

An Irish American who grew up on the Northwest Side, McAuliffe was a second-generation Republican. After graduating from Lane Tech and serving in the U.S. Army, McAuliffe joined the 38th Ward GOP organizations. Through hard work, he became the city's GOP precinct captain.

In his 24-year legislative career, McAuliffe's most notable win was his 1982 reelection. He was told it couldn't be done. In 1980, voters had approved a constitutional amendment that reduced the size of the House and replaced the state's unique system of cumulative voting with single-member districts.

Under the old system, each legislative district elected three representatives, including one from the minority party. McAuliffe was among 17 Chicago GOP representatives. The other 16 members of this group retired or were defeated in 1982.

State Rep. Roman J. Kosinski (D-Chicago), who ran against McAuliffe in 1982, was favored to win. Even though there was a Democratic landslide in the city, McAuliffe won by 607 votes out of 37,000 cast. "Roger wasn't a quitter. He just outworked Kosinski," recalled Fred Rupley, McAuliffe's pal.

McAuliffe never had another close election. He survived by forging alliances with Northwest Side Democrats.

He is the only Chicago Republican elected to the House since the cutback amendment. McAuliffe turned down chances to run for mayor, Cook County Board president and sheriff. "He was very comfortable as a state legislator. He knew that he could control his own destiny," Rupley said.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3834, a bill to redesignate the Roger P. McAuliffe Post Office in Chicago as a fitting tribute to my former colleague and friend.

I had the privilege of serving with Roger in the Illinois General Assembly from 1972, when we were in the same freshman class, until my election to Congress. Roger was the only one of our class to continue to serve in the general assembly until his tragic fatal accident—and serve he did.

Roger was known as an advocate for senior citizens, property tax caps, and as a former Chicago Police Officer, for fighting crime. Known particularly for his constituent services, he aided the residents of the neighborhoods of Chicago's northwest side as well as several suburbs including Park Ridge, Rosemont, Norridge and Shiller Park.

Even though he served as assistant majority leader, with a Republican House and Republican Senate, as the only Republican from Chicago in the State House, Roger effectively crossed party lines and worked with Republicans and Democrats alike. He will certainly be missed.

Roger touched many of us, with his warmth and good cheer. He was a dedicated public servant and a dear friend, and I will miss him greatly. I commend my colleague from Illinois [Mr. FLANAGAN] for his fitting tribute to Roger's memory, and for his efforts to expedite consideration of this important measure by the House.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3834.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3834.

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

There was no objection.

AMOS F. LONGORIA POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2700) to designate the United States Post Office building located at 7980 FM 327, Elmendorf, TX, as the "Amos F. Longoria Post Office Building", as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2700

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The building located at 8302 FM 327, Elmendorf, Texas, which houses operations of the United States Postal Service, shall be known and designated as the "Amos F. Longoria Post Office Building", and any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such building shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Amos F. Longoria Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH].

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

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us, H.R. 2700 was unanimously approved as amended by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. H.R. 2700 designates the U.S. Post Office building located at 7980 FM 327, Elmendorf, TX, as the "Amos F. Longoria Post Office Building." The amendment corrects the address to read 8302 FM 327 and modifies the title of the bill to reflect the change. H.R. 2700 was introduced by the gentleman from Texas, [Mr. TEJEDA] and was cosponsored by the full Texas House Delegation, pursuant to committee policy.

H.R. 2700 honors Amos F. Longoria who was born in Elmendorf on September 12, 1924. He was one of seven children of Bonaficio and Juanita F. Longoria. Amos Longoria was drafted into the U.S. Army in April 1943 during his last year of high school; he reported for basic training at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. He volunteered to

serve in the European theater during World War II, was assigned to the 30th Infantry, 3d Division and saw combat in the Italian campaign. Amos Longoria was wounded during the first 6 months of his joining the military but he returned to duty shortly thereafter. He was mortally wounded on November 13, 1943 at the crossing of the Rapido River in Italy and died in an army hospital in Italy on November 19, 1943 at the age of 19.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support H.R. 2700 as amended, a bill naming the Post Office Building in honor of a local, young hero who served when called and died in service to your country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2700 as introduced by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. TEJEDA]. This bill designates the U.S. Post Office in Elmendorf, TX, as the "Amos F. Longoria Post Office." Mr. Longoria was drafted in the U.S. Army and served in the European theater during World War II. He was fatally wounded at the crossing of the Rapido River in Italy and later died on November 19, 1943.

This is a very fitting tribute to a dedicated public servant who paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country, so I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. TEJEDA], a very hard-working and courageous congressman.

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come to the floor today to urge everyone to support H.R. 2700, legislation to name the Elmendorf Post Office in the name of Amos Longoria.

First I would like to take a minute to thank my colleagues who have spent much of their time in the floor. All 29 of my Texas colleagues who cosponsored the bill have done an outstanding job especially particularly the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, and also I would like to thank very much the gentleman from New York, Mr. MCHUGH and ranking Democrat, the gentlewoman from Michigan, Miss COLLINS, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. CLINGER and ranking Democrat, the gentlewoman from Illinois Mrs. COLLINS.

Most of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the citizens of Elmendorf, TX, for, first of all, circulating and doing everything possible to do, and they did an outstanding job in 1 year to bring in the name. I have known the Longoria family for many years, and I cannot think of a more worthy person for this honor than Amos Longoria.

First of all, it was mentioned before, but first of all let me just say that Amos Longoria was born in Elmendorf, TX, on September 12, 1924, and was one of seven children born of Bonifacio and Juanita Longoria. Amos was drafted

into the Army in April 1943 and volunteered to serve in the European theater. On November 13, 1943, shortly after his 19th birthday, Private Longoria was wounded at the famous crossing of the Rapido River in Italy. He died in an Army hospital in Italy 6 days later.

The Elmendorf Post Office will be a lasting tribute to a native son who paid the ultimate price for our country's freedom. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2700.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. 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 New York [Mr. MCHUGH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2700, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the building located at 8302 FM 327, Elmendorf, Texas, which houses operations of the United States Postal Service, as the 'Amos F. Longoria Post Office Building'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2700, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1996

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3586) to amend title 5, United States Code, to strengthen veterans' preference, to increase employment opportunities for veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3586

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 "Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. EQUAL ACCESS FOR VETERANS.

(a) COMPETITIVE SERVICE.—Section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(f)(1) No preference eligible, and no individual (other than a preference eligible) who has been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 or more years of active service, shall be denied the opportunity to compete for an announced vacant position within an agency, in the competitive service or the excepted service, by reason of—

"(A) not having acquired competitive status; or

"(B) not being an employee of such agency.

"(2) Nothing in this subsection shall prevent an agency from filling a vacant position (whether by appointment or otherwise) solely from individuals on a priority placement list consisting of individuals who have been separated from the agency due to a reduction in force and surplus employees (as defined under regulations prescribed by the Office)."

(b) CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION.—

(1) VACANT POSITIONS.—Section 3327(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (1), by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3), and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) each vacant position in the agency for which competition is restricted to individuals having competitive status or employees of such agency, excluding any position under paragraph (1), and"

(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Section 3327 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) Any notification provided under this section shall, for all positions under subsection (b)(1) as to which section 3304(f) applies and for all positions under subsection (b)(2), include a notation as to the applicability of section 3304(f) with respect thereto.

"(d) In consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Office shall submit to Congress and the President, no less frequently than every 2 years, a report detailing, with respect to the period covered by such report—

"(1) the number of positions listed under this section during such period;

"(2) the number of preference eligibles and other individuals described in section 3304(f)(1) referred to such positions during such period; and

"(3) the number of preference eligibles and other individuals described in section 3304(f)(1) appointed to such positions during such period."

(c) GOVERNMENTWIDE LISTS.—

(1) VACANT POSITIONS.—Section 3330(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(b) The Office of Personnel Management shall cause to be established and kept current—

"(1) a comprehensive list of all announcements of vacant positions (in the competitive service and the excepted service, respectively) within each agency that are to be filled by appointment for more than 1 year and for which applications are being or will soon be accepted from outside the agency's work force; and

"(2) a comprehensive list of all announcements of vacant positions within each agency for which applications are being or will soon be accepted and for which competition is restricted to individuals having competitive status or employees of such agency, excluding any position required to be listed under paragraph (1)."

(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Section 3330(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (2), by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4), and by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) for all positions under subsection (b)(1) as to which section 3304(f) applies and for all positions under subsection (b)(2), a notation as to the applicability of section 3304(f) with respect thereto; and"

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3330(d) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "The list" and inserting "Each list under subsection (b)".

SEC. 3. SPECIAL PROTECTIONS FOR PREFERENCE ELIGIBLES IN REDUCTIONS IN FORCE.

Section 3502 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by section 1034 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 (Public Law 104-106; 110 Stat. 430), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g)(1) A position occupied by a preference eligible shall not be placed in a single-position competitive level if the preference eligible is qualified to perform the essential functions of any other position at the same grade (or occupational level) in the competitive area. In such cases, the preference eligible shall be entitled to be placed in another competitive level for which such preference eligible is qualified. If the preference eligible is qualified for more than one competitive level, such preference eligible shall be placed in the competitive level containing the most positions.

"(2) For purposes of paragraph (1)—

"(A) a preference eligible shall be considered qualified to perform the essential functions of a position if, by reason of experience, training, or education (and, in the case of a disabled veteran, with reasonable accommodation), a reasonable person could conclude that the preference eligible would be able to perform those functions successfully within a period of 150 days; and

"(B) a preference eligible shall not be considered unqualified solely because such preference eligible does not meet the minimum qualification requirements relating to previous experience in a specified grade (or occupational level), if any, that are established for such position by the Office of Personnel Management or the agency.

"(h) In connection with any reduction in force, a preference eligible whose current or most recent performance rating is at least fully successful (or the equivalent) shall have, in addition to such assignment rights as are prescribed by regulation, the right, in lieu of separation, to be assigned to any position within the agency conducting the reduction in force—

"(1) for which such preference eligible is qualified under subsection (g)(2)—

"(A) that is within the preference eligible's commuting area and at the same grade (or occupational level) as the position from which the preference eligible was released, and that is then occupied by an individual, other than another preference eligible, who was placed in such position (whether by appointment or otherwise) within 6 months before the reduction in force if, within 12 months prior to the date on which such individual was so placed in such position, such individual had been employed in the same competitive area as the preference eligible; or

"(B) that is within the preference eligible's competitive area and that is then occupied by an individual, other than another preference eligible, who was placed in such position (whether by appointment or otherwise) within 6 months before the reduction in force; or

"(2) for which such preference eligible is qualified that is within the preference eligible's competitive area and that is not more than 3 grades (or pay levels) below that of the position from which the preference eligible was released, except that, in the case of a preference eligible with a compensable service-connected disability of 30 percent or more, this paragraph shall be applied by substituting '5 grades' for '3 grades'.

In the event that a preference eligible is entitled to assignment to more than 1 position under this subsection, the agency shall assign the preference eligible to any such position requiring no reduction (or, if there is no such position, the least reduction) in basic