCE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4805) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 North Quincy Street in Clinton, Illinois, as the ''Gene Vance Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4805

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

SECTION 1. GENE VANCE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 North Quincy Street in Clinton, Illinois,