

We both graduated from Sparks High School, and while I served in the United States Air Force, Tony Armstrong served in the Nevada Air National Guard during the Vietnam War. Tony Armstrong served his country honorably and then turned his efforts to serving his beloved hometown of Sparks, Nevada.

In 1970, Tony Armstrong served as the chief deputy building inspector for Washoe County, Nevada, and later opened a general contracting business, which would become the largest and oldest home inspection service in Nevada.

In 1983, Tony was fortunate: he married Debbie Rimbey and was later blessed with two sons and a daughter. After a successful business career, Tony Armstrong turned his attention to becoming a public servant. He was elected to serve on the Sparks City Council in 1989 and was elected mayor a decade later. Over the years, no one has worked harder or loved that community more than Tony Armstrong.

The day before Mayor Armstrong died, he was awarded Civic Leader of the Year by the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, as a fitting tribute, H.R. 1236 would name the main post office in Sparks, Nevada, the Mayor Tony Armstrong Memorial Post Office. The post office that will receive this designation sits directly across the street from City Hall, the place where Tony Armstrong worked tirelessly. City Hall is a different place today without Tony's Hawaiian shirts passing through the hallways and his smiles greeting anyone and everyone who walked into his office. Mayor Armstrong may best be remembered for ensuring that visitors to Sparks City Hall would always be reminded that God blesses America. When told that the word God would have to be cut from all signs posted in City Hall, Tony made his own signs and posted them around the building. He declared, I guess I am just an old redneck Nevadan because I want my sign to say God bless America.

The people of Sparks have lost a gentleman, a patriot, and a servant of the people; and I have lost a dear friend. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1236, which will honor this extraordinary man, a man who put God, his family, and the citizens of Sparks above himself, a man who went above and beyond for his country, for his State, and for his community. I ask all Members to support H.R. 1236.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) for his reflections of his friend, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1236.

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.

#### ED EILERT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1524) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the "Ed Eilert Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1524

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

#### SECTION 1. ED EILERT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, shall be known and designated as the "Ed Eilert Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ed Eilert Post Office Building".

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1524 designates this postal facility in Overland Park, Kansas, as the Ed Eilert Post Office Building. The four members of the Kansas State congressional delegation have all endorsed this legislation, and I join them in support of the bill.

After more than a quarter of a century, Ed Eilert stepped down from being a leader in Overland Park government on Monday, April 11. Ed Eilert's public service career began when he was elected to the Overland Park City Council in 1977. In 1981, he was elected to the first of six terms as mayor of Overland Park that spanned 24 years. Overland Park has doubled in population and become Kansas' second largest city under Mayor Eilert's direction. Without question, Ed Eilert is a one-man institution in east central Kansas. This post office on Antioch Road is a natural and deserved commemoration of Mayor Eilert's legacy and distinguished leadership.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the House, I congratulate Mayor Ed Eilert on his tremendous tenure in local government and wish him the very best in retirement. I applaud the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) for working toward passage of H.R. 1524.

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 in the consideration of H.R. 1524, legislation designating a postal facility in Overland Park, Kansas, after Mayor Ed Eilert. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) on April 6, 2005, enjoys the support and co-sponsorship of the entire Kansas State delegation.

Ed Eilert was first elected in 1981. As mayor of Overland Park for 24 years, he worked hard to improve the condition of his city. The population has doubled, the number of projects tripled, and the number of hotels has increased dramatically. Business and opportunities have also grown. A convention center is now home to Overland Park, and more hospitals have been added. Overland Park is now Kansas' second largest city.

The growth occurred under the leadership and vision of Mayor Eilert. This week Mayor Eilert steps down from his position, and what a wonderful way to honor the achievements of Ed Eilert. I join my colleagues in honoring Mayor Ed Eilert and urge the swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the Ed Eilert Post Office Building. I was joined in sponsoring this legislation by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT), the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN), and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN); and I am grateful for their support.

Recently, an era came to an end in Overland Park. Mayor Ed Eilert stepped down as mayor, an office to which he was elected six times and held for a total of 24 years. Since he was sworn into office in 1981, Overland Park has grown to become Kansas' second largest city. Its population has nearly double to over 165,000. The number of people working within the city limits has more than tripled with roughly 120,000 jobs in Overland Park today, and hotel capacity has increased from 800 rooms to 5,100 rooms.

During his tenure, 21,000 single-family and 19,000 multi-family residences have been added in Overland Park, along with 23.7 million square feet of office, retail, and industrial space.

Over the years, the city has seen the arrival of the Sprint campus, three new hospitals, the University of Kansas Edwards campus, the Carlsen Center at Johnson County Community College, and a city convention center.

Additionally, under Ed Eilert's leadership, the city added the landmark Clock Tower Plaza and the Farmers Market in the downtown area, a neighborhood conservation program, and Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, the International Trade Center, the W. Jack Sanders Justice Center, and interchanges at I-435 at both Nall Avenue and Quivira Road.

Mayor Eilert also supported construction of the Fire Training Center which has been used by many other cities and county fire departments in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and he worked with Johnson County Community College to create a training facility for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway employees on the college campus.

And during Mayor Eilert's tenure, the city's land area expanded by 36 percent to nearly 62 square miles. Finally, Overland Park enjoys a top rating for a solid financial condition. It has received numerous awards as an outstanding city. For years, Overland Park has had the lowest property tax rate of any first-class city in Kansas.

Ed Eilert was first elected to Overland Park City Council in 1977 and became council president in 1980. He formerly taught at Shawnee Mission North High School and knows firsthand how Overland Park has benefited from its nationally recognized school systems.

He made his first visit to the city in 1960 because it was the home of Jan Bush, whom he met while studying at Emporia State University and would marry 2 years later. The Eilerts moved to Overland Park in 1965 when he completed graduate school. In 1977, he began his first campaign for political office and has been a public servant since then. He has also been a financial consultant with A.G. Edwards & Sons and serves on the board of directors of Metcalf Bank.

When we consider the array of challenges that Ed Eilert faced in his 24 years as mayor of Overland Park, Members cannot help but agree with Bob Sigmund, the opinion page editor of the Johnson County Sun who recently wrote that "Ed Eilert provided the vision and leadership in shaping Overland Park's success as an ideal place to live, work and raise a family. Eilert's political skills have been especially useful in easing tensions and maintaining an acceptable balance between the older, established neighborhoods in northern Overland Park and the rapidly expanding new subdivisions in the south."

I am proud to call Ed Eilert my friend. While we are members of different political parties, I have always been impressed by his sound judgment, diligence, and dedication to his com-

munity and to the public welfare. When he sought the Republican nomination for the House in 1996, he lost narrowly to then-State Representative Vince Snowbarger for the nomination to succeed Representative Jan Meyers. I often tell third district residents that I would have not sought election to Congress myself had Ed Eilert been elected 2 years before I became a candidate for the office.

Dedication of this postal service facility in Overland Park is a small, but fitting, tribute to a man who has dedicated most of his adult life to public service at the community level. He has worked tirelessly to bring people together while ensuring quality economic development and competence in the delivery of local services. I commend Mayor Ed Eilert and again thank my colleagues in the Kansas House delegation for their support. I urge my colleagues to approve this legislation today, and I hope the other body will follow suit quickly so we can see it signed into law.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1524. I thank my colleague, Mr. MOORE, for sponsoring this legislation to name the post office at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park after long-time Mayor Ed Eilert.

The job of mayor is a challenging position. Each day they are tasked with the responsibility of making their community, their home, a better place to live. They do this with the eye of the public always on them as they live and work in that community. The fact that May Eilert was re-elected six times speaks volumes of his dedication and character. During his over 24 years in office, Mayor Eilert worked hard to improve Overland Park, and his leadership is well respected.

Mr. MOORE spoke of the infrastructure improvements that Mr. Eilert helped bring to Overland Park—the Clock Tower Plaza, KU's Edwards Campus and the Fire Training Center, to name a few. I want to emphasize that these centers and buildings are much more than physical structures. They are symbols of economic development, job creation and improvements in quality of life. During the time Ed served as Mayor, Overland Park grew to be the second-largest city in Kansas. Ed's vision helped to ensure that the city is both bigger and better for the businesses, individuals and families who are proud to call Overland Park their home.

Mayor Eilert's commitment to Overland Park extended beyond his role as mayor. He was an active member of many civic organizations including the League of Kansas Municipalities and the National League of Cities. He has also served as secretary and treasurer of the Johnson/Wyandotte Counties Council of Mayors. He currently serves as a commissioner of the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Cultural District, a board member of Services for Seniors and Advocates for Citizens with Retardation, a member of the advisory council for Emporia State University's school of business and a member of the advisory council for United Community Services and Temporary Lodging for Children.

Mayor Eilert is a charter member of the South Overland Park Rotary Club, the Overland Park Historical Society, the Overland Park Arboretum and Friends of Johnson

County Developmental Supports. He also is a member and elder, and a former chairman of the board, of Overland Park Christian Church. I commend Ed for his service to the community and his contributions to improving the quality of life in Overland Park.

I recognize that Kansas is home to many leaders who work to make our state a great place to live and work. I also acknowledge that our growth and prosperity is possible because of the efforts of local leaders like Mayor Eilert who are willing to serve our communities. Mayor Eilert touched lives every day. He directly affected the residents of Overland Park in a positive way. I am grateful for his hard work and dedication, and I join with my fellow Kansas representatives in honoring Mayor Eilert.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) for his reflections of his friend, urge passage of the bill; and 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 pass the bill, H.R. 1524.

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.

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIAN AMERICANS TO ECONOMIC INNOVATION AND SOCIETY GENERALLY

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 227) recognizing and honoring the contributions of Indian Americans to economic innovation and society generally.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 227

Whereas the United States is deeply enriched by its Indian American residents;

Whereas the Indian American community and the graduates of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) in the United States have made valuable and significant contributions to society in every profession and discipline; and

Whereas IIT graduates are highly committed and dedicated to research, innovation, and promotion of trade and international cooperation between India and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the valuable and significant contributions of Indian Americans to American society;

(2) honors the economic innovation attributable to graduates of the Indian Institutes of Technology; and

(3) urges all Americans to recognize the contributions of Indian Americans and have a greater appreciation of the role Indian Americans have played in helping to advance and enrich American society.

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