

Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 349, introduced in the Senate by Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4865 Tallmadge Road in Rootstown, Ohio, as the Marine Sgt. Jeremy E. Murray Post Office.

From a young age, Marine Corps Sergeant Jeremy E. Murray had a strong desire to join the military and to serve his country. According to his mother, Pam, Sergeant Murray talked constantly about wanting to join the military. In fact, he prepared so well for boot camp that he was able to break down a rifle faster than his superiors—something that didn't please his drill instructor.

Sergeant Murray joined the Marines in 1996, after graduating from Waterloo High School in Atwater Township. He was later assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, and served three tours of duty in Iraq.

Tragically, on November 16, 2005, Sergeant Murray was killed by a roadside bomb outside of Fallujah. Sergeant Murray was 27 years old and left behind his wife, Megan, and his son, Ian. He was awarded the Purple Heart, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and a Gold Star for his heroism.

In closing, I would like to read a quote from Sergeant Murray, as recalled by his father, Harold. Sergeant Murray told his father, "If I don't come home, Dad, you know I died proudly. I died for what I wanted to do. This is my lifetime dream."

America and I are grateful for Sergeant Murray's service to our country and for all our brave men and women in uniform who sacrifice so much for 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. CUELLAR. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform minority, I'm pleased to join my colleagues and my friend from Texas in consideration of S. 349, which asks that we designate a postal facility in Rootstown, Ohio, after Marine Sergeant Jeremy Murray, who faithfully served his country until his passing in

November of 2005 after his third tour of duty abroad.

S. 349 was introduced by Ohio State Senator SHERROD BROWN on February 15, 2011, and was passed by the Senate without amendment by unanimous consent on May 16, 2011. Congressman TIM RYAN from the State of Ohio introduced H.R. 725 also on February 15, 2011, which serves as a companion bill to the measure being considered currently.

Marine Sergeant Murray was a man who bravely served his country and was awarded the Purple Heart, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and a Gold Star for his heroic achievement in Iraq. His mother, Pam Murray, is a longtime employee of the same facility which S. 349 is naming in honor and memory of her son.

Mr. Speaker, with respect for his achievements and sacrifice for his country, I urge the swift passage of this measure, which will recognize Sergeant Murray's contribution to America by naming this postal facility after him.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I again urge all Members to support passage of S. 349.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 349.

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. FARENTHOLD. 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.

SCHERTZ VETERANS POST OFFICE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 771) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the "Schertz Veterans Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 771

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

SECTION 1. SCHERTZ VETERANS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Schertz Veterans 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 "Schertz Veterans Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 771, introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from south Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the Schertz Veterans Post Office.

This bill is cosponsored by the entire Texas delegation, and I'm a proud cosponsor myself, Mr. Speaker. It's altogether fitting and proper that we designate this post office in Schertz to honor those who have sacrificed so much for this Nation—our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend my colleague from Texas for introducing this legislation and also commend him for introducing H.R. 1318, the South Texas Veterans Health Care Expansion Act. I'm a proud original cosponsor of this legislation as well, which is vitally important to the veterans all over south Texas.

□ 1750

H.R. 1318 would expand health care for the more than 117,000 veterans who reside in far south Texas. Currently, without adequate medical facilities, many of these veterans are forced to drive over 6 hours to the nearest facility in order to receive needed medical care.

This is unacceptable and we can do better.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that this legislation passed the House last week as part of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012, and it is my hope that the Senate will act swiftly on this measure and that the President will soon sign this important bill into law.

The VA estimates nearly 49,000 veterans currently reside in the 27th Congressional District, which I am honored to represent. This makes up much of far south Texas, along with the district Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. HINOJOSA represent. According to the VA, Texas has an estimated 1.7 million veterans, and there are approximately 22.5 million veterans all across our Nation.

To the men and women who have served, thank you for all you have done and for the countless sacrifices that you have made. I am truly grateful for your service and for the hardships you and your families have endured. I am proud to stand in this Chamber and to

honor you here today with both bills, that of renaming the post office and our veterans' bill for south Texas. I urge all Members to join me in strong support of H.R. 771.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First of all, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from south Texas, along with Congressman RUBÉN HINOJOSA, and then on the Senate side, both Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON and Senator CORNYN. All of us have been working as a team, and have been working to improve the access to veterans in south Texas. I think my friend said it ably, that there is a need out there, and we are working together to make sure in a bipartisan way that we provide that health care to the veterans. And I certainly want to thank Mr. FARENTHOLD for all the leadership that he has provided. Thank you very much.

H.R. 771 will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the Schertz Veterans Post Office to honor those who have served in our Nation's defense. Many of us know someone who has served in the military: a friend, a family member, a parent, or a neighbor. Nearly 2 million veterans, almost 10 percent nationwide, call Texas home, and I thank them for their service. Our veterans have given full measures of devotion, sacrificing their time, their youth, in some cases their health, and in all cases time with their families. The Schertz Veterans Post Office will be located in the city of Schertz in Guadalupe County, which is connected with the military presence of Randolph Air Force Base nearby, which I represent.

Guadalupe County, in which Schertz resides, has the second-highest concentration of veterans in my district. Thousands and thousands of them live there in Guadalupe County. This legislation will name a landmark to serve as both a reminder and as a sincere "thank you" to the veterans at home and abroad. I urge the passage of H.R. 771 for all the brave men and women who have fought for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my good friend, the gentleman from Texas, Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT.

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I thank both of my colleagues from Texas for using this as an opportunity, not only to herald this important bill, but as well the importance of health care for our veterans in south Texas.

As a sponsor myself, through several sessions of this effort to strengthen health care in south Texas, I am pleased we are finally making some progress on it. We need to continue to redouble our efforts, whether it is there or at Audie Murphy, or at the burn center, or at Lackland, or, as with our success last Friday in Austin, Texas, where we broke ground on what will

become the largest veterans' outreach clinic to provide outpatient care for our veterans of any place in the entire United States.

Of course, what brings us principally here today is the bill that Congressman CUELLAR introduced and that I am a sponsor of, the bill to salute the veterans of Schertz, Texas, by renaming this as the Schertz Veterans Post Office. With so many in the Schertz area who have contributed so much to our Nation's freedom, there just aren't enough public buildings in Schertz to name all of them for the individual sacrifice that has occurred, so this bill very practically approaches the heroism and the contribution of so many veterans and their families in Schertz by renaming this building the Veterans Post Office.

Schertz' connection to our Armed Forces is a proud and storied history. Most of the community's growth began going back to a general store in the last century, in the 20th century. It began in the twenties and thirties with the Army's construction of what was then called in Hollywood and elsewhere the West Point of the Air, then Randolph Field before the Air Force was even formed.

Today, Randolph Field may be called Randolph Air Force Base and Schertz, Texas, may have had since 1990 a tripling of its population, but some things have not changed. One of those, since World War II—1946 and the end of that war, as the veterans were returning—has been the chartering and the continuation of the Veterans of Foreign War Post, commanded by Mike Espinola, and it is still a thriving heartbeat of community activities. Families are also still coming to Schertz, Texas. They're coming in droves. Even CNN recognized it as one of the best places to live anywhere in America.

So often, rapid change will divide rather than unite, and that could be especially true when you have people coming from, literally, all over the world to a community practically adjacent to a military base and otherwise filled with many commuters. But unlike so many other parts of our country, where folks return to the same street without a sense of neighborhood, the people in Schertz have maintained a community spirit that is reflected at the Schertz Family YWCA, which recently got the Strong Community award; at the many events families attend at Pickrell Park; or at a football game at Samuel Clemens High School. This renamed Veterans Post Office will help maintain that community spirit and will serve as an anchor and as a reminder of where Schertz came from, how it has grown, and the road ahead.

A while back, I stood at this very microphone to speak up for the renaming of a post office in south Austin on South Congress, which is the street that once connected San Antonio and Austin, for Sergeant Henry Ybarra, III, who was killed in Iraq. I remember the

dedication service that we had there, joined by the Catholic War Veterans, the American GI Forum, LULAC, and The Knights of Columbus Council, in addition to the family and friends of Sergeant Ybarra. It meant a great deal to them, and I believe that the same thing, the same kind of inspiration which they feel every time they go into that hub of community activity, will be realized as well in Schertz, Texas.

Our veterans, whether they wore uniforms last week or decades ago, understand a fundamental truth: That our military is the strongest in the world because of the spirit and the bravery of the men and women who put on that uniform. As a grateful Nation, we must continue to honor their service by meeting their health care needs and by taking steps like today in the renaming of the Schertz Veterans Post Office. I think it's a step in the right direction.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUELLAR. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas, my good friend and colleague, Mr. LLOYD DOGGETT, for his dedication, his passion, and his commitment to the veterans. For many years, he has been supporting the veterans, and has worked very hard. If there is anybody who works very hard for the veterans, it is my friend Mr. LLOYD DOGGETT, and I certainly want to thank you for cosponsoring this legislation.

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I too would like to thank the gentlemen from Texas for their ongoing and continuing support for the veterans.

There is not too much that we can do for the men and women who sacrifice time and again for our country. They sacrifice their time; they sacrifice their work; and sadly, in some cases, they are asked to sacrifice their lives. I stand in strong support of this bill, and urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 771, renaming the post office in Schertz, Texas, the Schertz Veterans Post Office.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 771.

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. FARENTHOLD. 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.

□ 1800

SPENCER BYRD POWERS, JR. POST OFFICE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 655) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the “Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. Post Office”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 655

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

SECTION 1. SPENCER BYRD POWERS, JR. POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the “Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. 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 “Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 655.

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

There was no objection.

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

S. 655, introduced in the Senate by Senator THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. Post Office.

Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr., was born on February 12, 1945, and grew up in Cary, Mississippi, a town that his family has called home for nearly a century. While growing up in Cary, Spencer Powers had a sense of duty and service ingrained in him by his father, uncle, and other relatives, all who bravely served our country during World War II.

During the mid-1960s, as the Vietnam War progressed, Spencer Powers decided it was time to step up and serve his country. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant and fought valiantly until his tragic death on February 8, 1968, during an offensive attack operation in South Vietnam. He was only 22 years old at the time and just a few days shy of his 23rd birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly grateful for each and every member of our armed

services that has paid the ultimate price and given the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and in defense of our Nation. Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr., and his family are a great example of the values that make this country a wonderful place, a country where sacrifice, duty, and a selfless desire to serve inspire and motivate people to a cause greater than themselves. To the Powers family and to all the others who have served, I say thank you.

I'd like to urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, minority, I also want to thank my colleague Mr. FARENTHOLD for the leadership that he's provided on managing this bill, and I am pleased to join my colleagues across the aisle in consideration of S. 655, which would name the United States Postal Service facility at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. Post Office.

The underlying bill before us was introduced by Senator THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi on March 28, 2011, and passed by the Senate on May 16, 2011. Our colleague, Representative BENNIE THOMPSON from the State of Mississippi, also introduced a companion bill to this measure in the form of H.R. 1072. Both measures aim to acknowledge and recognize the heroic service of Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr., by renaming the local post office in Cary, Mississippi, in his honor.

With his father and other relatives serving in our Armed Forces, Spencer Byrd Powers would continue their legacy by joining the United States Army, where he would serve this Nation honorably up until the point of his death. In 1968, Spencer Byrd Powers unfortunately would become the first member of his family not to return home from serving in war abroad. Spencer Byrd Powers was killed in an offensive attack operation in the Vietnam War.

I ask that we come together as Americans to honor Mr. Powers' sacrifice so that those who continue to serve after Mr. Powers can understand his commitment and his courage to serve on behalf of this beautiful country that we call America.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this fallen soldier and vote in support of passing H.R. 1072 to rename the Dogwood Street postal facility in Cary, Mississippi, as the Spencer Byrd Powers Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this Senate bill.

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I too urge all Members to support the passage of S. 655, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 655.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1632, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 771, by the yeas and nays;

S. 349, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SERGEANT CHRIS DAVIS POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1632) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5014 Gary Avenue in Lubbock, Texas, as the “Sergeant Chris Davis Post Office,” on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 0, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 460]

YEAS—396

Ackerman	Baca	Becerra
Adams	Bachmann	Benishkek
Aderholt	Baldwin	Berg
Akin	Barletta	Berman
Alexander	Barrow	Biggert
Altmire	Bartlett	Billbray
Amash	Barton (TX)	Bilirakis
Andrews	Bass (CA)	Bishop (GA)
Austria	Bass (NH)	Bishop (UT)