

H.R. 2716, which is a critical step in addressing this shameful situation in our country. Among several other provisions included in this bill, H.R. 2716 authorizes 2,000 additional HUD section 8 low-income housing vouchers over 4 years for homeless veterans, establishes a grant program for homeless veterans with special needs, and establishes a limited dental provision for veterans using VA homeless programs. In addition, H.R. 2716 establishes evaluation centers for programs that serve homeless populations and requires annual program assessments to be submitted to Congress. These are just a few of the many critical provisions in H.R. 2716 that will help eliminate the problem of chronic homelessness among veterans. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation for the men and women who have sacrificed so much in defense of liberty and democracy.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2716, the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2001. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this timely appropriate legislation.

This legislation authorizes, in addition to the current existing program, 500 Department of Housing and Urban Development low-income housing vouchers per year for the next 4 years. Along with this, the bill also requires the Veterans Health Administration to increase the number of caseworkers so that all veterans who receive such a housing voucher can be seen by a case manager.

The legislation also requires the VA to ensure the accuracy of its reporting system on: the demand for services by homeless veterans, the level of understanding among grant recipients of their responsibility to serve homeless veterans, and the development of an evaluation system to analyze the progress of veterans enrolled in the program, and on the overall effectiveness of the various homeless programs. The Secretary is also given the authority to rescind or recover homeless grant funds from those programs that fail to meet their established guidelines for using such money with relation to offering services to homeless veterans.

In terms of specific funding, the bill provides \$60 million for fiscal year 2002 for the Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Grant and Per Diem Program, and raises this amount to \$75 million for fiscal years 2003–2005. Moreover, it also directs the VA Secretary to establish 10 new domiciliary for homeless veterans programs, and authorizes \$5 million per year for this purpose beginning in 2003.

Finally, the legislation strengthens and expands job training and counseling services offered through the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. Additional services are authorized through the creation of a demonstration project in six locations for veterans in institutional confinement, particularly those with substance abuse problems or mental illnesses. These services are designed to facilitate the successful reintegration of the veteran into productive society.

The issue of homeless veterans is one of our Government's more significant failures with regards to military and social policy. Every night thousands of veterans sleep on the streets or inside shelters. Additionally, many of these individuals have criminal

records, substance abuse problems, and are often mentally ill.

Simply put, this is inexcusable. These veterans answered their country's call to service in their prime years. We as a nation have an obligation to these men and women to ensure that they at least have a roof over their heads, and whatever assistance they may require to deal with the demons of mental illness or substance abuse. This bill takes a significant step toward this goal. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to lend it their wholehearted support.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank our distinguished chairman and ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee for crafting this bipartisan legislation that targets the specialized needs of a often-neglected population within the veterans community—the homeless—which has very little access to services. Last year, the VA issued a report on homeless veterans. It found that during 1999 there were an estimated 344,983 homeless veterans, an increase of 34 percent above the 1998 estimate. Many of our homeless veterans suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental illnesses in addition to drug addiction. Unfortunately, the VA has cut the number of inpatient beds in half.

Many have argued, and the committee has heard testimony to this effect, that the lack of inpatient beds has adversely affected the quality of care for veterans who suffer from substance abuse, many of whom are homeless. The VA admitted during a hearing that they have not met 1996 capacity requirements for substance abuse. So while I'm happy H.R. 2716 authorizes more resources for homeless programs and promotes greater accountability and oversight for these programs, I have concerns with some of VA's policies, which may hinder implementation.

In particular, the VA's move from inpatient hospital settings to community based clinics may have unintentionally turned homeless veterans away from treatment. Therefore, I hope this legislation will enable the VA to better serve this population through aggressive outreach efforts and to render much-needed services as quickly as possible.

The events of the past month have reminded us that our Nation's peace and security must be protected at any cost. Those men and women who answer the call to defend our democracy when it is under attack should be assured that we will take care of them during their time of crisis.

Mr. SMITH 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. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2716, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. 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.

FRANCIS BARDANOUVE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2876) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located in Harlem, Montana as the "Francis Bardanouve United States Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2876

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

SECTION 1. FRANCIS BARDANOUVE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 2nd Street, S.W. in Harlem, Montana, shall be designated and known as the "Francis Bardanouve United States Post Office Building".

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN 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 the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2876. This legislation, introduced by our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG), designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 2nd Street, Southwest, in Harlem, Montana, as the Francis Bardanouve Post Office Building.

Francis Bardanouve was a Montana State Representative from 1958 to 1994. He chaired the powerful House Committee on Appropriations for nearly 2 decades. His integrity and respect from his colleagues transcended party lines. He was a longtime farmer-rancher in Blaine County, Montana.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 2876, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), in consideration of this postal naming legislation, H.R. 2876, which names a Post Office in Harlem, Montana after Francis Bardanouve, which was introduced by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG) on September 10, 2001.

Francis Bardanouve represented Harlem, Montana for 36 years, most notably as chairman of the powerful House Committee on Appropriations. He was labeled a conservative Democrat who began his career in the Montana Legislature House of Representatives in 1959, serving until his retirement a few years ago. I want to thank the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG) for introducing this measure, and I would certainly urge swift passage.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking my colleagues from the Committee on Government Reform for favorably reporting this piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and the ranking member for expediting House Resolution 2876 that designates the Post Office building in Harlem, Montana as the Francis Bardanouve Post Office. I also thank the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), for scheduling this bill today.

It is important that from time to time we honor individuals within the circle of our communities, those whose lives quietly reflect the best that all of us reach for. Francis Bardanouve is such a person.

Francis's distinguished record in the Montana House of Representatives spanned 5 decades. When his career began in 1959, Dwight Eisenhower was President and George W. Bush was just another 12-year-old boy in Midland, Texas.

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Francis was born, raised, educated in Blaine County, Montana. His roots entwine back to a Prussian bandmaster on one side of his family and a French farmer on the other. Besides serving actively as a legislator, Francis has worked hard his whole life as a farmer, a rancher, a husband, and a father.

Having had the privilege of serving three sessions with Francis in the Montana House, I can sum up his public service simply: common sense and compassion. He was both tight-fisted

and kindhearted. As a long-serving Democrat chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, Francis said, "I voted against things I'd like to support. I left frustrated at times because there were things I'd like to do, but we didn't have the money."

Former Montana Governor Ted Schwinden reaffirms this by stating: "Francis was more parsimonious with the taxpayers' dollar than any other chairman over the years."

When Francis announced his retirement in 1999, the Montana House of Representatives passed a resolution honoring him and designating a "Francis Bardanouve Appreciation Day."

This resolution aptly stated: "Francis Bardanouve has never sought personal distinction or reward, but has had his leadership role cast upon him . . . The strong hands of Francis Bardanouve have played a major role in shaping the destiny of Montana."

By designating the Harlem, Montana Post Office the "Francis Bardanouve Post Office," we honor not only a good Montanan who quietly did his duty for many years, but we pay tribute to all those who honorably serve their community and this country day after day without expecting praise.

Public officials come and go, but Francis, please know that your deeds and service will remain forever engraved in the archives of our Nation, the post office in your community, and the hearts of your family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support of House Resolution 2876, and I include for the RECORD a news article regarding this legislation.

The article referred to is as follows:
[From the Independent Record, Apr. 15, 1993]
LAWMAKER HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE
(By Bob Anez)

Rep. Francis Bardanouve bowed his head and blushed Wednesday as he listened to a half-hour tribute from the Montana House commemorating his 34 years as a state lawmaker.

"It's almost overwhelming," he told legislators after hearing praise about his efforts during three decades in the House. "Whatever I have done is what you helped me do."

Bardanouve, a Harlem Democrat, was first elected to the Legislature in 1958 and has served as chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee in 10 sessions.

He will not run for re-election next year because the newly drawn legislative districts prevent him from seeking his current seat.

Gov. Marc Racicot read a proclamation declaring Wednesday "Francis Bardanouve Day."

The document lauded Bardanouve for faithfully and diligently serving the interests of the people in his district and the state. It calls Bardanouve a "living institution."

The House unanimously approved a resolution honoring Bardanouve's years of service and branding him "one of the Treasure State's living treasures."

The measure cites his sense of fairness, willingness to listen and ability to make informed decisions.

"Francis Bardanouve has always faced the legislative challenge with energy, wisdom, keen wit and a dedication to the common good," the resolution says. "Francis Bardanouve has never sought personal distinction or reward, but has had his leadership role cast upon him."

The resolution calls him a believer in equality, fairness and integrity, and adds, "The strong hands of Francis Bardanouve have played a major role in shaping the destiny of Montana."

Several former and present lawmakers who have sat next to Bardanouve over the years recalled their sessions with the Harlem farmer.

Speaker John Mercer, a Polson Republican who was 2 years old when Bardanouve first became a legislator, advised him, "Take great pride in your accomplishments."

"This House will always belong to you Francis," he added.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to commend the gentleman for honoring such an outstanding individual by naming a post office after former Representative Bardanouve.

I also want to thank him for educating many of us who did not know that there was a Harlem, Montana. Generally, when we think of Harlem, we think of New York. So we thank the gentleman on both counts.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this measure, H.R. 2876, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2876.

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.

EARL T. SHINHOSTER POST OFFICE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2261) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2853 Candler Road in Decatur, Georgia, as the "Earl T. Shinhoster Post Office."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2261

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

SECTION 1. EARL T. SHINHOSTER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2853 Candler Road in Decatur, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the "Earl T. Shinhoster Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other