

The three men are believed to be the longest held American hostages in our history.

It is believed the men are being held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC—an organization designated by the State Department as a terrorist group. It is believed the men were taken to Northern Colombia into an area controlled by the FARC. We know little else. We don't know whether the men are dead or alive. We don't know the exact location of whether they are being held. Very little information has become available.

For over 5 years, the families of these men have longed for the return of their loved ones—Mark has two daughters, David has a son and a daughter, and Rick has two daughters. These children have all spent the last years of their young lives without their fathers. Their mothers—Tania Rich, Nancy Mankins, and Patti Teneoff—have been without their husbands. They have spent each day praying for some shred of information that may give them a ray of hope.

They have lobbied the State Department and FB to do more. They have written to President Clinton. They have met with Latin American leaders who may have influence with the FARC. They have presented their pleas to Congress. They are speaking out and doing what they can. But we must help.

I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 277 which condemns the kidnapping of the New Tribes Missionaries and urges the United States government to do everything possible to press for their release. It sends the message that U.S. Congress cares about this case and is committed to working for the release of these men. Resolving these cases is never easy, but there be must be more the U.S. government can and should do.

We must try everything possible to help return these men to their families. The kidnapping of American citizens is not acceptable and must be punished. Indecisive or unenthusiastic intervention on behalf of the American government puts American citizens everywhere at risk.

My heart goes out to the Rich, Mankins, and Teneoff families. We are with you and will do what we can to help you.

I urge you to vote in favor of H. Con. Res. 277.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution and encourage my colleagues and the United States Government to highlight the plight of three missionaries from my district in Sanford, Florida, who are being held captive by a narco-terrorist group in Colombia. The Congress must ask every federal government agency to bring greater attention to the plight of these men and their families.

New Tribes Mission, founded in 1945, places missionaries around the world. With approximately 3,500 missionaries working in isolated areas worldwide, no one can dispute the courageous work and positive influences these dedicated individuals bring to so many. Their work, however, is sometimes marked by danger.

On January 31, 1993, three New Tribes Missionaries: David Mankins, Mark Rich, and Rick Tennenoff were taken from their families in their village in Pucuro, Panama by armed guerrillas, who crossed the nearby border back into Colombia. This was over five years ago! Still, these three husbands and fathers, believed to be the longest held U.S. hostages, have not been reunited with their loved ones.

They were not wealthy, well placed or international figures. They were there with limited resources on a mission of faith.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked closely with many of our colleagues in efforts to seek their release. We have made numerous inquiries with various U.S. government entities, including the White House, the State Department, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the intelligence community. We have also solicited support from human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, Pax Christi, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We were joined by fifty-seven Members of Congress and U.S. Senators, in contacting foreign leaders and participants in the 1997 Iberian-American Conference on Human Rights urging their support in raising this issue with Colombia and with all relevant governments and organizations. While this effort was met with wide support, these men still have not been returned.

These three missionaries are not people of sizable wealth or corporate executives. They are families of modest means who certainly cannot afford large ransoms. Colombian guerrillas, largely funded by the drug trade, have nothing to gain from holding these men. The United States must not forget these American lives. These lives are of equal value to any American, even those of substantial wealth and power. This resolution emphasizes Congress's commitment to the cause of freeing these men.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we must face the prospect of what this sad story holds for the children of these fine Americans. David Mankins has not seen his children, Sarah and Chad, get married. Rick Tennenoff's son has told his mother he would go and stay with the guerrillas just be with his father. And Jessica, Mark Rich's youngest daughter said, "I would give away all my toys, even Cubby [her teddybear], if it would bring Daddy back."—Heartbreaking. Let us not forget these men and their families. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 277, and hope that this effort further encourages those in power to act now & use every possible resource to free these American hostages, these devoted missionaries, these longed for husbands and fathers.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following statement for the RECORD regarding H. Con. Res. 277, the New Tribes Mission Resolution:

I invite all of my colleagues to join me today in approving legislation that I introduced, H. Con. Res. 277, the New Tribes Mission Resolution.

On January 31, 1993 three Americans, Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tennenoff were abducted from the Kuna Indian village of Pucuro in the Darien Province of Panama, and were taken to Colombia by the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC). These men, missionaries from the New Tribes Mission headquartered in Sanford, Florida, are now believed to be the longest held American hostages in Colombia.

After five years of uncertainty about the fate of these men, their families and other members of the New Tribes Mission deserve closure. Congress must take action to urge the missionaries' captors to come forward and release any information they may have on the fate and well being of these hostages.

My resolution expresses the sense of Congress that any individual or group with knowledge of the whereabouts of the New Tribes Mission missionaries be encouraged to come forward. It also seeks to bring international attention to the abduction and to pressure the Colombian government to release any information they may have about the fate of these men.

Accordingly, I welcome the support of all of my colleagues in approving this bipartisan and humanitarian legislation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, 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 York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 277.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

CALLING FOR AN END TO RECENT CONFLICT BETWEEN ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 292) calling for an end to the recent conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 292

Whereas the 1991 ouster of the Mengistu dictatorship led to relative peace and stability in Eritrea and Ethiopia;

Whereas in 1993 Eritrea became independent after an internationally supervised referendum and the Government of Ethiopia accepted the result of the referendum;

Whereas the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia have worked closely on a wide range of issues over the past several years;

Whereas the Government of Eritrea and Ethiopia enjoy warm relations with the United States;

Whereas on May 6, 1998, a military confrontation erupted between Eritrea and Ethiopia, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of innocent civilians and the displacement of tens of thousands of people;

Whereas the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia have suffered for decades due to war and manmade famines and do not deserve once again to suffer due to armed conflict;

Whereas the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia could destabilize the entire sub-region and lead to a massive humanitarian crisis;

Whereas the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia have both stated that they are committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict; and

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Rwanda, as well as countries in the region, have put forth proposals for resolving the conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) calls on both Eritrea and Ethiopia immediately to bring an end to the violence between the two countries;

(2) commends the executive branch of the United States Government for brokering a

moratorium on air raids between Eritrea and Ethiopia;

(3) commends the recent efforts of the United States facilitation team to resolve the crisis, and encourages continued United States engagement toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict; and

(4) calls on President Isaias Afewerki and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to end the conflict peacefully before it escalates into a full-scale war.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 292.

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

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), a member of our Committee on International Relations, for introducing this important resolution.

The conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea is a tragic one. Although there is no fighting at this time, hundreds of lives have already been lost and there is expectation that the fighting will resume soon.

These two nations, which are closely linked by language, by culture, and by history, are two of Africa's most promising nations, which makes the current conflict all the more terrible.

Mr. Speaker, with this resolution, we stand with the innocent victims of this senseless conflict and with those who are working for peace between these two nations.

Again, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) for introducing this resolution, along with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), another member of our committee. They traveled to both of these nations recently and have provided valuable expertise, leadership, and insight to our committee on this issue. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for their joint sponsorship of this legis-

lation. It is a fact that it does have the bipartisan support of the committee as well.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us calls on both Eritrea and Ethiopia immediately to bring an end to the violence between the two countries. The legislation also commends the United States executive branch for brokering a moratorium on air raids between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The resolution commends the recent efforts of the U.S. facilitation team to resolve the crisis and encourages continued U.S. engagement towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The legislation also calls for President Afewerki and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to end the conflict peacefully before it escalates into a full-scale war.

Mr. Speaker, the sides are deeply committed to their positions. This is in significant part a personality duel between the two leaders. The resolution will have little impact on that, Mr. Speaker. Nevertheless, the Congress should urge both sides to renounce the further use of force and the United States should continue to actively promote a political settlement.

The resolution puts the Congress on record in support of these goals. This resolution deserves our support, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), a member of our Committee on International Relations.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for his kindness and courtesy to me, and for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer support for this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 292. I recognize my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) who has been in many ways my tutor in matters of great importance to my heart, and particularly in this difficult area of the Horn of Africa.

What can we do in this resolution, Mr. Speaker? We can do very little. I recognize that. But at the most basic level we can say that we notice and we care that things that happen in what would be considered by most Americans a remote part of the world, the Horn of Africa, does touch all of us in the United States as lovers of freedom.

We have nothing but praise for the way the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia fought for their freedom from a tyranny of many years, from artifacts of the Cold War, and, eventually, in the case of Eritrea itself, in receiving independence from Ethiopia. And at the time there was such optimism because this was a peaceful transition, which is regrettably rare in the world and regrettably rare in Africa.

The first thing we can do is say we observe, we know what is happening, and we do care.

Second, this resolution which I drafted with the help of my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), and I wish to say the help as well of the administration, does not choose sides. This resolution does not say that we have decided which side is right. And it is important that we do not enter into that judgment.

Nevertheless, I do wish to call attention to the fact that the Assistant Secretary of State, Susan Rice, has been a substantial player in bringing about what cease-fire exists right now; that she deserves a great degree of credit; that I here give her that credit on the floor. I know I will be joined by my colleagues in so doing. And that in the achievement of a cease-fire, we have at least some progress.

Mr. Speaker, the next step is for the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia, of course. But it seems to me, and I believe many members of our committee, that the delineation of the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia should be given to an international organization, whether it is the Organization of African Unity or the United Nations Secretariat or the World Court. That even while there is no actual settlement of the conflict, the beginning of the delineation between the two countries can proceed—from which, both countries say, all of the conflict follows.

So the second main point I would say is whereas we are observing and we do care about this, we are not choosing sides, but the delineation of the border ought to proceed while the bullets are not flying. And then whoever is determined to own what property at the end of that delineation will be the result of a neutral, a third-party process.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, a personal note. I have traveled to Africa with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), my good friend and colleague, my tutor, as I call him, and have made Africa my focus. And it is of great personal sadness to me that this war broke out. I address these words more to my friends in Eritrea and Ethiopia than to our colleagues here today, Mr. Speaker, when I say it is difficult to draw the attention of the United States to the tremendous amount of good that we can do with a small investment of caring, a small investment of our resources in this part of the world, and whatever success the gentleman from New Jersey has had for the years that he has been here doing this before I came back to Congress and began to work with him, whatever success we have had, is cast into jeopardy. Cast into jeopardy by the illustration of war between these two countries—because the easiest thing is to say no. The easiest thing is to find a reason not to be concerned, to turn one's back, to vote for foreign aid to countries that will help one politically instead of for a little bit of assistance that can save some lives or make a

child see who would otherwise go blind, and vindicate the trust that the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia have given to their democratic leadership.

So, I conclude by making that observation. Mr. Speaker, to those watching in the governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia, know the harm that this war has done to those of us in this country who would seek to help the progress of people who have done so much on their own to the commendation of all of those who have observed it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for allowing me to present the argument in favor of H. Con. Res. 292 and for his courtesy to me on the committee on this and everything else.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, just to say to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) that I thank him for his eloquent words in support of this resolution, and for introducing the resolution to the House.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) to speak on behalf of this piece of legislation.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), I say thank you for that gracious commitment for all the time that I may consume. Unfortunately, I am not in the Senate, so therefore I will keep my comments brief. Although we are not supposed to address the other House, I apologize.

Mr. Speaker, let me first of all say that I rise in strong support of the resolution, H. Con. Res. 292, to end the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. I would like to commend both the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), ranking member on the Committee on International Relations, for bringing this resolution swiftly to the floor.

Let me take a moment to express my real admiration and appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), who became active on the Subcommittee on Africa at the beginning of the last term and who has added so much to the committee from the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I think that there has not been a time in the history of the committee that a new member has taken the initiative and has really made such a difference, and I really express my appreciation to the gentleman from the leadership position who has enabled many of these projects to move forward. I really feel that the committee is very, very privileged to have him as a member.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman ROYCE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for their input on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it is very timely. As we have heard from my colleagues, although a cessation of hostilities is presently the mood on the ground, the situation is still at best tenuous. I am very concerned about the situation for the entire East Africa region.

Eritrea became an independent State in 1993 following an internationally monitored referendum, which incidentally was supposed to take place in 1962, but because of political maneuvers, the vote was never taken. But we were glad that the international monitors in 1993 allowed the Eritreans to vote and overwhelmingly they voted for independence from Ethiopia.

Since that time, though, the President has been forced to deal with the Eritrean Islamic Jihad, the EIJ, a small Sudan-based insurgent group that has mounted terrorist attacks in northern and west Eritrea. Increased EIJ activities, coupled with the build-up of Sudanese forces on the western border, has led the government to increase security and deploy the Army to the west.

The Lords Resistance Army, LRA problem in northern Uganda; the 2.6 million people in southern Sudan who are in imminent danger of starvation, many who have been suffering from slavery that is still practiced in that country of Sudan; the bombing and the terrorist threats in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, has shown that very much is at stake and allies have to stay together at this time.

With that said, I think it is imperative that we resolve the situation in Ethiopia and Eritrea. I am anxious to see a resolve to the present impasse. I believe that the facts surrounding May 6 are at best sketchy and we still do not know exactly what happened. But as the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) said, we are not here to say who is at fault, who is to blame. That is behind us. We need to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I know that respect for one's sovereignty and maintaining territorial integrity are very serious foreign objectives; however, this is not a simple border dispute and it represents a bigger issue for more serious underlying problems, I believe.

In a world where border disputes are not that common but rarely result in full escalation of hostilities resulting in war, I could not understand why a full escalation of war occurred, especially between these two friends and neighbors, persons who fought together.

I cannot condone the killing of innocent men, women, and children, whether it is in Asmara Addis, Mekele or Badme. I am friends, as is the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), with both Prime Minister Meles and President Isaias, who we have spoken to, as well as their ambassadors here in this country on numerous occasions. And we have both urged them to halt all air strikes, pull back their ground forces, and create a lasting solution for peace and stability in the region.

I cannot condone the minor Ethiopian migration in other parts of the border, nor can I condone the takeover of Badme by the Eritreans and the supposedly binding nature of the Italian colonial boundaries.

□ 1430

Let me say that I am becoming increasingly concerned about the expulsion of both countries. A simultaneous full demarcation in the Yigra triangle in northwestern Ethiopia is in order.

I am pleased by the swift, quick, and decisive action in the region taken by the Assistant Secretary of State, Dr. Susan Rice, who during her short tenure as assistant secretary, has made tremendous inroads in Africa.

I would like to conclude by saying that both countries fought against the Ethiopian Marxist regime of Mengistu dictatorship and have common interests of containing regional actors. All of this ended in 1991, and since that time an exemplary relationship of friendship and cooperation had been forged between their peoples and governments of these two countries. It would be a shame if this stalemate continued.

The Eritreans and the Ethiopians are brothers and sisters, and it is sad and most embarrassing for this to have happened. Lives have been lost and damage has been done, but we must move forward. The U.S. should continue to work on and actively promote a political settlement.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do want to commend and respond to the statements made earlier by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), not only for his eloquence, but certainly for his keen interest on the very, very important international relationships that our country has with the various nations of Africa.

In the years that I have spent as a member of the Committee on International Relations, my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) has always been my stalwart and senior member who understands more than most members on the committee of the important issues affecting not only the nations of Africa but certainly our relations with them.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) for taking an active interest in this important piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House

suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 292, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES T. LEONARD, SR. POST
OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3810) to designate the United States Post Office located at 202 Center Street in Garwood, New Jersey, as the "James T. Leonard, Sr. Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3810

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States Post Office located at 202 Center Street in Garwood, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "James T. Leonard, Sr. Post Office".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3810 was introduced by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS). The legislation was introduced on May 7, 1998, and is cosponsored by the entire House delegation from the State of New Jersey pursuant to the policy of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

H.R. 3810 designates the building of the United States Postal Service located at 202 Center Street in Garwood, New Jersey as the James T. Leonard, Sr. Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill to name the United States Post Office in Garwood, New Jersey, after James T. Leonard, Sr.

James Leonard was one of those special individuals who devoted his life to serving his community. Whether it was founding the local rescue squad, volunteering with the fire department, or serving as a special police officer, he was always there to lend a hand to people in need.

To his friends and neighbors in this small Union County community in which he lived, Judge Leonard was affectionately known as "Mr. Garwood."

During his 6 decades of service to his community, James served as mayor, councilman, recorder, magistrate, and finally judge of the Garwood Municipal Court. By the time he retired in 1989, Judge Leonard had earned the distinction of being the last municipal court judge in New Jersey who was not a lawyer. He was also one of the longest serving municipal court judges.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3810 so that we could pay tribute to a great American who gave so much to the community he loved. Naming the Garwood Post Office after James T. Leonard, Sr. is a fitting honor to a man who will always be remembered as "Mr. Garwood."

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to, first of all, join with my colleague from Texas in urging the House to favorably consider H.R. 3810. This is one of the many of the naming bills that we will consider today, but it is singularly important to the sponsor of this bill and has been cosponsored by the entire New Jersey delegation. I would like to rise in favorable support of this bill and ask for its consideration before the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in its resolution number 98191, dated April 14, 1998, the mayor and the council of the Borough of Garwood, Union County, New Jersey formally requested that the Garwood Post Office be named in honor of Mr. James T. Leonard. I also urge all Members to support this legislation.

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 Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 3810.

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. SESSIONS. 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. 3810, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

RAY J. FAVRE POST OFFICE
BUILDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 2623) to designate the United States Post Office located at 16250 Highway 603 in Kiln, Mississippi, as the "Ray J. Favre Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2623

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States Post Office located at 16250 Highway 603 in Kiln, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "Ray J. Favre Post Office Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2623 was introduced on October 7, 1997, by our distinguished colleague from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR). The legislation enjoys the cosponsorship of the entire House delegation from the State of his Mississippi pursuant to the policy of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

H.R. 2623 designates the building of the United States Postal Service located at 16250 Highway 603 in Kiln, Mississippi as the "Ray J. Favre Post Office."

Mr. Favre was appointed postmaster of Kiln in 1940 and served in that position until his retirement in 1976. He was known for his prompt, courteous, and efficient service to all who use the postal facility. On many occasions, he went beyond the call of duty to provide aid and assistance, particularly to the people who were indigent.

The Hancock County Board of Supervisors honored Mr. Favre on his retirement by proclaiming August 29, 1976, as "Ray Favre Day" in Hancock County. The Veterans of Foreign Wars also held ceremonies at their post honoring him upon his retirement. He was a member of several civic associations in Kiln until his death in April of 1996.

The Hancock County Board of Supervisors unanimously requested that the Kiln Post Office be named in Mr. Favre's honor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support this legislation and to honor Mr. Favre as a dedicated postal employee for his consistent work during his daily employment and for his exemplary work in the community.

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 also rise in support of H.R. 2623. The House would have to take note that the only reason that