

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 389) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the D.C. Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 389

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR D.C. SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN.

On June 4, 2004, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, the 2004 District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (in this resolution referred to as the "event") may be run through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games.

SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.

The Capitol Police Board shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the event.

SEC. 3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS.

The Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

House Concurrent Resolution 389 authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the 19th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run which benefits the District of Columbia Special Olympics. The torch will cross the Capitol grounds on June 4, 2004.

For 31 years, Special Olympics D.C. has provided sports training for citizens with developmental disabilities. Athletic competition provides athletes with increased confidence and self-esteem and allows them to demonstrate courage and experience the joy of sport. There are now more than 2,000 Special Olympics athletes in the District of Columbia. This event is the largest public awareness campaign for the Special Olympics. Last year over 85,000 law enforcement officers from 35 countries participated in the torch run. It is my hope that this trend will continue. The sponsors of the event work

with the Architect of the Capitol and the United States Capitol Police to comply with all applicable regulations relating to the use of the Capitol grounds.

I encourage my colleagues to join the law enforcement community in supporting the Special Olympics and join me in supporting this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this event needs little introduction. 2004 marks the 37th anniversary of the D.C. Special Olympics. The torch relay event is a traditional part of the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics which take place at Gallaudet University in the District of Columbia. Each year approximately 2,500 Special Olympians compete in over a dozen events and more than 1 million children and adults with special needs participate in Special Olympic worldwide programs. The event is supported by literally thousands of volunteers from the District and the region.

The goal of the games is to help bring mentally challenged individuals into the larger society under conditions whereby they are accepted and respected. Confidence and self-esteem are the building blocks for these Olympic games. I enthusiastically support this resolution and the very worthwhile endeavor of the Special Olympics. I urge support for H. Con. Res. 389.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the District of Columbia Special Olympics is the premier event in the region that highlights the athletic accomplishments of disabled children and young adults. Thanks to the tenacity of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her family, thousands of special Olympians see their self-confidence, self-esteem, and health increase by participating in these games.

The goal of the games is to help bring mentally disabled individuals into the larger society under conditions where they are accepted and respected. Confidence and self-esteem are the building blocks for these Olympic games. Better health, coordination, and lasting friendships are the results of participation.

Law enforcement officers, who are part of the extensive volunteer network that supports the games, carry the Olympic torch across the Capitol Grounds through the District of Columbia to Gallaudet University.

These games are a wonderful expression of inclusiveness and a confirmation of individual contribution. I enthusiastically support this resolution and the very worthwhile endeavor of the Special Olympics.

I urge support for H. Con. Res. 389.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the concurrent resolution.

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 Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 389.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. 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 H. Con. Res. 389.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1430

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SHOULD RECTIFY MILITARY POSTAL SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 608) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Department of Defense should rectify deficiencies in the military postal system to ensure that members of the Armed Forces stationed overseas are able to receive and send mail in a timely manner as well as receive and send election ballots in time to be counted in the 2004 elections.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 608

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces who are currently serving in very dangerous regions of the world deserve a modernized military postal system capable of improving the delivery and tracking of mail to United States forces serving in remote locations;

Whereas the current system relies on outmoded and labor intensive manual sorting processes that result in undue delays and the inability of the Department of Defense to track mail and determine the timeliness of mail delivery;

Whereas the manual sorting of mail intended for deployed members of the Armed Forces unnecessarily requires hours of labor from many troops, which could be used for other, more critical, duties if automation were used;

Whereas the very least our Nation can do for the members of our Armed Forces who are deployed halfway around the world and risking their lives to protect our freedoms is to ensure that they are able to receive the comfort of a letter from those waiting at home;

Whereas mail destined for deployed members of the Armed Forces that is delayed for long periods of time, or not delivered at all, negatively affects the morale of our deployed forces and their families at home;

Whereas the members of our Armed Forces have an unquestionable right to vote in the upcoming election, and the military postal system must not disenfranchise any military absentee voters because of delays in transmitting voting materials;

Whereas with the current military postal system it is not possible to determine the rate of "Undeliverable as Addressed" mail, it is therefore not possible to guarantee that all United States forces wishing to vote will be able to do so;

Whereas according to the recent General Accounting Office Report entitled "Operation Iraqi Freedom: Long-standing Problems Hampering Mail Delivery Need to be Resolved," many of the same problems that plagued the military postal system during Operation Desert Storm have continued unabated and are now being experienced in Operation Iraqi Freedom, more than 12 years later;

Whereas according to the same General Accounting Office report, the Department of Defense does not have the ability to adequately assess the timeliness of mail and election ballot delivery because it does not have a reliable, accurate system in place;

Whereas according to the same General Accounting Office report, more than half of sampled members of the Armed Forces were dissatisfied with mail delivery, many waiting 4 weeks or longer to receive mail;

Whereas recent samplings of mail intended for deployed members of the Armed Forces shows that a percentage far exceeding the standard set for domestic mail is "Undeliverable as Addressed" and indicates that a large portion of our deployed troops are not receiving their mail;

Whereas the Military Postal Service Agency does not have the authority to formulate and effectively implement a joint service solution to the mail problems in the Iraq Theatre and the Department of Defense has not appointed a single agency to address military postal matters;

Whereas the recent court action in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, which granted the government's request to extend Pennsylvania's deadline for receipt of ballots from qualified overseas voters, correctly recognizes that mail operations can significantly impact voting rights and, in addition, is sufficient forewarning that the military mail system needs to be resolved before the next election; and

Whereas for at least 52 years, reformers have been attempting to improve the ability of the members of our Armed Forces to vote, as evidenced by a letter from President Harry S. Truman to Congress, dated from 1952, which clearly echoes the challenges we face: "Many of those in uniform are serving overseas, or in parts of the country distant from their homes. They are unable to return to their States either to register or to vote. Yet these men and women who are serving their country and in many cases risking their lives, deserve above all others to exercise the right to vote in this election year. At a time when these young people are defending our country and its free institutions, the least we at home can do is to make sure that they are able to enjoy the rights they are being asked to fight to preserve." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of House of Representatives that—

(1) it is in the interest of the United States to immediately resolve long-standing military mail delivery problems so that our troops may receive mail from their families when they most need it;

(2) it is in the interest of the United States to immediately resolve long-standing military mail delivery problems so that our troops are not disenfranchised in the 2004 election;

(3) the Secretary of Defense should establish a system that expedites the delivery of election ballots to the members of our Armed Forces so that they may be counted in the election;

(4) the Secretary of Defense should establish a system that accurately tracks military postal transit times; and

(5) the House of Representatives stands ready to assist in resolving these issues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, in the face of insurgencies in Fallujah and other hot spots in Iraq, what is it that keeps our soldiers fighting for freedom and democracy?

In addition to the trials of war, our soldiers in Iraq wake up with the same problems every other American has. Their lives at home did not stop when they received their orders to ship out. They are mothers and fathers. They have elderly parents to care for. They have bills to pay and college educations to worry about for their children. These soldiers are concerned about how their children are doing in school. They wonder what the score of the last Little League game was, and they question whether they can make that car payment, just like many of us. Only they do all this halfway around the world in a combat zone.

And yet day after day, month after month, our service members wake up, put on their uniform, and they diligently do their duty. Every day they make this sacrifice, knowing they are risking their lives to protect our freedoms and spread democracy. The reason they do this is because they know they are building a safer Iraq and, simply put, a safer Iraq means a safer America for their families.

Ask these soldiers what they look forward to the most and what keeps them steadfast, and they will tell us it is news from home. It is the news from a graduation they were unable to attend, an update on a sick friend, a baby picture of their child's first step. Yet many are not getting this news or are getting it far after it was mailed by their loved ones. A General Accounting Office report received last month found that of a survey of over 100 service members in Iraq, more than half reported they were dissatisfied with mail delivery.

The report, issued in response to over 300 congressional and White House inquiries, also found the same problems that plagued the military postal system during Operation Desert Storm have continued unabated and are now being experienced in Operation Iraqi Freedom, more than 12 years later.

The Department of Defense does not have the ability to adequately assess

the timeliness of mail and election ballot delivery because it does not yet have a reliable, accurate system in place.

More than half of sampled members of the Armed Forces were dissatisfied with mail delivery, many waiting 4 weeks or longer to receive mail.

The Military Postal Service Agency does not have the authority to formulate and effectively manipulate and implement a joint service solution to the mail problems in the Iraq Theater, and the Department of Defense has not appointed a single agency to address all of these military postal matters.

This is just unacceptable at this time. The very least we should be able to offer those soldiers fighting for democracy is the comfort of a note from those waiting at home. Mail that is delayed for long periods of time, or not delivered at all, negatively affects the morale of not only our deployed forces but also their families at home. Children at home need to hear why Mommy or Daddy is so far away. Husbands and wives need to hear of each others' love and support. The American public needs to hear the true stories of what we are doing in Iraq. It is now, while resolve against terrorism is being tested, that our deployed troops are in most need of mail from their loved ones.

This is not just a morale problem, however. November is coming and in less than 7 months, ballots for the general election will be mailed out all over the country to our troops all over the world.

If we fail to take action, we will again see the voting problems of the 2000 election. Our men and women on the front lines have unquestionably earned the right to express their views on the direction our Nation should take this November. They should have the same confidence of any other American that their ballot will reach the ballot box. It would be an enormous disservice to fail to count the voices of the very individuals fighting for democracy.

This is not a new problem. We saw it in Operation Desert Storm. It was evident early in the war in Iraq, and we are seeing it now. It is vitally important to the success of our mission and to the strength of our democracy that we correct this problem.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 608 seeks to do the following: call on the Department of Defense to immediately address the longstanding military mail delivery problems by implementing a joint task force to resolve the problem; recommend that the Secretary of Defense establish a system to expedite military ballots for the November 2004, election; call on the Secretary of Defense to establish a system to accurately track military postal transit times.

There are three important reasons why we need to pass this resolution today. First, we need to send a message to the Pentagon that it is time to take

care of this problem. The problem has existed for 52 years, and we need to send a message that we need to fix it today. Second, our troops in Iraq need to know that we think that it is important that they get their mail and equally important that their family members know that we care about their loved ones and that they get their mail. And third, we need to make certain that our electoral system is not just for Americans who happen to be near the ballot box, but that our troops on the front lines deserve to vote as much as any other American.

To guarantee that our military men and women in Iraq receive their mail will require shifting priorities. It will require the dedicated cooperation and swift action of many. But if we can root out Saddam Hussein, if we can rebuild a nation of terror into a nation of freedom, then we can get the troops the news they need from home. It is up to the Department of Defense to fix this longstanding problem, but we stand ready to help. We stand behind our troops and behind our military families, and we stand ready to help them stay the course.

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

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 608 introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES). I would like to recognize the gentleman for his work and interest in ensuring that our military service members stationed overseas are afforded the right to vote.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), who joined with me in cosponsoring House Resolution 608. The postal service is an integral part of the American existence and something that we often take for granted. To the men and women in uniform serving overseas, however, it is a vital connection to home, and they treasure the ability to send and receive packages and letters.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, draws attention to the continuing problem of ensuring that members of the Armed Forces stationed overseas have access to mail and that they will be able to send in their election ballots in a timely manner. It would be a real shame if our servicemen and women who are fighting to bring democracy to places like Afghanistan and Haiti were themselves denied the opportunity to cast their own vote in November due to a postal delay.

The 2000 Presidential election brought to the Nation's attention the voting barriers that service members and other Americans stationed or living overseas face in the electoral process. Service members living and deployed abroad often find it difficult to exercise their right to vote. Problems with mail delivery, requirements for valid ballots, and just obtaining infor-

mation is a serious challenge, particularly for those who may be deployed on a submarine for 6 months or are stationed in remote areas around the world.

To ensure that voting rights of service members and Americans serving and living abroad were protected, Congress implemented a number of improvements to the voting process several years ago. The law was changed to improve the system and enhance the opportunity for overseas service members to participate in the electoral process. For example, clarification was provided on voting assistance programs; annual reviews of the effectiveness and compliance by the Department of Defense Inspector General are required; the importance of voting assistance officers was stressed; military personnel have been afforded guaranteed residency; voter registration and absentee ballot application procedures were simplified; and authority for service members to use a single application for all subsequent elections was provided.

However, Mr. Speaker, this year's annual review by the Department of Defense Inspector General found that while improvements have been made, opportunities exist to improve the DOD voting assistance program. The IG found that the Services need to continue to provide command emphasis and improve oversight of the program, as problems still remain.

The General Accounting Office, or more commonly referred to as GAO, also recently conducted a review of the mail delivery to troops serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and found that while some improvements have been made, many, many of the same difficulties the mail system faced during the first Gulf War, over a decade ago, still exist today. For example, GAO found that problems still exist in conducting joint service mail operations and that inadequate training and late deployments, as well as inadequate postal facilities, equipment, and transportation, have had an adverse impact on the delivery of mail. My constituents often have particular difficulty getting mail delivered as the regular service to Guam is lengthy and erratic. In the field there is often confusion as to whether Guam is included in domestic mail rates, which of course it is.

I had one soldier e-mail me from Iraq, telling me he was made to pay for postage while everyone else was able to mail for free. These are the kinds of inconsistencies that the military postal service should examine and rectify.

While challenges still remain for overseas and military voters, it is interesting to note that absentee service members consistently vote at a higher rate than those eligible in the United States. However, it is vitally important that we ensure that those who volunteer to serve our Nation in uniform are able to exercise one of their most basic rights, and that, Mr. Speaker, is the right to vote.

As a member of the Total Force Subcommittee, I also want to reassure my colleagues that the subcommittee shares the concerns that are raised in this resolution, and we will address these issues in the defense authorization that will be marked up tomorrow.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her work on this resolution and her support today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), the distinguished chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee of the House Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 608. Few things boast morale in a war zone more than receiving a card, a letter, or a care package from a loved one from back home. And, unfortunately, as more and more men and women in uniform are deployed in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom, we are hearing countless stories of delays in service members receiving their mail.

On March 24 of this year, the General Accounting Office testified that some of the problems that existed during Operation Desert Storm in 1991 are occurring now in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to the GAO, the current system of delivering mail to service members relies on outmoded and labor-intensive manual sorting processes that result in undue delays. Furthermore, the Department of Defense is unable to track mail and determine the timeliness of deliveries. And since we have known of the problem for so long and we have not gotten it fixed, it tells me that it is not a very high priority of the Department of Defense; and I think that is what this resolution does, is tell the Department of Defense we think this is important and it ought to be a higher priority.

Compounding this situation is the issue of service members serving in war zones that are not able to vote, and we have heard other speakers before me talk about this, but it is serious and it is important. Currently 29 States require absentee ballots to be mailed and returned to the U.S. Postal Service. Since these service members will not be able to utilize fax machines or the Internet to send their ballots, and given the delays in the Department of Defense's mail service, there is a real possibility of a repeat of the military absentee ballot fiasco of the 2000 general election. The potential disenfranchisement of military voters is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 608 would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a system that expedites the delivery of election ballots to members of the Armed Forces.

□ 1445

Additionally, H. Res. 608 would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a mail delivery system that accurately tracks military postal transmit times, ensuring servicemembers will not have to wait weeks or months to receive a long-awaited letter or package from home.

Mr. Speaker, this is a problem that must be fixed now, both for the morale of the troops and to ensure that our service men and women are given every opportunity to exercise the voting rights they serve to defend. This is why I rise today in support of H. Res. 608.

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish at this time to urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 608. I do want to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) for sponsoring this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I can just tell you this afternoon that if you asked any soldier, sailor, airman or Marine serving in the Iraq theater what is most important to the morale and welfare of our forces, the answer you will get from them, and you are likely to hear, is mail from home.

The very least our Nation can do for our servicemembers who are deployed halfway around the world risking their lives to protect our freedoms is to ensure that they are able to receive the comfort of a letter from those waiting at home. Now is when our deployed troops need to get mail from their loved ones most.

A recent Chicago Tribune article from May 6 gives real-life examples of why that is so important. One volunteer with Support our Troops Illinois knows the military postal service well. She has mailed out over 2,000 care packages to deployed servicemembers. Now, many of them are stacked up on her front doorstep because they were "undeliverable." She said of the service that she has gotten from the military postal system, "It is disappointing, because we know how much of a morale boost mail can give the guys."

Another recent news article stated that the Marines look forward to the nightly mail call because for most it is the only way they can receive a word from home. The article goes on to quote a Marine who says, "My wife sent me seven boxes, and I've only received one." He went on to say that "the first letter I received from my wife was number six. Since then, I have received five and seven, but I have no idea what happened to the rest."

Mail that is delayed for long periods of time or not delivered at all negatively affects the morale of not only our deployed forces, but also their families at home. We owe it to our deployed troops to immediately improve

the military postal system so that these problems do not continue. We heard from the gentleman from Colorado the importance of getting this fixed for the voting issues that will come up.

Mr. Speaker, I will just close by telling you that this is a problem that began the year I was born. In 1952 a letter from President Harry S. Truman to Congress clearly echoed the challenges that we face still today. He said this: "Many of those in uniform are serving overseas, or in parts of the country distant from their homes. They are unable to return to their States, either to register or to vote. Yet these men and women who are serving their country and in many cases risking their lives deserve above all others to exercise the right to vote in the election year. At a time when these young men and women are defending our country and its free institutions, the least we at home can do is to make sure that they are able to enjoy the rights they are being asked to fight to preserve."

Mr. Speaker, it is time to pass this resolution and to correct this problem. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 608 which states that it is in the interest of the United States to immediately resolve longstanding military mail delivery problems so that our Armed Forces may properly receive their mail and that their participation in the 2004 elections be ensured. Proper mail delivery is a hallmark of our nation, it a form of infrastructure that allows our nation to communicate freely. Therefore, we cannot allow our Armed Forces to have a mail delivery system that is in any way inferior to the one provided to all other Americans.

I want to thank Representative FORBES of the Armed Services Committee for bringing this matter to the floor. There are many reasons why proper mail delivery is essential for our Armed Forces. The most evident reason is that the members of our Armed Forces deserve to know that their correspondence is secure. The transmittal and receipt of mail is the most basic link that our brave men and women fighting abroad have to their loved ones back home. Often, due to the rigors of their duty, mail is the only form of communication our soldiers have access to. Furthermore, our Armed Forces often have lives back home that they leave to fight abroad. This means they have affairs they must put in order and again the mail is the most commonly used way to attend to these affairs. Of course, it is more difficult to ensure proper mail delivery to our Armed Forces since many of them are stationed abroad and often in places of conflict. However, while ensuring proper mail delivery to our Armed Forces is more difficult, it is far from impossible. Indeed, it is frustrating that while private mail delivery companies can guarantee international delivery of packages within a matter of a few days we cannot ensure proper delivery of mail to our men and women fighting abroad.

Perhaps more disturbing than the idea of personal correspondence being mishandled, is the idea that members of our Armed Forces could effectively be excluded from participating

in the upcoming elections because of a questionable mail delivery system. Members of the Armed Forces stationed abroad must vote by absentee ballots, which require proper mail delivery in order to guarantee that those votes are counted. Especially after witnessing the closely contested 2000 Presidential elections in which absentee ballots played a major role, it is inconceivable that we would allow a weakness in the system to continue. Just like every other American, members of our Armed Forces, both foreign and domestic, have a right to know that both their mail and their ballot are secure and accounted for.

It is time that we fully modernize the system being used to deliver and receive mail to our Armed Forces. The current system is often unreliable and highly labor intensive. In fact, the current system does not even allow us to know how much mail goes undelivered. Our Armed Forces deserve better; furthermore, they need a better system, for the effective flow of communication is essential in all sectors and the Armed Forces are no different. It is time that we help create a more modern and effective postal system for our Armed Forces.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 608.

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. FORBES. 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.

MARY ANN COLLURA POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3939) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14-24 Abbott Road in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, as the "Mary Ann Collura Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3939

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 14-24 Abbott Road in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, and known as the Fair Lawn Main Post Office, shall be known and designated as the "Mary Ann Collura Post Office Building".

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 "Mary Ann Collura Post Office Building".