May 24, 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1377.

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. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1377.

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

There was no objection.

CLIFFORD R. HOPE POST OFFICE
Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 197) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 North 6th Street in Garden City, Kansas, as the “Clifford R. Hope Post Office”.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 197

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 North 6th Street in Garden City, Kansas, is hereby designated as the “Clifford R. Hope Post Office”. Any reference to such facility in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the “Clifford R. Hope Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to speak today on behalf of this legislation that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) offers. Mr. Hope was an active public servant involved in Kansas politics for more than 37 years. Naming the post office in his hometown of Garden City, Kansas, is an honor. It is a small tribute to Mr. Hope’s lifetime accomplishments.

During Mr. Hope’s political career, his first leadership opportunities presented themselves as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives. First elected in 1921, Mr. Hope at the age of 31 became the youngest speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives. As in many other States in the 1920s, tension mounted surrounding civil rights issues. Mr. Hope, an ardent opponent of the Ku Klux Klan, took the politically difficult stance to ensure that Kansas’s history as a free State was not tarnished and that individual liberties of all its citizens were protected.

After 3 terms in the State legislature, Clifford R. Hope was elected to Congress in 1926. Mr. Hope became a respected leader in this House, ultimately serving as the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture from 1946 to 1951. Mr. Hope was the last Republican chairman of the committee until another Kansan, Pat Roberts, assumed that position in 1985.

Mr. Hope was deeply involved in establishing many of the agricultural programs that still exist today. In addition to his work on behalf of agriculture, Mr. Hope was a strong advocate for defense programs and was heavily involved in military programs essential to our successful war efforts during World War II.

Mr. Hope was a veteran of World War I.

Section 1, subsection 3.

Spanning the presidential administrations of Presidents Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower, Mr. Hope’s time in Congress was a period of extraordinary change in our Nation. Through the end of the roaring 1920s, the Depression and World War II, and the critical rebuilding years that followed, Mr. Hope faithfully served Kansans and was actively involved in many legislative achievements that we take for granted today.

He was an avid supporter of conservation programs. Mr. Hope first experienced legislative success by passing into law the bill creating the Cheyenne Bottoms Wetlands in Kansas. It was created in 1928, and this wetland still today serves the goals of environmental restoration and preservation. While Mr. Hope’s initial bill was aimed at Kansans, it was followed by one of the largest nationwide conservation programs, the Small Watershed Program, which was developed under Mr. Hope’s tenure as the Committee on Agriculture Chairman. Passed in 1954 and known as P.L. 566, the Small Watershed Program has been successful in reducing runoff, controlling erosion and protecting countless communities from flooding for more than 40 years.

In addition to conservation programs, Chairman Hope also had great success in promoting the United States humanitarian role in the world. The Food for Peace Program, P.L. 480, was signed into law by President Eisenhower in July of 1954. From its inception, Food For Peace has been the backbone of the United States’s food donation efforts around the world. Hope was not only a major advocate for food programs; he was also a major opponent of those that failed.

While it is often common to measure a man by his accomplishments, it is the manner in which those accomplishments are achieved that is truly important. In this day of harsh rhetorical battles, it is refreshing to honor a Member with character and demeanor. Our former Governor of Kansas, William H. Avery, also a former member of this body, perhaps said it best about Mr. Hope’s character:

“I never heard Cliff speak a harsh word against those with whom he disagreed, either in debate or in personal conversation. He had the respect and admiration of all who knew him. He will always be remembered as an honest man with an infectious personality, kind to both his friends and adversaries, but unshakable in his convictions.”

In the epilogue to the book “Quiet Courage,” written in 1997 by Congressman Hope’s son, Clifford Hope, Jr., also a distinguished Kansan, the son speaking of his Congressman father concludes that:

First of all, Congressman Hope had a solid record of substantial legislative accomplishments. He probably spent more time from 1933 until 1957 on farm support legislation than any other single issue, seeking to secure a safety net for farmers and, equally important, striving to ensure a stable supply of inexpensive food and fiber for consumers. His more lasting legislative accomplishments were in the area of soil and water conservation, agricultural research and marketing, and the Food for Peace program.

Although preoccupied with agricultural problems, Congressman Hope spent many hours studying and seeking the truth on all important issues. Hope’s legislative achievements were not, in his son’s opinion, his primary reason that he considered his father a role model Congressman and considered so by many of his contemporaries as well. He was a role model, rather, because of the virtues and values he held dear. In recent years there has been a rediscovery of, or at least a renewed interest in, personal virtues.

William J. Bennett, in his “Book of Virtues” quotes stories and poems which exemplify 10 virtues, responsibility, self-discipline, compassion, friendship, work, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty and faith. Senator Frank Carlson, also a former member of the House of Representatives, in his congressional ceremony honoring his friend Cliff Hope in 1956 cited a list of nine virtues that make up the stature of the perfect man: patience, kindness, generosity, humility,