

9, 1868, South Carolina was readmitted to the Union. Joseph Rainey was recognized for his brilliance during the convention.

The following year, 1869, Congress passed the 15th Amendment granting the former slaves the right to vote and hold office. On February 3, 1870, the 15th Amendment was finally ratified by the States.

Joseph Rainey seized the opportunity; ran for Congress in the First District. Elected on December 12, 1870, Congressman Rainey remained a Member of this body until after President Rutherford B. Hayes ended Reconstruction, which gave rise to violence against African Americans.

Though Rainey was reelected in 1876, he did not seek office again, making him the longest-serving African-American Congressman during Reconstruction.

Madam Speaker, this is a remarkable story. I appreciate Mr. RICE, and Mr. CLYBURN, and the entire South Carolina delegation for offering this legislation to name the Post Office located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown as the Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 264.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the distinguished whip of the House of Representatives.

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Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 264, which will designate the post office located on Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building.

I am proud to join with the bill's lead sponsor, Congressman TOM RICE, and the other members of the South Carolina congressional delegation in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

This action builds on our efforts in the last Congress to honor the life and legacy of Joseph Rainey by naming H-150, the former House Committee on Indian Affairs room in the Capitol, in his honor.

These are just two of the long-overdue actions needed to amplify the historical significance of the first African American to serve in the United States House of Representatives.

Congressman Rainey was a trailblazer whose story and place in history have been overlooked. As a former his-

tory teacher who believes knowing our history is instructive so that we don't repeat the mistakes of our past, I would like to share with you my fellow South Carolinian's legacy.

Joseph Rainey, as you heard, was born enslaved in 1832 in Georgetown, South Carolina. His father was able to buy his family's freedom with earnings he made as a barber. As a freedman living in Charleston, Rainey was conscripted by the Confederacy in 1862. Rather than fighting to preserve slavery, he and his family fled to Bermuda, where he worked as a barber until the end of the war.

Rainey returned to South Carolina after the Civil War and served, as you heard, as a delegate to the 1868 South Carolina Constitutional Convention. He was elected to the State senate in 1870. Later that year, he was elected to Congress in a special election and was sworn into Congress on December 12, 150 years ago, becoming the first Black to serve in the House of Representatives.

He was the first of several African-American Members of this body during Reconstruction, when the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were enforced, however imperfectly, by the power of the Federal Government.

But Reconstruction was short-lived. Jim Crow laws and white supremacists dismantled multiracial democracy with voter suppression, nullifications, and violent insurrection. Federal troops were withdrawn from the South following widespread white supremacist violence during the 1876 election and the subsequent election of Rutherford B. Hayes as President.

Joseph Rainey spoke out against the removal of Federal protection of voting rights, but in 1878, he lost reelection to former Confederate officer John Smythe Richardson in a district that was, like South Carolina, majority Black.

Severe gerrymandering reduced the number of Black South Carolinians in Congress to one in the 1890s. When George Washington Murray lost his bid for reelection in 1897, South Carolina's representation in Congress was again all White and remained all White for the next 95 years.

Segregation and Black disenfranchisement were the law of the land until the 1960s. But thanks to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its 1982 amendments, I was elected to this august body in 1992.

Today, Congress is still grappling with racial issues, voter suppression, and, as we witnessed last month, domestic terrorism.

It is fitting and proper that we are taking this step as we are celebrating Black History Month. I believe we would do well to learn some of the lessons of American history through Joseph Rainey's experiences, and I hope today's action will help illuminate his story and cause us all to reflect on his legacy. We must not allow the progress we have made toward racial equity

since the 1960s to retrogress, as it did after the 1860s.

To truly honor the contributions of Joseph Rainey and all African Americans, we must build on this progress by working together to address our country's longstanding racial inequities and fulfill the promise of liberty and justice for all.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and am prepared to close.

It is a real honor to be here today, and the distinguished whip is correct that this is long overdue, to recognize Joseph Rainey and his accomplishments.

He fought tirelessly for civil rights and education and opportunity. He fought for freedom for every working American in this country. To be here today in Black History Month to recognize his legacy and his legend, he will not be forgotten, and we ensure that today.

I hope that future generations of South Carolinians and Americans across the country can be inspired by his courageous leadership here in this House. I urge my colleagues to support this bill today.

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

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I want to make sure that I mention my appreciation to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for the way they succinctly captured a great swath of American history over the period of time that followed Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 all the way up to the beginning of the Black Codes and the failing of Reconstruction, an era that held great hope for this country but did not come to pass and really was not evidenced until many, many decades later, as Mr. CLYBURN pointed out.

I am happy and honored to bring this measure forward. I want to thank the gentlewoman from South Carolina for all of her efforts and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE) for their work advancing this.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge the passage of H.R. 264. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 264.

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.

JIM RAMSTAD POST OFFICE

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 772) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South

in Wayzata, Minnesota, as the “Jim Ramstad Post Office”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 772

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

SECTION 1. JIM RAMSTAD POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the “Jim Ramstad 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 “Jim Ramstad Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) and the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 772 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, and I hope I am pronouncing that correctly, as the Jim Ramstad Post Office.

Jim Ramstad was born in Jamestown, North Dakota, on May 6, 1946. He was a graduate of the University of Minnesota and the George Washington University Law School, as well as a member of the Army Reserve from 1968 until 1974.

Jim became a State senator in 1981. There, he began shaping his personal and political life around the principles of recovery, honesty, resilience, transparency, and accountability.

Jim Ramstad would then go on to serve in the Minnesota State Senate for 10 years before ultimately becoming a Member of this body, the United States House of Representatives, representing Minnesota's Third District.

In the Congress, he was a consensus builder, championing the bipartisan policies needed to reduce discrimination against those suffering from mental health and addiction problems.

His signature legislation, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health Treatment Act, was enacted in 2008 just before Jim retired from Congress. After retiring, he served as a fellow at Harvard University and as an adviser to Minnesota's Hazelden treatment center.

Representative Ramstad lived the final 39 years of his life in absolute and

complete sobriety. His story is the story of recovery, impacted in a way that many of us will not understand, but impacting the lives of Minnesotans and Americans. He died November 5, 2020, after battling Parkinson's disease for some time.

Naming a post office for Jim Ramstad is an entirely appropriate measure, given his distinguished political career and contributions to his State and to his country.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 772, a bill that would name a Minnesota post office after Jim Ramstad.

From 1968 to 1974, Jim Ramstad served as a member of the Army Reserve. In 1981, he was elected to the Minnesota State Senate, where he would go on to serve for 10 years. He was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented Minnesota's Third Congressional District.

During his time in Congress, he strove to reduce discrimination against those suffering from mental health and addiction problems. He retired from Congress in 2009 and went on to serve as a fellow at Harvard University and as an adviser to Minnesota's Hazelden treatment center.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill honoring an inspiring American leader that proves that everyone deserves a second chance.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS).

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 772, to designate the post office in Wayzata, Minnesota, on the shores of Lake Minnetonka as the Jim Ramstad Post Office.

Congressman Ramstad spent 10 years representing the 45th District in the Minnesota Legislature and 18 years representing Minnesota's Third District in this Chamber. As the current Representative for Minnesota's Third, I am humbled to have followed in the footsteps of such a gentleman, public servant, and statesman.

Throughout his life in public service and throughout his entire life, Jim led with principle, with compassion, and with grace. His battle with and recovery from alcoholism gave voice to millions of Americans facing the very same challenge and illuminated every aspect of his life and his service.

From the statehouse to this House, Jim embodied the spirit of honesty, resilience, transparency, and accountability. He was a noted consensus seeker and a champion of bipartisan policies to reduce discrimination against those suffering from mental health challenges and addiction. His signature

legislation, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health Treatment Act, was enacted in 2008 just before his retirement from Congress.

□ 1630

Congressman Ramstad will go on to continue his service as a fellow at Harvard University, and as adviser to Minnesota's Hazelden treatment center. He lived the final 39 years of his life in sobriety.

Congressman Ramstad passed away on November 5, 2020, after a battle with Parkinson's disease.

Naming a post office in Wayzata is a small gesture to commemorate the passing of a giant of Minnesota politics. But as former Minnesota State Senator and Jim's former district director, Paul Anderson, told me: “Jim loved Wayzata, and Wayzata always loved Jim back.”

So I send my love to Jim's wife, Kathryn, and to all of his family and friends and colleagues who continue to mourn his loss.

May his memory be for a blessing. May his spirit and legacy of bipartisanship—and I note that Jim was a Republican and I am a Democrat—inspire this Congress. May his name grace the post office in the town he loved and the town that loved him back for generations to come.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) for his leadership on this effort, for his leadership in the House, and for reminding me, especially, that the post office will reside in Wayzata, appropriately.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers on this side. I urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 772.

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.

JOSE HERNANDEZ POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 813) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 Sunset Road Southwest in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the “Jose Hernandez Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 813

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

SECTION 1. JOSE HERNANDEZ POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050