

support of H. Res. 352, a resolution to remember and honor the historic March on Washington of 1963. This 40th anniversary of the historic March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King's universally famous "I Have a Dream" speech is a bittersweet moment.

I would like to especially thank my colleague, Representative SANFORD BISHOP for sponsoring this resolution. For many, Dr. King's dream has not come to fruition. It remains unfulfilled. As thousands gather from around the nation and the globe to reenact the fabled march and to rehearse the words of the visionary civil rights leader, we will celebrate the tremendous strides the nation has made on the issues of race, equality and social justice during the past forty years.

However, as the leaders and representatives of more than 500 organizations converged at the Lincoln Memorial, we are also reminded that the "Dream" Dr. King so eloquently articulated is still beyond the aspirations and the grasp of millions of our citizens. They have been left behind and are left out of the "Great American Dream."

Forty years later, some 13 million children in this country do not have enough food to eat. Four decades later 41.2 million people lack health insurance. As the economy shows certain signs of recovery, more than 9.6 million Americans still cannot find jobs. Matters are even worse in minority communities. The African-American unemployment rate hovers at 11.1 percent compared to 5.5 percent for whites.

Forty years ago we said, "I have a dream!" Today, we say, "How long will we suffer injustice in America?" The American people are in jeopardy of losing 50 years of progress in civil rights and civil liberties.

In fact, under the guise of the PATRIOT Act we are experiencing a rollback of these hard-earned rights. Elections have been stolen and voting rights have been denied.

In Texas, a proposed redistricting plan would disenfranchise minority voters across the state.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to take the time to acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the event that affords all of us an opportunity to rededicate and to recommit ourselves to the vision articulated by Dr. King. Like Dr. King, we can say: ". . . That in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream."

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 352.

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. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 motion will be postponed.

POSTMASTERS EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 678) to amend chapter 10 of title 39, United States Code, to include postmasters and postmasters organizations in the process for the development and planning of certain policies, schedules, and programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 678

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 "Postmasters Equity Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. POSTMASTERS AND POSTMASTERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) PERCENTAGE REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENT.—The second sentence of section 1004(b) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "that an organization (other than an organization representing supervisors) represents at least 20 percent of postmasters," after "majority of supervisors,"; and

(2) by striking "supervisors)" and inserting "supervisors or postmasters)".

(b) CONSULTATION AND OTHER RIGHTS.—Section 1004 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

"(h)(1) In order to ensure that postmasters and postmasters' organizations are afforded the same rights under this section as are afforded to supervisors and the supervisors' organization, subsections (c) through (g) shall be applied with respect to postmasters and postmasters' organizations—

"(A) by substituting 'postmasters' organization' for 'supervisors' organization' each place it appears; and

"(B) if 2 or more postmasters' organizations exist, by treating such organizations as if they constituted a single organization, in accordance with such arrangements as such organizations shall mutually agree to.

"(2) If 2 or more postmasters' organizations exist, such organizations shall, in the case of any factfinding panel convened at the request of such organizations (in accordance with paragraph (1)(B)), be jointly and severally liable for the cost of such panel, apart from the portion to be borne by the Postal Service (as determined under subsection (f)(4))."

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (f) of section 1004 of title 39, United States Code (as so redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) 'postmaster' means an individual who is the manager in charge of the operations of a post office, with or without the assistance of subordinate managers or supervisors;

"(4) 'postmasters' organization' means an organization recognized by the Postal Service under subsection (b) as representing at least 20 percent of postmasters; and

"(5) 'members of the postmasters' organization' shall be considered to mean employees of the Postal Service who are recognized under an agreement—

"(A) between the Postal Service and the postmasters' organization as represented by the organization; or

"(B) in the circumstance described in subsection (h)(1)(B), between the Postal Service and the postmasters' organizations (acting in concert) as represented by either or any of the postmasters' organizations involved."

(d) THRIFT ADVISORY COUNCIL NOT TO BE AFFECTED.—For purposes of section 8473(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code—

(1) each of the 2 or more organizations referred to in section 1004(h)(1)(B) of title 39, United States Code (as amended by subsection (b)) shall be treated as a separate organization; and

(2) any determination of the number of individuals represented by each of those respective organizations shall be made in a manner consistent with the purposes of this subsection.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this section shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 678.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 678, the Postmasters Equity Act, was introduced by the distinguished Senator from Hawaii, Senator DANIEL AKAKA, and it gives our Nation's most valued postmasters the same options available to postal supervisors when negotiating pay and benefits with the U.S. Postal Service. My colleague on the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), who is the chairman of the special panel on Postal Reform and Oversight, introduced an identical bill, H.R. 2249, which passed this House back in July; and I am proud to be a cosponsor of that bill, and I am pleased the House is considering the Senate version of that bill today.

This legislation extends to postmasters and other nonunion postal employees the fact-finding procedures already established under current law for postal supervisors. This process allows for an unbiased review of issues in dispute during negotiations, as well as the ability to issue nonbinding recommendations to resolve those issues. Currently, without this right, postmasters lack any form of recourse when pay talks under the consultation process fail.

Based on the 38,000 post offices across the country, postmasters provide an essential link to the Federal Government and to other nations' citizens. This bill provides essential fairness to postmasters, and this legislation has already unanimously passed the Senate

and unanimously passed the House in its House version. I am very pleased that this legislation will soon be on the President's desk and enacted into law, and I want to commend the Senator from Hawaii and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) for their diligence on the Postmasters Equity Act and for their support. I urge all Members to support its passage.

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 Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), in consideration of S. 678, the Postmasters Equity Act of 2003.

S. 678 was introduced on March 20, 2003, by Senator DANIEL AKAKA. This measure would amend chapter 10 of title 39 to include postmasters and postmasters' organizations in the process for the development and planning of pay policies and benefits.

S. 678 is cosponsored by 39 Senators, including the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Government Affairs Committee, Senator SUSAN COLLINS and Senator JOSEPH LIEBERMAN. On July 25, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee unanimously approved S. 678, the Postmasters Equity Act of 2003.

The bill was amended to substitute the language of the House bill, H.R. 2249, sponsored by me and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH). H.R. 2249 had been reported earlier out of the Committee on Government Reform by voice vote. During the 1996 Congress, President Carter signed into law legislation creating a fact-finding process for resolving disputes over pay and benefits and to make recommendations to the Postal Service. It did not provide for arbitration of the disputes, and the recommendations were not binding on the Postmaster General. However, the law only applied to postal supervisors, not postmasters.

S. 678, like its House counterpart, H.R. 2249, would extend to the postmaster the option of a fact-finding panel to make nonbinding recommendations to the Postal Service. Currently, when pay and benefit discussions between the Postal Service and postmasters fail, postmasters have no recourse and have to accept what is offered by the Postal Service. Passage of S. 678 would bring consistency in the manner by which the two categories of postal managers negotiate with the Postal Service over pay and benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have been a sponsor of this legislation. I urge swift adoption of this bill and commend Senator AKAKA for all of his hard work on behalf of postmasters.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for cosponsoring this bill and for all of the hard work he has put in on this and a lot of other pieces of legislation before the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senator AKAKA for introducing this important bill and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) for his hard work. I urge all Members to support the passage of Senate bill 678.

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 Indiana (Mr. BURTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 678.

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. BURTON of Indiana. 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 motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW FOR DEATH OF INDIANA GOVERNOR FRANK O'BANNON AND EXTENDING THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, AND CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND LOVED ONES

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 369) expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives for the death of Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon and extending thoughts, prayers, and condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 369

Whereas Frank O'Bannon devoted his entire life to public service and to the people of the State of Indiana;

Whereas Frank O'Bannon dedicated his life to defending the Nation's principles of freedom and democracy, serving in the Air Force from 1952 until 1954;

Whereas Frank O'Bannon served 18 years in the Indiana State Senate and 8 years as Lieutenant Governor of Indiana;

Whereas, on November 5, 1996, Frank O'Bannon was elected the 47th Governor of the State of Indiana, where he served until his death on September 13, 2003;

Whereas Governor O'Bannon was a true friend to Indiana, and a gentle man of integrity, kindness, and good works; and

Whereas Governor O'Bannon will be remembered as a loving husband to his wife Judy, and a devoted father to his 3 children and caring grandfather to his 5 grandchildren; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Frank O'Bannon, Governor of Indiana, on September 13, 2003, and extends its condolences to the O'Bannon family, especially to his wife Judy, his chil-

dren Jonathan, Jennifer, and Polly, and his grandchildren Beau, Chelsea, Asher, Demi, and Elle;

(2) expresses its profound gratitude to Frank O'Bannon for the services that he rendered to the Nation in the Air Force, the Indiana State Legislature, and as Governor of Indiana; and

(3) recognizes with respect Frank O'Bannon's integrity, steadfastness, and loyalty to the State of Indiana and to the United States.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I met Frank O'Bannon, our now-deceased Governor, I met his father back in the late 1960s when I served with his father in the Indiana State Senate. His father was editor and publisher of a newspaper in Corydon, Indiana; and he was one of the finest men I ever served with. He was a real gentleman. Even though we had our differences, Governor O'Bannon's father was a wonderful man.

Mr. Speaker, we know a lot about people by their children. And although I knew Senator O'Bannon, Governor O'Bannon's father, very well, I was not sure about what kind of family man he was. But then I met his son who became Senator after his dad retired, and Senator Frank O'Bannon was also one of the finest men I ever served with in the Indiana State Senate. His brother, Bob, who is a businessman in Indianapolis, is also fine man. We know a lot about people by their children, and Governor O'Bannon was a wonderful man, and I am sure his mother was a wonderful woman as well.

Governor O'Bannon was revered by everyone who knew him, whether it was a Republican or a Democrat. He was a very fine public servant, a man who really cared about his fellow man and his civic responsibilities. He learned that from his father and mother and worked hard in both the Indiana State Senate and as Governor.

Although we had political differences, I always admired him because he was a man of honor. If he gave you his word, you could take it to the bank. He always said what he meant, and he meant what he said. We are going to miss him in Indiana.

I will tell one little anecdote. Senator O'Bannon sat directly in front of me when I was a freshman when he was a State Senator. I was seated on the Democrat side, and he was the minority leader for the Democrats in the State Senate. He was such a nice guy we would kid each other. One day I said, Senator, you are such a nice guy and so intelligent and you read papers, I know you can read, I do not know why you do not become a Republican. And he turned around and looked at me without batting an eye; and he said you