

in 1996, and Project Freedom's Angel Award in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, finally just let me say that I have known Jack Rafferty and his wife Doris and their children, Megan and Daniel, for many years. They have been and are today a great first family. They are caring people. They epitomize what is good and honorable about public service, and they are class personified.

As mayor, Jack will be missed, but always appreciated. I believe that designating the post office on Route 130 as the John K. Rafferty Hamilton Post Office is the least that our citizens can do to say "thank you" to someone who has done so much for so many.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time but yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot imagine any way in which I can add to the eloquence and the depth of the very appropriate comments by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), and with that I would simply urge all of our colleagues to join with the ranking member and myself and all of the committee members in sponsoring the gentleman from New Jersey's very worthy initiative.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 2591, legislation designating the United States Post Office located on Elm Street in Wakefield, Kansas, as the "William H. Avery Post Office". Let me commend Congressman MORAN for sponsoring this legislation which is an appropriate honor well deserved by the recipient.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vicki and I have enjoyed our friendship with Governor Avery over the past several years, and we are both excited that this honor is being bestowed upon a great public servant and good friend who has always placed the people of the great State of Kansas first.

When I think about the tremendous reputation Governor Avery still enjoys, I think about the moniker given to a past politician: The Happy Warrior. You cannot talk to Bill without feeling his zest for life and his indomitable spirit. It is not unusual to see Governor Avery at an event in Kansas, shaking hands, kissing babies and talking about the latest Republican strategy. Sometimes a few of us in this esteemed Body get tired and frustrated. At those moments I think of Governor Avery, his quick smile, his knowing wink, his kind words, his all-encompassing heart. Always smiling, always moving, always hopeful of the future, but respectful of the past. Governor Avery is truly Kansas's Happy Warrior.

Mr. Speaker I realize that at times the floor of the House can be partisan, and with your indulgence I am going to add to that partisan flame, just a bit. There is one memory I will always cherish, and it occurred in January of 1995. I was a new Member of Congress, full of hope, a little overwhelmed, and flush anticipation of the job ahead.

I had some friends and family in my office and in came Governor Avery. He came up to me and shook my hand, and told me why he had traveled back to D.C. You see Governor

Avery is also appropriately called Congressman Avery. He served in this House from 1955–1965. He related to me that when he won his election in 1954, he thought he would be entering a Republican Congress, but he soon learned that the Democrats had regained the majority. Congressman Avery was destined to serve all his tenure in the minority. He always felt a little jilted by history, and that is why he wanted to be on the floor of the U.S. House when the gavel passed. At that moment I realized how fortunate I really was to be entrusted with a job representing the Fourth Congressional District of Kansas, and I realized just how historic a shift in Congress can be.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Governor Avery is enjoying the beautiful Autumn evening back home in Wakefield, Kansas. I want to thank him for all his words of inspiration, his dedication and his enduring attitude. When the history of Kansas is written, it will be as kind to Governor Avery as he has been to anyone who has had the good fortune to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to call Governor Avery my friend and to help recognize him this day for the many accomplishments he has provided the people of Kansas and this great country.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1374, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the United States Post Office building located at 680 U.S. Highway 130 in Hamilton, New Jersey, as the 'John K. Rafferty Hamilton Post Office Building.'"

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may be granted 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1374, bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE URGING 95 PERCENT OF FEDERAL EDUCATION DOLLARS BE SPENT IN THE CLASSROOM

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H.Res. 303) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives urging that 95 percent of Federal education dollars be spent in the classroom, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 303

Whereas effective teaching begins by helping children master basic academics, holding children to high standards, using effective, scientifically based methods of instruction in the classroom, engaging and involving parents, creating safe and orderly classrooms, and getting dollars to the classroom;

Whereas our Nation's children deserve an educational system that provides opportunities to excel;

Whereas States and localities must spend a significant amount of education tax dollars applying for and administering Federal education dollars;

Whereas the administrative costs of the United States are twice the average of other countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);

Whereas it is unknown exactly what percentage of Federal education dollars reaches the classroom, but according to the Department of Education, in 1998, 84 percent of the Department's elementary and secondary education dollars were allocated to local educational agencies and used for instruction and instructional support;

Whereas the remainder of the Department's dollars was allocated to States, universities, national programs, and other service providers;

Whereas the total spent by the Department for elementary and secondary education does not take into account what States must spend to receive Federal dollars and comply with requirements, it also does not reflect what portion of the Federal dollars allocated to school districts is spent on students in the classroom;

Whereas American students are not performing up to their full academic potential, despite significant Federal education initiatives, which span multiple Federal agencies;

Whereas according to the Digest of Education Statistics, during the 1995–96 school year only 54 percent of \$278,965,657,000 spent on elementary and secondary education was spent on "instruction";

Whereas according to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 1996, only 52 percent of staff employed in public elementary and secondary school systems were teachers;

Whereas according to the latest data available from the General Accounting Office, in fiscal year 1993, Federal education dollars funded 13,397 full-time equivalent positions in State educational agencies;

Whereas in fiscal year 1998, the Department of Education's paperwork and data reporting requirements totaled 40,000,000 "burden hours," which is the equivalent of 19,300 people working 40 hours a week for 1 full year;

Whereas too much of our Federal education funding is spent on bureaucracy, special interests, and ineffective programs, and too little is effectively spent on our Nation's youth;

Whereas getting 95 percent of all Federal elementary and secondary education funds to the classroom could provide substantial additional funding per classroom across the United States;

Whereas more education funding should be put in the hands of someone in a child's classroom who knows the child's name;

Whereas burdensome regulations, requirements, and mandates should be removed so that school districts can devote more resources to children in classrooms; and

Whereas President Clinton has stated: "We cannot ask the American people to spend more on education until we do a better job