

Sid Flowers was a Liberty County native who served in the U.S. Army before heading to law school at Mercer. Although he was a top student at Mercer Law and could have headed to Atlanta for the "big money," he returned to Liberty County to work in his hometown. He served his community as solicitor general for nearly four decades, but he was best known for his pro bono legal advice. He gave of his legal knowledge and expertise to the First Presbyterian Church and the church's school at no charge.

Many of Sid's friends mention that it was not uncommon to go to a restaurant with him, and Sid would pick up the tab for any soldiers who happened to be eating in the restaurant at the time. He did this anonymously, as he never wanted his gracious actions to be attributed.

Sid Flowers has been described as "one of those classic Reader's Digest types that folks wrote about being so memorable" and "an inspiration for others to become involved in community service." The military town of Hinesville, Georgia, lost one of its best when Sid Flowers died last year. The true spirit of this man was exemplified by his unpublished deeds, but I think its time we honor him publicly by naming the United States Post Office on Oglethorpe Highway in Hinesville, Georgia after John Sidney Flowers.

HINESVILLE, GA,
May 16, 2007.

To: Congressman JACK KINGSTON.

DEAR JACK: I write to urge that the U.S. Post Office Building in Hinesville be named for John Sidney Flowers. Sidney was a lifelong resident of Hinesville and served this community in many ways.

As the long time Solicitor of the state court, Sidney displayed a unique ability to do justice in all cases he handled. His calm, common sense approach to this difficult job enabled him to make a tremendous contribution to the criminal justice system.

Sidney's support for community activities and organizations has been an inspiration for others to become involved in community service. He always gave freely of his time and money.

He was considered by many to be an "old time" lawyer. He was known and trusted by everyone. Many families went to him to settle or avoid disputes. He was a master at restoring calm reason when tempers flared. He is the one we went to when we had problems, and he always took time to help us find solutions.

I believe the naming of the Post Office is fitting and proper way to honor the memory of a man that did so much for this community.

Sincerely,

BUDDY DELOACH.

HINESVILLE, GA,
March 15, 2007.

Hon. JACK KINGSTON,
Rayburn HOB,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KINGSTON: I am writing about an unnamed federal public building in Hinesville, Georgia and a man that could and should be honored by that building being named for him.

The United States Post Office on Oglethorpe Highway in Hinesville has been open for several years now but remains without a name. A person who richly deserves to be honored, although he never would have thought so, is J. Sidney Flowers.

I met Sidney and his gracious wife Nan when I was sent by the United States Army to Fort Stewart and eventually started teaching at the local public high school,

Bradwell Institute, with Mrs. Flowers. Nan's husband was one of those classic Reader's Digest types that folks wrote about being so memorable.

Sidney was a product of Liberty County and dedicated himself to the community. He paid homage of his lineage by serving on the Board of Directors for the Taylors' Creek Cemetery Association for many years, Taylors' Creek was the largest of the little towns that were obliterated with the creation of Camp Stewart in 1940. Sidney was a graduate of Bradwell Institute, a school that traces its heritage here in Hinesville back to 1871. Sidney did very well in law school at Mercer in Macon and could have gone to "the big city" and made "big money" but chose to return to his roots, become a family man, and public servant. For almost four decades he served as the Solicitor General of Liberty County's State Court. He and Nan reared two wonderful and beautiful daughters here, Kay and Darcey. And Sidney was so much more than an elected official.

A veteran of the United States Army, Sidney proudly wore his American Legionnaire's hat and Old Glory in his lapel. He was a Shriner. He was so well respected as an elder of the First Presbyterian Church that he is one of only six to be identified as an Elder Emeritus. He gave his legal knowledge and expertise pro bono to his church and that church's Christian school.

Sidney was charitable to a fault and few but those that were recipients knew about his largess and whenever possible his gifts were anonymous. More than once I have seen him pay the bill of a soldier at local restaurants all the while telling the G.I.'s waitress that his beneficence was not be attributed. His tall height and long gait that had served him so well when he was a young student in Macon when he officiated high school basketball tournaments, made him easily identifiable as he made his way into and out of this very building that I have written about above. It was not unusual for people to go over to him to enjoy his wry sense of humor or to seek his wise counsel. Hinesville and Liberty County lost a great man last year when J. Sidney Flowers passed away and now it is fitting and proper to pay tribute to this giant of a man.

I would urge that you do what you can to have the local post office named for J. Sidney Flowers.

Sincerely yours,

SAMPIE W. SMITH.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3470.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge the passing of this bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 744 West Oglethorpe Highway in Hinesville, Georgia, as the "John Sidney 'Sid' Flowers Post Office Building".

A native of Liberty County, Sid Flowers served in the U.S. Army before attending law school at Mercer. Despite distinguishing himself as a top scholar at Mercer, he opted not to pursue high profile law firms in Atlanta. Instead he returned to his hometown where he served the county as Solicitor General for nearly four decades. But his public service did not end there. Mr. Flowers was best known for his pro bono legal work, contributing his advice to the First Presbyterian Church and the church's school at no charge.

Mr. Flowers not only gave back to the community professionally, but also through his generous, often anonymous, contributions. His munificence took many forms, whether it was through community service or anonymously picking up the tab for soldiers dining at local restaurants.

When Mr. Flowers passed on August 21, 2006, Liberty County lost the consummate public servant. A kind and humble man, his passionate and selfless commitment to his community and country undoubtedly deserves tribute.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill to publicly honor this man, not only for his public service, but for the intangible generosity of his spirit.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3470.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BEATRICE E. WATSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3569) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16731 Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana, California, as the "Beatrice E. Watson Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3569

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

SECTION 1. BEATRICE E. WATSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16731 Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana, California, shall be known and designated as the "Beatrice E. Watson 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 "Beatrice E. Watson Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA).

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman who is working on this for yielding me this time.

I rise tonight to honor Beatrice "Bea" Watson, a woman who dedicated her life to her community and to democracy. I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle from California for supporting this legislation on a bipartisan basis. Bea Watson died on August 5 at the age of 83. My bill, H.R. 3569, would designate the Santa Ana Avenue post office in Fontana, California, to be named in her honor.

My friend, Bea Watson, was a distinguished member of the Fontana community. Bea strove to make a positive difference in her hometown, a positive role model, and was an inspiration to all she came in contact with, and she led by example.

In over 45 years of life in Fontana, she served as an elected city councilmember, clerk, historical society officer, women's club president, chamber of commerce member, and organized many events such as parades and festivals in Fontana.

Bea was also recognized for her outstanding achievement and loved by all her community for her contributions to the Fontana community. Through her life, she received over 22 prestigious community awards, including the Fontana PTA Council Award, the Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Volunteer Award, the Community Spirit Award, and the California Legislature Woman of the Year Award.

In fact, Bea was so loved by the community that she was given the title of "Mrs. Fontana" or "Busy Bea" in the City of Fontana. Her efforts have touched the lives of her neighbors and her impact on the community will create a lasting legacy for generations to come.

As a volunteer, as a public servant and as a friend of her community, Bea proved herself to be an exemplary American. She was an excellent example of the meaning of volunteerism, and the quality of life in Fontana is better because she cared and gave so much of herself knowing that it would be a better place for others.

Although now gone, she will continue to serve as an inspiration to us all. It is with great honor that I ask Members of Congress to designate the post office in California's 43rd Congressional District as the Beatrice Watson Post Office. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Again, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the 53 Members from California who signed on.

[From The Press-Enterprise, Aug. 14, 2007]
EX-FONTANA COUNCILWOMAN BEA WATSON
DIES

(By Mary Bender)

Former City Clerk and Councilwoman Bea Watson, a tireless community volunteer who organized the city's Christmas and Fontana Days parades, died Sunday and will be remembered in a funeral service Monday.

She was 83.

Mrs. Watson was elected to two terms as Fontana city clerk, completing her eight years in office in December. She also served one term as a city councilwoman, from 1992 to 1996, losing her re-election bid to Manuel Mancha by 68 votes.

"Bea was a citizen who truly cared for this community," said Linda Nunn, Fontana's deputy city clerk. "She will truly be missed."

Mrs. Watson, who had been ill for three months, died of congestive heart failure at Legacy Rehabilitation Center in San Bernardino, according to Monica Bentley, her granddaughter.

She is survived by her husband, Larry Watson, a production specialist for KFON Channel 3, the city's government access station that airs meetings of the Fontana City Council and Planning Commission.

Other survivors include her daughter, Patricia Bentley, of Fontana, her brother, Fay Allen, of San Bernardino, her sister, Marguerite Botsford, of Fontana, Monica Bentley and another granddaughter, and a great-grandson.

Mrs. Watson's successor, City Clerk Tonia Lewis, said she would recruit friends and colleagues to help out with civic events. "It's hard to fill her shoes because she was so active in everything," Lewis said. "She didn't take no for an answer."

Mrs. Watson didn't let her ailments slow her down. "Toward the end, she was so sick and so bent over," Lewis said.

"She had a hard time getting around. She shuffled and it never stopped her," Lewis said. "She just kept going, like the Energizer Bunny."

One of Mrs. Watson's passions was the Fontana Historical Society, which was established in 1974 but in recent years needed an infusion of volunteers to replace its aging roster.

"She got me involved with the Historical Society because the society was failing for lack of membership. She hated to see things fail, so she would gather together people she knew who could handle those things," Lewis said. "We had no choice."

Mrs. Watson was active in several other local organizations and events, including the Fontana Woman's Club, the Fontana Exchange Club; American Legion Auxiliary, Post 772; and the Fontana Chamber of Commerce.

She served on committees to commemorate Fontana's 50th and 75th anniversary celebrations, and organized the city's annual Community Prayer Breakfast since 1990. She also was an active volunteer for the Fontana Days Festival, the annual summer celebration of the city's 1913 founding by A.B. Miller, and organized the city's annual Festival of Winter.

"The Christmas parade was her baby. She felt like she was doing it for the kids in Fontana," Lewis said.

Born July 1, 1924, in Ashtabula, Ohio, Mrs. Watson came West in 1944, living in San Bernardino before moving to Fontana. She attended San Bernardino Valley College and was a retired telephone company administrator with Pacific Bell.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I join with my fellow colleague from California in support of H.R. 3569, a bill to name the post office on Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana after Beatrice "Bea" E. Watson.

She was truly a pillar of the community and well-recognized in Fontana. As my colleague said, the California delegation uniquely requires 53 cosponsors in order to bring a bill. That means that a very diverse State, the

most diverse in the Nation, has to come together on these post office namings. This is an example when we did.

Bea dedicated her life to the community and in every sense was in fact a true Californian, although in fact, like myself, she was born in Ohio and came to California at age 20. She originally moved to San Bernardino where she attended the San Bernardino Community College. She then worked for the telephone company as an administrator for Pacific Bell.

Only years later did she arrive in Fontana. Nevertheless, her dedication allowed her to become truly a pillar of the community, a city councilwoman, and to serve in various capacities for the rest of her life, through both Fontana's 50th and 75th anniversaries.

It is not lightly that we consider naming post offices after people not in the postal community, and I join with my colleague today and the California delegation unanimously urging passage of this bill.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I concur with my colleagues from California and urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3569.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MARINE CORPS CORPORAL STEVEN P. GILL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3974) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 797 Sam Bass Road in Round Rock, Texas, as the "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3974

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

SECTION 1. MARINE CORPS CORPORAL STEVEN P. GILL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 797 Sam Bass Road in Round Rock, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill 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 "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman