

Madam Speaker, we would not be here today.

I also want to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) of the Subcommittee on the Constitution for their cooperation in expediting consideration of this measure. I also wish to express our appreciation to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service, for his strong support for clarifying the definition of "special government employee." As we recognize, Madam Speaker, these kinds of initiatives, it takes the cooperative effort of many, and we thank yet another gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) for adding the "special government employee" language to this initiative.

Madam Speaker, although language before the House differs in some minor respects from the bill reported by the Committee on Government Reform, there really is no substantive difference. Working closely with the Office of Government Ethics, we have simply clarified the bill. Promoting the integrity of the Federal Government is critically important if our citizens are to have confidence in its operation. Nothing has made that clearer than our experience with the administration and its unprecedented reliance upon a host of informal advisors such as Harry Thomason, Paul Begala, Dick Morris, and numerous other outsiders who worked on the President's health care task force during his first term. Whether paid or unpaid, full-time or part-time, Madam Speaker, these advisors must be held to the same high ethical standards as regular government employees. Good government demands no less.

Congress has the opportunity today to ensure that existing conflict of interest laws and financial disclosure requirements deter these high-level advisors from using their role to promote their own business interests. I urge all Members to support H.R. 2904.

Madam 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 York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2904, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam 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.

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JOSEPH ILETO POST OFFICE

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3189) to designate the United States post office located at 14071 Peyton Drive in Chino Hills, California, as the "Joseph Iletto Post Office."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3189

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

SECTION 1. JOSEPH ILETO POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States post office located at 14071 Peyton Drive in Chino Hills, California, shall be known and designated as the "Joseph Iletto Post Office".

(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 "Joseph Iletto Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3189 was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) on November 1 of this year. This legislation designates the building of the United States Postal Service located at 1407 Peyton Drive in Chino Hills, California, as the Joseph Iletto Post Office.

This legislation honors Mr. Iletto, an employee of the United States Postal Service who was slain while on duty in a hail of bullets by a white supremacist on August 10, 1999.

According to an affidavit filed in Federal court, the gunman had, just an hour before the shooting, opened fire at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles, wounding five children and employees. While making his rounds, Mr. Iletto encountered the assassin who, according to the affidavit, thought it would be a good idea to kill a non-white person who was also a government employee as a target of opportunity.

Mr. Iletto was the oldest of five children, born and raised in the Philippines and named after St. Joseph, the patron saint of the worker. He emigrated to the United States when he was 14 years old. After completing high school, he studied at East Los Angeles College, earning an associate degree in engineering in 1983. He lived with his brother in Chino Hills, and he cared for his recently widowed mother in Monterey Park.

He worked two jobs, at ABX Filters Corporation, where he tested electronic filters for heart pacemakers, and part-

time as a substitute mail carrier. He was substituting for a regular letter carrier when he was killed, at age 39. Joseph Iletto took the postal position 2 years ago because he was seeking better pay in an outside job.

Mr. Iletto was known for his goodness, his good humor, his willingness to help, and for being reliable. Joe was known to be a humble man, never wanting to be the center of attention, just wanting to blend into the crowd. His work ethic and reliability won him a Special Achievement Award from the Postal Service. He was also very competitive, and loved playing games and watching the Los Angeles Lakers and the Dodgers.

He was a skilled chess player and was ranked at the master level. The Los Angeles Times and magazines devoted to chess recognized him for his achievements in that regard. His father taught him to play that game at the age of 7.

Uniformed postal workers, in a caravan of more than 100 trucks, paid their respects to their fallen colleague. Every mail carrier in his post office attended the funeral, along with many others from the postal community. Retired mail carriers offered to deliver the mail that day so everyone who knew Joseph could attend, exemplifying the model of mail carriers everywhere, that an injury to one is an injury to all.

Madam Speaker, it is important to note that the Post Office in Chino is near completion, and due to open early next year. It would be fitting that this body take action today on this bill, H.R. 3189, so that the naming of the post office coincides with the opening of this facility. Naming the Post Office in Chino Hills after Joseph Iletto would be an act of remembrance and honor to a person who, though he just wanted to blend into the crowd, exemplifies all the qualities that we look for in an outstanding citizen of this great Nation.

I also want to, Madam Speaker, take one moment to express our most heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of this brave man. They share in this honor. We come to this floor many times each session and extend the privilege of a postal naming bill to presidents, to people who, in very real ways, made world history, to heroes of all kinds. Today we honor a hero of a somewhat different kind, but certainly no less a deserving individual.

I would strongly urge all of our colleagues to support this bill and to extend this honor to a very, very special man.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform and

Oversight, I am pleased to join the gentleman from New York (Chairman McHUGH) in the consideration of two postal naming bills, H.R. 3189, to designate the United States Post Office located at 41071 Peyton Drive in Chino Hills, California, as the Joseph Iieto Post Office, and H.R. 2307, to designate the United States Post Office located at 5 Cedar Street in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, as the Thomas J. Brown Post Office Building.

H.R. 319, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY MILLER) on November 1, 1999, seeks to honor a fallen postal employee, Mr. Joseph Santos Iieto. My colleagues will remember that Mr. Iieto was slain on August 10, 1999, by a gunman who shot and wounded five children and employees at the North Valley Jewish Community Center in suburban Los Angeles.

Mr. Iieto was a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service. While he lived in Chino Hills, California, he worked at the Chatsworth Post Office, located at 21606 Devonshire Boulevard in Chatsworth, California.

A letter carrier for just 2 years, he was remembered by the Chatsworth Postmaster, Ramona Franco, as a good employee with a wonderful sense of humor. According to Postmaster Franco, Mr. Iieto was the recent recipient of a Special Achievement Award and recognized for his outstanding performance.

Joseph Santos Iieto was born on March 10, 1960, in Legaspi City, Philippines, and named after St. Joseph, the patron saint of workers. A Dodgers and Lakers fan, Mr. Iieto was a master chess player who was murdered by white supremacist Buford Furrow while delivering mail on his mail route.

Joseph Santos Iieto was a fine man who loved his family and friends. My colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY MILLER), is to be commended for recognizing a man who was proud to wear the uniform of the United States Postal Service letter carrier. I would agree with the gentleman from New York (Chairman McHUGH), it is so appropriate that we take this time to honor this postman.

The thing is that so often when we name buildings, they are not named after the people who do not normally make the front pages of the Washington Post or local papers, but this was a gentleman that so often I would take it that, like many other Post Office people, that we take for granted. They are the people who deliver our mail every day through the cold, the sleet, the wind, the sun, whatever. They are there.

I join the gentleman from New York (Chairman McHUGH) when he says that we want the family to know of our sympathy, and we want them to know how we feel so strongly about Mr.

Iieto. Here is something else that needs to be said, and it is simply this, that in naming this Post Office after this postman, hopefully when people pass that Post Office and see that name up there, they will be reminded of what postmen and postwomen do every day in making sure that our mail is delivered, and making sure that correspondence, which is the lifeblood of any kind of communications process all over the world, is taken care of and taken care of in a very excellent fashion.

To that end, it is indeed a fitting tribute to name a soon-to-be-opened postal facility in Mr. Iieto's hometown in Chino Hills, California, after its fallen son.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD).

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I stand in strong support of the bill offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY MILLER), H.R. 3189. As outlined, this bill will designate the United States Post Office in Chino Hills the Joseph Iieto Post Office.

I stand in strong support of this on a couple of bases: One, as chairperson of the Asian-Pacific American Caucus in Congress, we have a particular affinity for this particular piece of legislation which is being passed in honor of Joseph Santos Iieto, a Filipino-American postal employee murdered by white supremacist Buford O. Furrow basically for being foreign-looking.

Basically, the entire incident involving the murder of Mr. Iieto was that he looked like a foreigner. He was an Asian-American who was devoting his life to public service in the Post Office.

Certainly I would like to also associate myself with the comments about the Postal Service. My father was postmaster at one time, and my grandfather was postmaster, so we have a long tradition in our family of paying honor and tribute to people who work in the Post Office.

In this particular instance, we have what is usually a person who does not attract much attention, but he is emblematic of the many thousands of people who work for the Postal Service and who carry on their duties on a regular basis.

I want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY MILLER) on his initiative to remember Joseph Iieto, and to not let the issue go away about the circumstances of his murder and bringing recognition of that. At the same time, I want to point out that the number of hate crimes which have gone on this past year continues to increase in this country.

I think it is very important that, in Mr. Iieto's name, we continue to focus on the issue of hate crimes, of which he was himself a victim, and to continue

to support hate crimes legislation. This is an opportunity for us to draw attention to it. It is an opportunity to draw attention to the service of Asian-Pacific Americans in this country.

Also, I would like to again commend the work of our colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY MILLER) in this matter.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Guam, for making a very significant point. That is that, unfortunately, in our country we are still seeing the results of hate crimes. Unfortunately, our friend, Mr. Iieto, died as a result of a hate crime. It is very, very sad.

It is a fact that we are hoping that by taking this moment on the part of the United States Congress to recognize this wonderful, wonderful man, we will say to all of America that we, the Congress of the United States, will not stand for that kind of conduct. As we lift him up and say to Mr. Iieto and to his family that we are grateful for his service and all that he has given us, we also say to all of those who want to wander throughout our country committing these kinds of offenses that we will not stand for it, and we will do everything in our power to stomp it out.

To that end, Madam Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote for this very, very important piece of legislation. I thank the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McHUGH), the ranking member of our committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), and the chairman, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

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

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

Madam Speaker, let me first of all express my appreciation to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD), and all of the minority members, including, of course, the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), for their continued and continuous support on these kinds of measures.

□ 1530

I do think it is a very fine example as to how the majority and minority can work toward a common good and a common action.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the chairman of the full committee, for his continuous support in these efforts and for helping us to expedite consideration as we wind down the end of this legislative session so that we can, indeed, pay tribute to a very deserving individual.

I want to say that I certainly agree with the comments of the two previous speakers. The cause of this crime was despicable, and I think it is true as well that all Americans find hate and find the kinds of actions fueled by the hate in this instance to be unspeakably evil. And to the extent that we can make a statement against that in this forum, that is a positive thing.

But I would say that we are here today honoring an individual who fell and who was victimized and who we think would be worthy of this honor regardless of the motivations of the criminal who took his life. This is a man who has, through his life, through his roots and the way in which he has overcome, earned all of our admiration.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Ito I think in many ways is a perfect profile for the American dream, a gentleman who works hard, someone who carries the common values that have continuously bound this Nation together through our more than two centuries of existence. And regardless of his race, his color, his religious beliefs or any other distinguishing factor is a man fully deserving of this honor today.

So with that, Madam Speaker, I offer again our deepest sympathies to Mr. Ito's family, to his loved ones, and to those who knew him and urge that all Members support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). 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. 3189.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3189, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

THOMAS J. BROWN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2307) to designate the building of the United States Postal Service located at 5 Cedar Street in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, as the "Thomas J. Brown Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2307

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The building of the United States Postal Service located at 5 Cedar Street in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, shall be known and designated as the "Thomas J. Brown Post Office Building".

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2307 was introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) on June 22 of this year. This legislation designates the building of the United States Postal Service located at 5 Cedar Street in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, as the Thomas J. Brown Post Office Building.

Both the relevant subcommittee and committee approved this legislation, which is cosponsored by the entire House delegation of the State of Massachusetts.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Brown is a past president of the Boston Athletic Association and former postmaster of the town of Hopkinton, which is the starting point for the Boston Marathon. Mr. Brown has been actively involved in the Boston Marathon in his capacity as president of the Boston Athletic Association.

Madam Speaker, again we are here, as we did in the first bill, although under very, very different circumstances, paying tribute to an individual who perhaps does not find his name on the front page of the Nation's newspapers or as one of the lead stories on the evening news broadcast. But, nevertheless, we are here honoring a man who has, through his association, both with the Postal Service and with his activities and love of his community, has shown great leadership in important ways.

I would say, Madam Speaker, that Mr. Brown is a kind of testament to, again, the American way of life, to someone who is not involved in any kind of community activity for power or glory or certainly for enrichment, but rather cares about their neighbors, cares about his association with those neighbors, and works simply to make today better than yesterday and, hopefully, tomorrow a little bit better than today.

I would certainly urge all of our colleagues to support H.R. 2307 and honor

this postal employee who is so actively involved in a very important part of his town's history. And I am always, as chairman of the subcommittee, particularly gratified when those postal employees, nearly 900,000 individuals who each day make this wonderful system work so well, are honored in this manner, particularly, as it does in this case, occurring in their hometown in the very facility in which they discharge those duties.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I join the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) in his comments with regard to honoring this wonderful former postmaster. As a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join him in consideration of H.R. 2307.

H.R. 2307, introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) on June 22, 1999, seeks to honor Mr. Thomas J. Brown. Mr. Brown is the former postmaster of the town of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and past president of the Boston Athletic Association. Hopkinton, Massachusetts, is the starting point for the Boston Marathon, and Mr. Brown has been extensively involved in this race in his capacity as president of the BAA.

Designating a post office after a former postmaster is an excellent way to honor Mr. Brown's achievement. Madam Speaker, I could go on into further detail about the numerous community activities Mr. Brown is involved in, but I would prefer to yield time to the sponsor of H.R. 2307, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) not only for his support but for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2307 to designate the Thomas J. Brown Post Office Building in Hopkinton, Massachusetts. I wish to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman MCHUGH) for his support and for the support of this subcommittee in moving this bill through the Committee on Government Reform and bringing it to the House floor today.

This bill will name the Federal Post Office at 5 Cedar Street in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, after Thomas J. Brown. Mr. Brown is a long-time resident of Hopkinton, served as postmaster from