

World War, amassed a very impressive war record during that time.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to share a personal story which I think speaks volumes as to the man whom we honor today. This was the first appearance on the bench by Judge Ward. I do not recall the specific year, nor the month. But it was early in the morning, early in the morning by court standards, Mr. Speaker, 9:30, 10 o'clock. This was the judge's first appearance, as I say, as a jurist.

The first order of business that morning, my friends, was a naturalization ceremony whereby a German woman who had applied for citizenship was recognized that morning, and citizenship was in fact conferred upon her.

At the conclusion of the naturalization ceremony, the newly addressed American woman began to weep, and her sobs became almost uncontrollable. She was weeping heavily. Keep in mind, Judge Ward, although he was a seasoned trial attorney, he was nonetheless a rookie judge. This was his first day in court with the robe.

He looked down from the bench into the eyes of that sobbing German-born woman, and he said to her, "Madam, is there anything that we, the court, can do to assist you in your trouble?"

She regained her composure, and she said to Judge Ward, "My tears, Your Honor, are tears of joy." She said, "I am so happy to be a newly recognized American citizen, but I am weeping because my family and my friends are in Germany, and they are not here in Durham." This was in Durham, North Carolina. "They are not here in Durham to share this very special day in my life with me." Then her sobs became more softly expressed.

Judge Ward said to her, "Madam, most of the people in this courtroom today are Americans as a result of geographic consequences, where their parents happened to be residing at the time of their birth. But," he said to her, "you, madam, unlike most people in this courtroom today, are an American by choice. You have chosen to abandon your citizenship as a German woman, and you have become an American."

Mr. Speaker, I think I will never forget that exchange. Judge Ward's words were so comforting to her, she ceased her weeping, and her facial response expressed a smile. I think she even audibly laughed as a result.

I concluded then, I said, the calm, assuring manner expressed by Judge Ward that morning assuaged the discomfort that plagued and troubled this German-born woman upon whom American citizenship had just been conferred.

I concluded without saying so aloud that this man on the bench will become an outstanding jurist. My conclusion, Mr. Speaker, was prophetic. Judge Hiram Ward has indeed become an out-

standing jurist. I am pleased to be the sponsor of this bill.

I again thank my friends, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) for their assistance, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member of the full Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues in the House to vote favorably in passage of this proposal.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am indeed honored to be here and rise in support of H.R. 92. This bill was previously unanimously passed by this body in the 105th Congress but was not taken up by the United States Senate.

We have heard about the human face behind Judge Ward by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE). Clearly, nobody can tell it better than the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Let me tell my colleagues a little bit about Hiram Ward, though. After his plane was shot down in a World War II mission over Burma, Judge Ward was decorated with the Purple Heart and the Air Medal. Soon after returning to the United States, he dedicated himself to his education and to his career.

Following that military service, he was quickly accepted and enrolled at Wake Forest College, now Wake Forest University that just had that large comeback against Florida State this past week in basketball.

Judge Ward went on to serve 20 years as a private attorney, gaining the highest respect from his peers and colleagues for his devotion, for his honesty, and for his hard work. Judge Ward's passion and his dedication to his work is echoed still today by his peers and his colleagues in North Carolina's Federal District Courts and the Fourth Circuit Court.

His reputation ultimately earned Judge Hiram Ward an appointment to the Federal bench by President Richard Nixon in 1972. By 1982, he had become chief judge where he would stay until 1988 when he elected senior status.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Ward is a man of commitment, service, and honor. He has provided North Carolina with the kind of service and dedication that I can only hope for in our future.

It is my sincere belief that the legislation currently before this House to designate the Federal building in Winston-Salem as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse" is both a fitting tribute for a man who gave so much selfless service to his country and to the people of North Carolina.

I want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) as the sponsor for introducing this legislation. I want to encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. 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 New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 92.

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.

#### JAMES F. BATTIN FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 158) to designate the Federal Courthouse located at 316 North 26th Street in Billings, Montana, as the "James F. Battin Federal Courthouse," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 158

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

##### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 316 North 26th Street in Billings, Montana, shall be known and designated as the "James F. Battin United States Courthouse".

##### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "James F. Battin United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS).

□ 1445

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 158, as amended, designates the United States Courthouse, located in Billings, Montana, as the James F. Battin United States Courthouse.

Judge Battin dedicated his life to public service. He was a Federal District Judge for the United States District Court of Montana, and also a former Member of Congress, having served in the House of Representatives from the 87th through the 91st Congress.

After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and ably

served for 3 years in the Pacific. After returning from military service, Judge Battin attended Eastern Montana College in Billings, Montana. He relocated to Washington, D.C. and was graduated from George Washington University Law School. He was later admitted to the D.C. Bar.

Judge Battin returned to Montana in the mid 1950s and accepted county and municipal attorney posts. He was elected to the Montana State House of Representatives and served in the State House until his election to the United States House of Representatives in the 87th Congress. He went on to serve four succeeding terms.

During his tenure in Congress he served on the Committee on Committees, the Executive Committee, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Ways and Means.

In 1969 President Nixon appointed Judge Battin to the United States District Court for the District of Montana. He served as Chief Judge from 1978 and took senior status in 1990. From the bench he diligently served the District of Montana, as well as additional assignments in the United States District Courts for Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Hawaii and Georgia.

Judge Battin passed away in 1996.

This is a fitting tribute to a distinguished jurist and dedicated public servant. I support the bill, as amended, and urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 158, a bill to designate the courthouse in Billings, Montana as the James F. Battin United States Courthouse.

In 1969 President Nixon appointed James Battin to the Federal bench in Billings, Montana, where he continued his four decades of public service to the citizens of Montana. In 1978 James Battin was appointed Chief Judge and served in that position for 12 years. He remained active in judicial affairs until his death in September of 1996.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Battin served in the House of Representatives, representing eastern Montana. In 1960 he was elected to the Montana House and served until 1969, when he resigned to receive the judicial appointment.

While in this body, the House of Representatives, Judge Battin served on the Committee on the Judiciary as well as the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Ways and Means. It is interesting to note that Judge Battin's son continued that tradition, Jim Battin, and he currently serves in the California assembly, representing the 80th District.

It is fitting and proper to honor the extensive contributions Judge Battin

has made to public service with designating the Federal building in Billings, Montana, as the James F. Battin United States Courthouse.

I support H.R. 158 and urge my colleagues to also support this bill.

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

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I am pleased today to present to the House H.R. 158, legislation that would designate the United States Courthouse in downtown Billings as the James F. Battin State Courthouse.

While there are a few Members in and around this Chamber who remember Jim Battin as Montana's eastern Congressional District representative, and others who remember him as a distinguished member of the Federal bench, I want to take a few minutes today to give my colleagues some reflections on the life of the man we will honor today.

James Battin earned a reputation for effectiveness and for integrity during five terms here in the Congress and for 27 years on the Federal bench. His accomplishments range from building new protections for the environment and wilderness preserves, to rulings on streamlining the Federal Judiciary proceedings. He, for example, created the precedent for the now universally accepted six-man Federal jury in Federal cases.

After high school, James Battin served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. And after the war, he began his career in public service as a city attorney in Billings, Montana.

In 1958 he was elected to the Montana State legislature, and in 1960 he successfully ran for the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his first term in the U.S. House, James Battin was chosen by his fellow freshmen legislators to sit on the House Committee of Committees. And as a member of that critical House overseer, he secured a seat for himself in his first term on the House Committee on Ways and Means. Monitoring the Federal purse strings from this vantage point, Battin solidified the respect of his colleagues, exerting great influence on behalf of his large home State.

In his second term, Battin was appointed to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, an assignment soon followed to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

With a growing list of Congressional responsibilities and influence, he came to play an instrumental role in a host of legislation, among these the law creating the Montana Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, at that time the largest wildlife reserve in the United States.

Throughout the 1960s he would serve Montana for five terms in the U.S.

House, each time winning election by a wider and larger landslide margin.

In addition to his duties in Washington, James Battin would go on to serve as one of two United States Congressional representatives to the Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration, which met in Geneva. This group helped persons forced from behind the Iron Curtain to reestablish themselves in other countries with useful occupations. And as an emissary of this Nation, he brought assistance and stewardship of our government to helping people form new businesses.

In 1968 Battin was selected to serve as President Nixon's representative to the Platform Committee at the Republican National Convention. Amid a time of change, upheaval and war abroad, he helped articulate his party's vision for the future of America.

With a congressional career moving at full pace, and his influence increasing every year, Battin welcomed new representatives and took them in stride and helped them adjust.

In 1969 Battin was asked by President Nixon to serve as a Federal District Judge in San Francisco. The new post appealed to the five-term Congressman and represented a huge stepping stone in his career. However, Battin declined because, while he aspired to be a Federal judge, he wanted to raise his family in the quiet beauty of his home State of Montana, a life unlike what he expected would occur in San Francisco.

Soon after, a Federal judgeship became available in his home State in Billings. His judicial home became the Billings Federal Courthouse, which we are redesignating today. James Battin became the first judicial appointment of the new Nixon administration. He went on to serve and excel in this post for 27 years, becoming the District of Montana's Chief Judge in 1978.

During that time, Battin issued key rulings affecting the lives of Montana citizens, among them, preserving access to the Bighorn River for all the people across the State.

A dedicated and hard working man, he remained on the bench until his passing in the autumn of 1996.

James Battin is best remembered as a dedicated husband and father whose first priority was always with his family.

While he preceded us here by more than 30 years, he stood for the enduring values that bring so many of us to Congress today, the importance of family, a better government, and the desire to serve his fellow citizens.

H.R. 158 is a tribute to a great person. His accomplishments are numerous, and his contribution to the lives of his neighbors is echoed by the wide support he enjoyed among Montana residents for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer this legislation as a token of Montana and the Nation's deep gratitude for a lifetime of dedicated service. I urge my colleagues' support for H.R. 158.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 158, that designates the United States Courthouse located in Billings, Montana, as the "James F. Battin Federal Courthouse."

This honor is certainly a very fitting tribute for Judge Battin. He is a remarkable example in our recent history of someone who dedicated himself to public service for the good of our country. After high school, James Battin served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following the war he began his career in public service as a city attorney in Billings, Montana. In 1958 he was elected to the Montana State legislature, and in 1960 successfully ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. For five terms, he served in the U.S. Congress with distinction.

Judge Battin was appointed to the Federal bench by President Nixon in 1969 to serve as a Federal District Judge for the United States District Court of Montana. He developed a reputation as a fine jurist and went on to serve as Chief Judge from 1978 until he elected to take a senior status in 1990.

An even greater monument to this fine man's life is his family. They were always his priority as a husband and parent. Yet, the humble honor that this legislation ensures is certainly a fitting tribute to a distinguished judge and dedicated public servant. I support the bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 158, 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 was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 316 North 26th Street in Billings, Montana, as the 'James F. Battin United States Courthouse'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RICHARD C. WHITE FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 233) to designate the Federal building located at 700 East San Antonio Street in El Paso, Texas, as the "Richard C. White Federal building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 233

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

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 700 East San Antonio Street in El Paso, Texas, shall

be known and designated as the "Richard C. White Federal Building".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Richard C. White Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 233 designates the Federal building located in El Paso, Texas, as the Richard C. White Federal Building.

Congressman White represented the 16th District of Texas in the United States House of Representatives for nine successive terms, from 1965 to 1983. He was known for his dedication to public and community service. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, receiving the military order of the Purple Heart. He also served in the Texas State House of Representatives from 1955 to 1958.

In 1983, after serving his ninth congressional term, Congressman White returned to his family in El Paso to resume his legal career and serve as a civic leader. He passed away in February 1998.

As a dedicated public servant to the people of El Paso, this is indeed a fitting tribute. I support the bill and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), who has worked so hard to get this bill to the floor.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 233 and urge this House to pass it. I am proud to have authored the legislation to name the Federal building in El Paso, Texas, after Richard C. White, who represented the people of El Paso in Congress for nine terms, from 1965 to 1983.

In his years of service to our Nation and the people of the 16th District, Congressman White showed genuine concern for his constituents and a commitment to do all that was in his power to help those whom he served. He truly led a life filled with integrity, compassion and contribution to the well-being of others, and he made a lasting impression on the lives of all who knew him.

I would like to thank the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), and the majority lead-

er, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), as well as the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), for scheduling this bill on the floor today.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the chairman and ranking members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for their support of this legislation as well. Their expeditious scheduling of this bill is greatly appreciated by the people of El Paso.

Also, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE), the chairman and ranking members of the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Economic Development, for their support and managing of this legislation today.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the 50 Members who cosponsored H.R. 233. Congressman White would have been proud and pleased to know of his many friends in the 106th Congress who knew him and remembered his legacy of public achievement and his leadership on behalf of our great Nation.

Early in his life Richard White showed a great concern and commitment to his community and to his country. He entered military service as a marine in World War II and saw action in the Pacific theater. While fighting in the battles of Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima, he was wounded in action, and his service to his country was marked with great honor and decoration, receiving the military order of the Purple Heart.

Upon returning to the States, this military veteran began advocating as an outstanding lawyer for the people of El Paso. In heeding a call for greater community service, Congressman White launched the beginning of a distinguished career as a legislator, serving first in the Texas House from 1955 to 1958.

From the beginning, he worked hard to improve the quality of life along the border, focusing on health care and environmental issues. He established a nursing home at the University of Texas at El Paso and created the Hueco Tanks State Park.

Richard White launched his Congressional career in 1965 as a representative for the 16th District of Texas. Many of my colleagues now were also his colleagues and remember his strong advocacy on behalf of his District. Congressman White exemplified the epitome of public service.

His work on the Committee on Armed Services reflected a strong commitment to national security, providing unwavering support for Fort Bliss's Army Post and in drafting the reorganization of the legislation for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In addition,