

□ 1702

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL) at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

SPECIALIST JAKE ROBERT VELLOZA POST OFFICE

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 793) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 793

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

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST JAKE ROBERT VELLOZA POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza 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 "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 793, introduced by the gentlelady from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boule-

vard in Inverness, California, as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office." The bill is cosponsored by the entire California State delegation and was, favorably, without amendment, reported out of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform last Thursday, March 10.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we name this post office in Inverness for Army Specialist Velloza to honor a true American hero and his service to our country.

Jake Robert Velloza was born on June 21, 1986, in Santa Rosa, California; and he grew up in Inverness. From a young age, he knew that he wanted to serve his country in the military. His high school football coach recalled after his death: "He was set on his goals. He was one of those young men who knew what he wanted to do and did it. Service to his country is what appealed to him."

Specialist Velloza enlisted in the Army in 2006 and was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division based out of Fort Hood, Texas. Tragically, on May 2, 2009, Specialist Velloza was shot and killed by enemy forces while on his second tour of duty in Mosul, Iraq. He was 22 years old, and left behind his fiancée, Danielle Erwin, whom he had proposed to just 6 months prior to his tragic death. For his bravery and service to his country, Specialist Velloza was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, both of which were presented to his parents, Robert and Susan Velloza.

Mr. Speaker, having a father who fought and served in World War II, along with three brothers who are all combat veterans of the Vietnam war, it is a privilege for me to stand here today before this body and honor the memory of a true American hero. As the Representative of Florida's 12th Congressional District, I have the honor of representing many of our brave retired servicemembers who were based out of MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, just a few miles west of my district.

The men and women who were once based out of MacDill and those who currently work there have much in common with Specialist Velloza, a courageous young man who made the ultimate sacrifice promoting freedom and protecting our great Nation.

I am grateful for the service of Specialist Velloza and for all of those who serve and protect us each and every day. I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I would like to thank the gentleman for his kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 793, which would rename the

United States Postal Service facility at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, as the Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office Building.

The measure before us was first introduced by my colleague and friend, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY from California, on February 17, 2011. The bill is cosponsored by all 52 members of the California delegation. Further, H.R. 793 was taken up by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 10, 2011, and was reported out of the committee on the same day.

I would like to briefly highlight some of the achievements and honorable service of Specialist Velloza. The only son of Robert and Susan Velloza, Specialist Jake Velloza was a lifelong resident of Inverness, California. Specialist Velloza graduated from high school in 2004 and attended the College of Marin before enlisting in the Army in 2006. Specialist Velloza was a member of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division stationed out of Fort Hood, Texas. Army Specialist Velloza was serving in Mosul, Iraq, when he was killed in action by enemy fire on May 2, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of this young man's bravery and accomplishments, I ask that we pass the underlying bill without reservation and pay tribute to the commitment and sacrifice made by Specialist Velloza on behalf of our country.

I urge the passage of H.R. 793.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the lead sponsor of this measure, the gentlewoman from California, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor to introduce and shepherd to the floor H.R. 793, a bill paying tribute to an American hero in my home district.

On May 2, 2009, Army Specialist Jake Robert Velloza of Inverness, California, was shot and killed during an attack by Iraqi soldiers near the city of Mosul. He was 22 years old and on his second tour in Iraq. He was the only child of Bob and Susan Velloza. He was engaged to be married to Danielle Erwin, proposing to her on the Golden Gate Bridge, between deployments, 6 months before his death.

Jake was a stand-out athlete at Tomales High School like his father before him. He attended the College of Marin, and following in his grandfather's footsteps, worked at the North Marin Water District. Yet he knew from the time he was in his teens that he wanted to serve, and he joined the Army in 2006. Jake knew that he might not make it back home.

He left behind a moving poem, full of courage and grace, that was read at his funeral. In it, he comforted his family and his friends by saying: "Don't grieve for me now for I am free. Be not burdened with times of sorrow. I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow."

□ 1710

Mr. Speaker, I think everyone knows my strong feelings about our Nation's policies toward Afghanistan and Iraq, but my opposition to these wars is matched in intensity only by my admiration and support for the men and women risking their lives to fight them. And that's why, when members of Jake's church and others in the community approached my office about honoring his memory, we went right to work.

I was proud to introduce legislation last month to name the post office at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office." I am grateful to all my colleagues in the California delegation for cosponsoring and to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, especially Chairman ISSA, Ranking Member CUMMINGS, and Member LYNCH, for approving the bill last week.

I urge all my House colleagues to approve this designation with the hope that the Senate will soon follow to make sure this proud soldier's service and sacrifice are never forgotten. Please pass H.R. 793.

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

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I again urge all Members to support passage of H.R. 793.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Ross) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 793.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSS of Florida. 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.

PROVIDING FOR ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF GERALD R. FORD

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 27

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF GERALD R. FORD FROM THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN FOR PLACEMENT IN UNITED STATES CAPITOL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The statue of Gerald R. Ford furnished by the people of Michigan for

placement in the United States Capitol in accordance with section 1814 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 2131), is accepted in the name of the United States, and the thanks of the Congress are tendered to the people of Michigan for providing this commemoration of one of Michigan's most eminent persons.

(b) PRESENTATION CEREMONY.—The State of Michigan is authorized to use the rotunda of the Capitol on May 3, 2011, for a presentation ceremony for the statue accepted under this section. The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board shall take such action as may be necessary with respect to physical preparations and security for the ceremony.

(c) DISPLAY IN ROTUNDA.—The Architect of the Capitol shall provide for the display of the statue accepted under this section in the rotunda of the Capitol, in accordance with the procedures described in section 311(e) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 2132(e)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 27, providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol.

President Gerald R. Ford was a distinguished Member and minority leader of this Chamber, a man of the House. He was Vice President of the United States and our 38th President. A proud citizen of the great State of Michigan, President Ford served this Nation at a time of great national pain and turmoil. He ably served and helped us heal our wounds.

This resolution allows, at the direction of the people of Michigan, the Rotunda to be used for a ceremony in President Ford's honor on May 3 of this year. It also allows for the statue to be permanently displayed as part of the prestigious and historic national Statuary Hall collection.

Mr. Speaker, this concurrent resolution, introduced by my colleague from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and cosponsored by the other members of the Michigan delegation, should garner overwhelming bipartisan support. So I thank Mr. UPTON for introducing it, and I urge all my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 27.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I write to formally notify you that the Committee on House Administration hereby waives further committee consideration of H. Con. Res. 27, providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol, in order that the resolution may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

Sincerely,

DANIEL E. LUNGREN,
Chairman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Gerald R. Ford, Republican of Michigan, served as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1949 to 1973 and also served as House minority leader from 1965 until he was nominated by the President and confirmed by Congress to serve as President Richard Nixon's Vice President. Representative Ford was a highly respected Member who was well-liked by his colleagues. He was the first person actually selected to fill a vacancy in the Vice Presidency under provisions of the 25th Amendment.

Upon President Nixon's resignation in 1974, Mr. Ford assumed the Presidency and served until January 20, 1977. He is the only person to have served as President without first having won a national election.

Mr. Speaker, Title 2 of the United States Code allows each State to have no more than two statues of their choosing to represent their State in the national Statuary Hall collection in the U.S. Capitol. The Ford statue, like that of other former U.S. Presidents, will be displayed in the Capitol Rotunda following the presentation ceremony on May 3, 2011.

H. Con. Res. 27 follows the customary practice of accepting the statue into the collection and setting the date for use of the Rotunda for the ceremony. I urge all Members to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the original sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I certainly rise this afternoon in support of this resolution which authorizes the placement of a statue of President Gerald R. Ford in the Capitol Rotunda, with an unveiling ceremony which is set for May 3.

I'm pleased that this resolution has garnered the support of the entire Michigan delegation who have lent their names as original cosponsors. This is a testament to President Ford's high esteem among Michiganders and Americans of all political stripes.

As one who has the honor and privilege of representing some of the very