

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. 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 Kansas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the largest single purchaser of goods and services in the world, Federal agencies acquire billions of dollars of personal property, ranging from office supplies to automobiles, each year. Unfortunately, agencies routinely and wastefully dispose of excess personal property that could otherwise be repurposed for continued Federal agency use.

Agencies are already required to consider the availability of excess personal property before buying new products. This excess personal property is available to agencies at no cost, apart from any necessary transportation expenses.

In a June 2022 report, the Government Accountability Office found that agencies are continuing to acquire new property while not using available excess personal property. GAO's findings indicate that the guidance in the existing Federal Management Regulation, or FMR, alone may not be sufficient.

With better direction from Congress, agencies can be more efficient in leveraging excess personal property to meet their needs and ultimately save taxpayer dollars.

The Reuse Excess Property Act would hold agencies more accountable toward efficiently using and reusing personal property by introducing transparency and accountability mechanisms.

Specifically, this bill would reform existing statutory reporting requirements to the General Services Administration on excess personal property and require GSA to make this information publicly available. This will help decisionmakers and taxpayers better understand the extent to which agencies are working to cut wasteful spending through the use of excess property, informing future policy.

Because GAO found that agencies have varied guidance on the use of excess personal property that often neglects essential FMR components, S. 2685 would require agencies to publicly report their guidance. Such guidance must include essential FMR components outlined by GAO. Agencies must also designate an employee as responsible for searching through available excess personal property for items that meet agency needs.

In response to GAO's report, in February 2023, GSA convened the first meeting of an interagency working group to assess how agencies acquire personal property, uncover obstacles, and recommend improvements to policies for acquisition professionals. This bill would require GSA to make the findings of that working group, including a general summary, publicly available to provide full transparency into efforts to promote the maximum use of excess personal property.

In conclusion, this bill shines a light on agency practices and could incentivize more efficient use of excess personal property, saving untold taxpayer dollars in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MCCLAIN for her leadership on the House companion of this legislation, H.R. 8276.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1230

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Reuse Excess Property Act, which would dramatically increase transparency across the Federal Government by strengthening Federal reporting requirements about excess personal property.

I commend Senators PETERS and LANKFORD for introducing it and Chairwoman MCCLAIN and Ranking Member KATIE PORTER for introducing the House counterpart.

The Federal Government has amassed billions of dollars in personal property, including furniture, things like chairs and desks, vehicles, office supplies, and medical equipment. Billions of dollars means a lot of tables and chairs and computers.

Federal agencies are required to survey and index their inventories of personal property annually and identify items they no longer need.

This accounting enables agencies to have a better understanding of excess items that could be considered for use in other Federal agencies or institutions, which is obviously the prudent thing to do.

The GAO identified \$3.9 billion in excess personal property between FY 2016 and FY 2020 and found an additional \$28.9 billion in excess personal property items that were reported but not obtained by other agencies.

These excess items could be transferred to other Federal agencies and departments, distributed to a State or local government, or even sold to the public. It shouldn't just be sitting there.

The Reuse Excess Property Act would increase Federal reporting requirements to Congress and the public and provide greater transparency of acquisition, monitoring, reuse, and disposal of personal property across the whole Federal Government. It directs the GSA and Federal agencies to report

annually to Congress data that it collects related to excess personal property and would also make this data publicly available to all of us.

This greater transparency around Federal use of personal property may help agencies make far more efficient use of these items.

We support this financially prudent and commonsense bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, we urge all of our colleagues to support this legislation and for all Federal agencies to cooperate and aggressively participate in this program.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2685.

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.

ROBERT HAYDEN POST OFFICE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3639) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the "Robert Hayden Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3639

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

SECTION 1. ROBERT HAYDEN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Robert Hayden 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 "Robert Hayden Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. 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 Kansas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3639, which names a post office in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for Robert Hayden.

Hayden was born in Detroit, Michigan, where he attended Detroit City College, now Wayne State University, before going on to earn a master of arts degree from the University of Michigan.

During his lifetime, he published nine collections of poetry with much of his work touching on the Black American experience.

In 1969, he began to teach at the University of Michigan, becoming the first Black faculty member in the university's English department.

In 1976, he became the first African American to be appointed consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress, a position that is known today as poet laureate.

Hayden passed away in 1980 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to echo the gentleman from Kansas in expressing support for S. 3639 for the naming of the post office after Robert Hayden.

My colleague stated well his career. He did publish nine different collections of poetry, including the very well-reviewed "Heart-Shape in the Dust," "Figures of Time," and "A Ballad of Remembrance."

His writings leaned on his own study of American history, exploring the complexities of the Black American experience and situating it within the broader context of the development of the American story.

In 1976, Hayden made history when he became the first African American to be appointed as a consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress.

He passed away in 1980 in Ann Arbor.

I urge all my colleagues to honor the life of Robert Hayden and his career in literature by naming a post office in Ann Arbor, Michigan, after this distinguished writer.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill naming a post office for Robert Hayden, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3639.

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.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER JEFFERSON POST OFFICE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3640) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3640

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

SECTION 1. LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER JEFFERSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson 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 "Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. 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 Kansas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3640, which names a post office in Mount Clemens, Michigan, for Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson.

Jefferson served in the military during World War II, completing combat training at Selfridge Field in Mount Clemens and pilot training at the Tuskegee Army Airfield.

During his time with the Tuskegee Airmen, Jefferson was shot down over France and captured by Nazi ground troops. He was imprisoned in German-occupied Poland before being freed by General George Patton's U.S. Third Army.

Jefferson returned to Michigan where he became a U.S. Postal Service letter carrier, earned a teaching certificate, and obtained a master's degree in education from Wayne State University.

Jefferson taught elementary school science in Detroit, was appointed assistant principal, and retired in 1979 after 31 years of service to Detroit Public Schools.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3640.

Lieutenant Jefferson was born in 1921 in Detroit, Michigan.

After graduating from Chadsey High School and earning his bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from Clark College, he was accepted into the Aviation Cadet Training Program in the U.S. Army Corps. He completed combat training in Michigan and pilot training at the Tuskegee Army Airfield.

Jefferson served the cause of democracy and freedom faithfully in World War II in our struggle against fascism and totalitarianism in Europe.

As a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, he was shot down and captured by Nazi troops. He suffered great hardship as a prisoner of war in Nazi-occupied Poland until he was finally freed by General George Patton's Third Army, which was busy liberating people from fascists all over Europe.

When he returned home from war, Jefferson took a job as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He later earned his teaching certificate and a master's degree in education at Wayne State.

He taught elementary school science in Detroit, was appointed an assistant principal, and in 1979 retired with 31 years of service in public education, as well as all of his years fighting for America and for freedom.

I urge my colleagues to honor the life and service of Lieutenant Colonel Jefferson by naming this post office in Mount Clemens, Michigan, after him.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I encourage my colleagues to support this common-sense legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3640.

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.

SOJOURNER TRUTH POST OFFICE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3851) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 McCamly Street South in Battle Creek, Michigan, as the "Sojourner Truth Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3851

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

SECTION 1. SOJOURNER TRUTH POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90