

Judge Mahon is held in very high regard by his fellow jurists, who call him a wonderful judge who does a fantastic job, a fair-minded judge, and a judge with an excellent judicial temperament and demeanor. It is both fitting and proper that we honor the decades of dedicated work of this outstanding public servant by designating the courthouse in Fort Worth as the Eldon B. Mahon United States Courthouse.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the author of this legislation.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and I am pleased today to present to the House of Representatives legislation to designate the United States in downtown Fort Worth, Texas, as the Eldon B. Mahon United States courthouse. Judge Mahon has dedicated his life to public service and to justice.

Judge Mahon was born and raised in the West Texas town of Loraine. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and government from McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. Judge Mahon then attended the University of Texas Law School, where he graduated in 1942. He and his wife, Nova Lee Mahon, have three wonderful children, Jan, Martha and Brad.

Upon his graduation from law school, like so many of America's greatest generation, Judge Mahon served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. He gave America 40 months of dedicated service, including one year in the South Pacific as a captain with the Fifth Bomber Wing. After the war was over, he came back home to Texas and began his long and distinguished career in public service.

From 1945 to 1946, he served as the briefing attorney for the Texas Supreme Court. In 1947, he returned home to Mitchell County and successfully ran for county attorney. After 1 year, he was appointed District Attorney for the 32nd Judicial District of Texas covering Nolan, Mitchell, Scurry, and Borden Counties. After his years as District Attorney, Judge Mahon was elected to the bench as District Judge for the 32nd Judicial District, presiding over that court from 1961 to 1963. He then moved to Fort Worth to take a position as vice president of Texas Electric Service Company.

However, only after 1 year in the corporate world, the law called him back. He became a partner in the Abilene, Texas law firm of Mahon, Pope, and Gladdon.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas. Judge Mahon is a lifelong Democrat, but President Richard M. Nixon ap-

pointed him to the Federal Court for the Northern District of Texas in 1972. He reached senior status in 1989 and continues to be an active member of the Federal bench today at the very young age of 83.

□ 1430

During his years on the Federal bench, Judge Mahon presided over the racial integration of the Fort Worth School District. Judge Mahon considers this as the greatest accomplishment of his court.

Judge Mahon has tirelessly served every community of which he has been a part. He is a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, serving in most lay positions in Westcliff United Methodist Church in Fort Worth. He is a past president of the West Texas Girl Scout Council in Abilene and of the Colorado City, Texas, Lions Club.

Judge Mahon is a past member of the Board of Trustees at McMurry University in Abilene and served on the Board of Trustees for Harris Methodist Health System in Fort Worth. Currently, he serves on the Board of Trustees at my alma mater, Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. Judge Mahon has been a member of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth since 1988.

Judge Mahon has been recognized on numerous occasions for his outstanding service to the legal community. July 10, 1997, was declared "Judge Eldon B. Mahon Day" throughout Tarrant County, Texas, to commemorate his 25th anniversary as a Federal judge.

The Tarrant County Bar Association recently established the "Eldon B. Mahon Lecture Series on Ethics and Professionalism" at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law.

In 1998, Judge Mahon received the "Samuel Passara Outstanding Jurist Award" from the Texas Bar Foundation and last year, he was selected as one of 100 lawyers from the State of Texas as a 20th century "living legend" by the Texas Lawyer Magazine.

Judge Mahon has first and foremost been a family man. His wonderful family is a testament to that. Judge Mahon represents the values that call so many of us to public service: The importance of family, community, and the strong desire to serve his fellow Americans.

Naming the United States courthouse after Judge Mahon is an appropriate tribute to such a fine man and exceptional jurist.

I would like to thank several people who have been very supportive of this measure. First, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; as well as the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member; the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emer-

gency Management; and also the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO).

Madam Speaker, I would also like to thank all of the bill's cosponsors for their support. And, finally, I would like to thank the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) for his support of this effort.

Madam Speaker, there is no more deserving man than Eldon B. Mahon. I am honored to sponsor this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) for bringing this important legislation before the body; and I want to thank the chairman of our full committee, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), for helping us discharge it. And nothing happens important in the subcommittee without the help and counsel of the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), and I thank him for his help as well; and I urge Members to support the bill.

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 Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1801.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. GRANGER. 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.

#### RON DE LUGO FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 495) to designate the Federal building located in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, as the "Ron de Lugo Federal Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 495

*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 in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, shall be known and designated as the "Ron de Lugo 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 "Ron de Lugo Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 495 designates the Federal building in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas of the United States Virgin Islands as the "Ron de Lugo Federal Building." Ron de Lugo was born in Englewood, New Jersey in 1930. He attended school in Saints Peter and Paul School in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and Colegio San Jose, Puerto Rico.

Delegate de Lugo ably served in the United States Army as a program director and announcer for the Armed Forces Radio Service from 1948 until 1950. Following his military service, Delegate de Lugo continued working radio at WSTA St. Thomas and WIVI St. Croix. In 1956, he served as senator for the Virgin Islands, a position he held for 8 years; during which time he served as minority leader and member of the Democratic National Committee.

In 1968, Delegate de Lugo was named the Virgin Islands' representative to the United States Congress. While serving as representative to the Congress, Ron de Lugo successfully educated his colleagues about the people of the Virgin Islands. In 1973, Delegate de Lugo was elected to serve in the 93rd Congress before running for governor. He later returned to Congress in January 1981 when he was officially elected delegate to the 97th Congress from the Virgin Islands, a position he held until the conclusion of his career in 1995, when he did not seek reelection.

Delegate de Lugo served on the Committee of Public Works and Transportation and as vice chairman on the Aviation Subcommittee. I wholeheartedly support this piece of legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 495, a bill to designate the Federal building in Charlotte Amalie, U.S. Virgin Islands, in honor of our former colleague, Ron de Lugo.

Although Ron was a native of New Jersey, he spent his entire life working in and associated with the Virgin Islands. He attended St. Peter and Paul

School in St. Thomas and attended the College of St. Joseph in Puerto Rico.

In 1956, he began his public career when he was elected to the Territorial Senate. From 1961 to 1962, he served as administrator for St. Croix; and in 1963, he returned to the Territorial Senate and was minority leader for 3 years. In 1972, Ron became the first Virgin Islands delegate to the U.S. Congress and served until 1979. After an unsuccessful campaign for Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, he was once again elected to Congress in 1980 and served until 1995.

While in Congress, he was a tireless advocate for infrastructure improvements for the Virgin Islands. From his position on the Natural Resources Committee as chairman of the Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs, he was vigilant in assuring that Federal policies preserved the natural beauty of the islands. Ron also was supportive of all efforts to provide for full participation of residents of the Virgin Islands and Guam in the electoral process as well as equal treatment under various Federal programs.

Ron de Lugo fought for the rights and privileges for territorial delegates, and left his mark on the political development of the territories. He worked endlessly for his constituents and for full political status for the Virgin Islands. He was a real consensus builder, and he was well liked on both sides of the aisle.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Ron de Lugo's public service with this designation. I support H.R. 495 and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), the author of this legislation.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of legislation I sponsored to name the Federal building on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands after my predecessor and the person who originated the office, Ron de Lugo. It is fitting that Ron be given this honor for his over 30 years of service to the people of the Virgin Islands, 20 years of which was spent as a Member of this body.

Madam Speaker, Ron de Lugo's life has been almost entirely devoted to public service on behalf of the community in which his family put down roots more than a hundred years ago. The de Lugo family migrated from Puerto Rico to the Virgin Islands on April 26, 1879. Ron's grandfather, Antonio Lugo y Suarez was a merchant on St. Thomas, operating various wholesale and retail businesses. His father, Angelo de Lugo, who was born on St. Thomas in 1892, carried on the family business. Ron de Lugo was born on August 2, 1930.

Ron attended school, as you have heard, in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico; and after a tour of duty in the U.S. Army, he returned to St. Thomas where in 1950 he helped to start the first radio station, WSTA. It was at WSTA that he created the popular wise-comic character "Mango Jones," still fondly remembered 40 years later.

In 1952, Ron led the revival of Carnival, a community institution and a lasting legacy of his early years as a radio personality.

In 1955, Ron moved to St. Croix and the following year embarked on what was to become his life's work when, at 26, he was elected at-large to the Virgin Islands legislature, the youngest member to serve in that body. His local legislative career spanned 10 years, with one break to serve as St. Croix administrator. He served on the Democratic National Committee in 1959 and was selected as delegate to five Democratic National Conventions.

In 1968, Ron was elected at-large as the Virgin Islands' first Washington representative and was reelected to the post in 1970. In 1972, he was elected and seated as the first Delegate from the Virgin Islands in Congress.

The establishment of this office was a great step forward in the political development of the Virgin Islands and was achieved in large measure because of Ron's efforts here in Washington. He was reelected to Congress in 1974 and 1976 and left to run for governor in 1978.

Ron regained his seat in Congress in 1980 and was reelected every 2 years thereafter until his retirement in 1994.

With the organization of the 100th Congress in 1987, his hard-earned seniority qualified him for chairmanship; and he was elected to head the Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs because of its importance to the people of the territory.

It was as chairman of this distinguished subcommittee where Ron may have, in the words of one of his colleagues, "left an indelible mark on the history of the United States territories and the freely associated States." Among Ron's accomplishments in this regard were: the implementation of the Compact of Free Association which allowed the former Trust Territory of Palau to become the Republic of Palau on October 1, 1984; the legislation implementing the covenant between the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Compact establishing the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands; the first bill to pass either House of Congress concerning the political status of Puerto Rico; Public Law 102-247 which made it possible for the Virgin Islands and the other territories to receive the same benefits as States from FEMA whenever there was a disaster, as well as many others.

Throughout his political career, whether it was a right to write our own

constitution or the authority to exercise the people-power rights of initiative, referendum and recall, Ron has been at the forefront of successful efforts to win greater control of their own destiny for the people of the Virgin Islands. For these and many other accomplishments too numerous to mention, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Delegate Ron de Lugo by naming the Federal building on St. Thomas, the Ron de Lugo Federal Building.

Our appreciation and good wishes go out to him and his lovely wife, the former Sheila Paiewonsky of St. Thomas.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD).

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

Madam Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 495, the legislation by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands, a bill designating the Federal building located in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, as the Ron de Lugo Federal Building.

Madam Speaker, for a distinguished colleague who has devoted almost four decades towards public service in Washington and in the Virgin Islands, this honor is both timely and rightfully deserved.

I had the honor of working with Congressman de Lugo as a freshman in the 103rd Congress. At the time, he served as the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs having jurisdiction over the Caribbean, Pacific Island territories, the freely associated states, and those parts of the U.S. Department of Interior which had coordinating responsibilities for these areas.

□ 1445

As mentioned, he was tireless in his advocacy for increased levels of self-government, not only for all the U.S. territories but for those jurisdictions which ultimately came out of the trust territory of the Pacific Islands, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the covenant with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariannas. In that time that we worked together, I had been acquainted with his dedication to the U.S. territories. He had a great understanding of our home islands and the Federal Government's attention, or lack of attention, to the territories; the history of our people and our determination to right past injustices, our commitment towards political advancement.

He worked tirelessly on Guam issues, as well as Virgin Island issues, and I considered him my mentor as well as my friend.

It was very fitting that under the rules of the 103rd Congress, delegates

were allowed to vote in the Committee of the Whole House, and he was the first delegate in American history to preside over the Committee of the Whole House here in the House of Representatives.

A colorful figure in Virgin Island politics, Ron attended academic institutions in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland. He returned to St. Thomas in 1950 after a tour of duty with the U.S. Army and helped start WSTA, the first radio station in the Virgin Islands; and of course, it was here that he created the popular Mango Jones. So this building is for Mango Jones, a wise-alecky character still fondly remembered some 5 decades after its original inception.

Another lasting legacy attributed to our friend is the institution of the Virgin Islands' carnival that we know and enjoy today, and he led the revival of this community institution in 1952, exhibiting the leadership skills that would assist him in the lifetime of public service.

At the age of 26, he was elected at-large to the Virgin Islands legislature. Consistently elected by large pluralities, he served as a legislator for 10 years with one break to serve as St. Croix administrator. He was elected in 1968 and in 1970 to be the Virgin Islands' first Washington representative. Due in large part to Ron's efforts, the office of the Virgin Islands delegate to the U.S. House was established in 1972 and it was a parallel effort, along with the election of Guam's first delegate Antonio Won Pat, who worked very closely with Ron de Lugo, a giant step in both of our island territories' political development. He eventually became the first person elected to occupy this seat, and he was reelected in 1974, 1976, and again in successive elections from 1980 until his retirement in 1994.

Few political leaders can claim the record of accomplishment of Ron de Lugo. Fewer still can boast of friends stretching from the far-flung reaches of the Caribbean to the western-most of U.S. territories and U.S.-affiliated islands in the Pacific. Throughout his political career, he made sure that his colleagues in the territories knew that he was one of us; that we were fashioned from the same mold; that he had walked in our shoes; and that he was always there to be of assistance.

No amount of words and praise could adequately express our esteem for the endeavors and accomplishments of our former colleague, Ron de Lugo. He was a tireless advocate and great friend. He greatly deserves this honor, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 495.

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

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt this legislation, and I thank the subcommittee chairman for his support.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 495, a bill to designate the federal building in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, as the "Ron de Lugo Federal Building."

Mr. Speaker, I served with Congressman Ron de Lugo in this House from January, 1989 when I was first elected, until he retired in January, 1995. During that time he was Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs, and through his leadership the subcommittee resolved several then-pending unresolved issues. These bills were later enacted into federal law, and are today the governing authority setting federal policy in the insular areas.

I also had the pleasure of seeing Ron de Lugo represent the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands when I was a member of the staff of the Interior Committee in the 1970's. Throughout the time I knew him in Washington, D.C., he devoted himself to public service, serving both his constituents and the people of this nation. But this does not describe his service to this nation in total.

Ron de Lugo's public service began in 1956 when he was elected as a senator with the Virgin Islands legislature. With the exception of one two-year period, he served in elected positions until his retirement in 1995, a span of nearly 40 years!

Among the firsts in his career are that he was the first delegate Chairman of a Subcommittee in the Interior Committee, first elected at large Washington representative from the Virgin Islands, and the first seated delegate from the Virgin Islands in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Ron de Lugo will be long remembered as a key leader who shaped the political future of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Through his efforts, the people of the Virgin Islands have greater control over their own destiny, both with regard to their political status and development of social and economic conditions. Designation of the federal building in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands is a fitting tribute to this distinguished gentleman, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the measure, and 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 Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 495.

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.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EAST FRONT OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR PERFORMANCES SPONSORED BY KENNEDY CENTER

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree