

offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3808, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3808.

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

There was no objection.

STEVEN SCHIFF POST OFFICE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3630) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9719 Candelaria Road NE. in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the "Steven Schiff Post Office," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3630

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

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION.

The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9719 Candelaria Road NE. in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and known as the Eldorado Station Post Office, shall be known and designated as the "Steven Schiff Post Office".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Steven Schiff Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) 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, H.R. 3630, honoring our late colleague, Steven Schiff of New Mexico, was introduced by the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) on April 1, 1998. Pursuant to the policy of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the legislation is indeed cosponsored by all the Members of the New Mexico delegation, although the sponsor himself is from Indiana.

It is a fitting tribute to Steve, as all of us knew him better, that the chairman of the committee on which he served with dedication and concern for issues, would sponsor this legislation as an outgoing tribute to his memory.

The legislation in fact redesignates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9719 Candelaria Road NE., in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the "Steven Schiff Post Office." The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight amended the bill to read "Steve Schiff," as I mentioned, the name by which many more of us knew him, known as Steve, of course, by his friends, his family and his constituents, and the name change was suggested indeed by Mrs. Schiff, and was unanimously accepted by his colleagues on the committee on which Steve served with distinction.

Steven Harvey Schiff was born in the great City of Chicago. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, but moved to earn his law degree from the University of New Mexico Law School. He was admitted to the bar and stayed in New Mexico to become the assistant district attorney of Bernalillo County for two years. He then became a trial attorney, but returned to public service as an assistant city attorney, counsel for the Albuquerque Police Department, and district attorney for his county for eight years.

Steve earned the reputation of being tough on crime and going by the book. He served in the New Mexico Air National Guard and was an Air Force Reserve Colonel. During the Persian Gulf crisis in 1991, Steve performed legal duties, such as drafting wills for military reservists. In 1996 he served for several days in the Bosnia theater as a judge advocate general involved in international legal matters.

Steve Schiff was elected by the First District of New Mexico to the 101st Congress, and to three succeeding Congresses. He succeeded a gentleman who left the house after 20 years and became Secretary of Interior under President Bush.

Steve was a member of several committees during his service in the House: The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct; the Committee on the Judiciary, on which he served as Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime; the Committee on Science, on which he served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Basic Research; and, as I have mentioned, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

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Steve will be remembered as a Member who voted his conscience. He sponsored legislation and asked questions that were not always popular, though his tough stands and his caring spirit made him very popular himself on both sides of the aisle by Members and staff.

We have the honor of having before us today, Mr. Speaker, two bills, this and the prior one considered, who are bestowing honors on gentlemen that are still fresh in the memories of many of the Members of this House.

Having served with Steve, I can say he was always what was good about this House, always what was good

about this Congress, a man who cared only about his constituents and what was best for his country. It is with a great deal of honor that I ask my colleagues to join with me today in supporting this bill in honor of Steve Schiff.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, utilizing whatever time I may consume, let me, first of all, join in support of H.R. 3630, which would name an appropriate facility in New Mexico after our former colleague. As someone who serves on the House Ethics Committee and also had an opportunity to serve with Congressman Schiff on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, I would like to offer my personal condolences to his wife of some 29 years and also for the rest of his immediate and extended family.

His service, not only in this Congress as one of some 12,000 or so Americans who have served in this body but in the Armed Forces and as someone who is deeply committed to a whole host of principles, it was the 1998 American Almanac of American Politics in which it said that he was a person who followed what was right, irrespective of the politics of the moment. I think that that best exemplifies the colleague that we all knew and understood to be someone who we could respect for his independence here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in the favorable consideration and hopefully unanimous consideration of this naming bill after someone who has not only served but served this institution with dignity. We have the finest postal service in the world, and we want to also take a minute to utilize the opportunity to name some of these facilities after some of the finest people that we know.

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

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, it is perfectly responsible for the House to name a building after one of our most respected Members. Steve Schiff would be on anyone's bipartisan list of the five most respected Members in the House of Representatives. He was a workhorse. He was diligent. He was thoughtful. Above all, he was wise.

I served with him when we were in the minority in the 103rd Congress, and he was the ranking member on a subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations and in the 104th and 105th Congress, where he was active on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Steve was an inspiring person, even though he was a very quiet person. He did his work. He came prepared. He asked the intelligent question that went to the very core of the issue. That skill probably came from background as a prosecutor. He could get to the core matter and get the evidence that

was needed by an investigating committee.

When he passed away after the serious illness that he had for the last year or so, every person I knew in this House used the very words I have used to describe Steve. I know all of us will unanimously approve this legislation so that his name will be on that building as long as the United States Postal Service exists, which is hopefully going to be a very long time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield whatever time he may want to utilize to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT).

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this piece of legislation. As the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) has just suggested, I think anybody who worked with Steve Schiff would use the same kind of words.

I sat with him on the Ethics Committee and watched him deal with matters affecting Members on both sides of the aisle. Steve always kept his eye on the view that he wanted to know what was right, what was the situation and how should it be remedied. It did not make any difference to him who it was. He was fair beyond what I think we see very often in this House.

I think that one of the things that is missing, Steve had a great sense of humor. When we were into some kind of tight spot in the Ethics Committee, he could always come up with a joke or some sort of wry phrase that would take the tension out of the situation.

In many ways, he was the finest example of what people should expect from Members of Congress. I think it is a real honor that we can give this honor to him today and to his family.

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

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time either. And with final urging to honor as a unanimous body the deeds and the life of a great American and a fine human being, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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. 3630, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 3630.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1891

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 1891.

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

There was no objection.

NANCY B. JEFFERSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2798) to redesignate the building of the United States Postal Service located at 2419 West Monroe Street, in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Nancy B. Jefferson Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2798

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

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION.

The building of the United States Postal Service located at 2419 West Monroe Street, in Chicago, Illinois, and known as the Midwest Post Office Building, shall be known and designated as the "Nancy B. Jefferson Post Office Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Nancy B. Jefferson Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) 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, H.R. 2798 was introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), our distinguished colleague, who, indeed, serves on the Subcommittee on the Postal Service of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

The legislation was introduced November 4, 1997, and enjoys the cosponsorship of the entire House delegation from that State as pursuant to the policy of the full committee.

H.R. 2798 redesignates the building of the United States Postal Service located at 2419 West Monroe Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the Nancy B. Jefferson Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is here, and I certainly look forward to his comments, and I am sure he will detail what is a very interesting and, I think, a very admirable life. But I would simply note that many times

when we come to the floor of this House to extend this honor, the bills are brought on behalf of individuals who are known to their communities but often on a more wide basis as well.

The first two examples today, fully meritorious, of course, but did provide the opportunity to honor two gentlemen who, through their really unselfish actions in this House, were known way beyond the borders of their home communities.

We have before us today in these last two bills the opportunity to honor people who, perhaps, were not known over a wide geographic area but who made remarkable impacts in their communities, people who I think really do embody the spirit of this great country and tell the tale in many ways about how America has become the greatest democracy that the world has ever known.

Nancy Jefferson was a community organizer, one who is affectionately known as the Mother of the West Side. She led the fight to ensure equal rights for all people, the disabled, welfare recipients, single parents, the widowed, and the poor.

As I know we will hear, she acted from the time she overcame rather impressive obstacles as a young girl to her later years in public service some amazing challenges to be, in the lives of many, an inspiration and truly the kind of person, I think, that this House can be proud in bestowing the honor of a postal naming upon.

I have a great deal of pride and I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for allowing us to share in this moment.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me again thank the chairman of the subcommittee for his cooperation in these matters. H.R. 2798 is a naming bill that should enjoy the unanimous support of this House, for it does in such a very real way represent the naming of a facility in honor of someone who has improved the life chances of so many through her work and through her actions as a community organizer.

I want to use the time that I will exercise here really to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my colleague, for bringing this matter to our attention; for it was through his extraordinary leadership and persistence that the House now today will consider this naming bill and the one that will follow.

It is, as the chairman mentioned, quite easy sometimes for us to proceed along a course when we are naming a facility after someone who all of us know or whose work that we are all familiar with, but the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), serving as the representative of the people of the Chicago and of the West Side, really worked tirelessly to have our committee act on this bill.