

as ranking member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies and chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, he distinguished himself with unwavering dedication to the defense and sustenance of our country.

What set DAVID apart was his precious ability to work across the aisle, and this is a legacy other Members could do well to learn from. He not only valued bipartisanship, but he thrived on it. His achievements from the shores of Normandy, France, to Springfield, Ohio's betterment are a testament to his profound tenacity, legacy of service, and leadership.

His wit and humor brought light to our discussions, and his insights were invaluable.

We all will sorely miss his visits, his laughter, and his unceasing efforts to improve the living conditions for his constituents and all of America.

Today, all of us extend our deepest sympathies to his beloved wife, Carolyn; his children, Susan, Lynn, and Doug; and his family, constituents, and friends.

As we remember Congressman HOBSON today, let us carry forward his exemplary spirit of service and dedication, and may his soul rest in eternal peace. May his legacy inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues if they could please join us in a moment of silence in recognition of his good life.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for calling to the attention of our colleagues the distinguished service of DAVID HOBSON.

When she said he worked across the aisle, that is exactly what he did, with respect for the dignity and the views of all of us in this body.

I had the privilege of traveling with him to theaters of war, with him and Jack Murtha, his pal. I have had the joy of enjoying the candy that he would bring from Ohio, saying it was the best chocolate candy ever.

I also had deep gratitude to him for what he did to help us with the Presidio in San Francisco, for our appropriations funding, again reaching across the aisle.

This was a very special person, a person full of joy but very serious about the legislation and very committed to bipartisanship in the body. It was an honor to serve with him. I join in extending condolences to his family.

Mr. Speaker, I thank his family for sharing him with us. DAVID HOBSON was a blessing to our country.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EDWARDS). 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 votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### GAO INSPECTOR GENERAL PARITY ACT

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1510) to amend provisions relating to the Office of the Inspector General of the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1510

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "GAO Inspector General Parity Act".

#### SEC. 2. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT- ABILITY OFFICE.

Section 705 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting "(A)" before "The Inspector General";

(ii) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by striking the second sentence; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) If the Inspector General is removed from office or is transferred to another position or location within the Government Accountability Office, the Comptroller General shall communicate in writing the substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons, for any such removal or transfer to both Houses of Congress (including to the appropriate congressional committees), not later than 30 days before the removal or transfer.

"(C) If there is an open or completed inquiry into the Inspector General that relates to the removal or transfer of the Inspector General under subparagraph (A), the written communication required under subparagraph (B) shall—

"(i) identify each entity that is conducting, or that conducted, the inquiry; and

"(ii) in the case of a completed inquiry, contain the findings made during the inquiry.

"(D) Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a personnel action otherwise authorized by law, other than transfer or removal."

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3)(A) Subject to the other provisions of this paragraph, only the Comptroller General may place the Inspector General on non-duty status.

"(B) If the Comptroller General places the Inspector General on non-duty status, the Comptroller General shall communicate in writing the substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons, for the change in status to both Houses of Congress (including to the appropriate congressional committees) not later than 15 days before the date on which the change in status takes effect, except that the Comptroller General may submit that communication not later

than the date on which the change in status takes effect if—

"(i) the Comptroller General has made a determination that the continued presence of the Inspector General in the workplace poses a specific threat; and

"(ii) in the communication, the Comptroller General includes a report on the determination described in clause (i), which shall include—

"(I) the substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons, for the determination made under clause (i);

"(II) an identification of each entity that is conducting, or that conducted, any inquiry upon which the determination under clause (i) was made; and

"(III) in the case of an inquiry described in subclause (II) that is completed, the findings made during that inquiry.

"(C) The Comptroller General may not place the Inspector General on non-duty status during the 30-day period preceding the date on which the Inspector General is removed or transferred under paragraph (2)(A) unless the Comptroller General—

"(i) has made a determination that the continued presence of the Inspector General in the workplace poses a specific threat; and

"(ii) not later than the date on which the change in status takes effect, submits to both Houses of Congress (including to the appropriate congressional committees) a written communication that contains the information required under subparagraph (B), including the report required under clause (ii) of that subparagraph.

"(D) Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to limit or otherwise modify any statutory protection that is afforded to the Inspector General or a personnel action that is otherwise authorized by law."

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking "The Comptroller General" and inserting the following:

"(1) PROHIBITION.—The Comptroller General"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) BUDGET INDEPENDENCE.—The Comptroller General shall include the annual budget request of the Inspector General in the budget of the Government Accountability Office without change."; and

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the second sentence, by striking "except that no personnel of the Office may be paid at an annual rate greater than \$1,000 less than the annual rate of pay of the Inspector General"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) LEGAL ADVICE.—The Inspector General shall, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations governing selections, appointments, and employment at the Government Accountability Office, obtain legal advice from a counsel reporting directly to the Inspector General or another Inspector General."

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. 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 Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1510, the GAO Inspector General Parity Act.

Two years ago, Congress passed sweeping bipartisan reforms for the inspector general community. Those reforms, passed in the fiscal year 2023 NDAA, provided critical reforms to enable both the independence of Federal agency inspectors general and proper congressional oversight over their activities.

As a legislative branch entity, the Government Accountability Office's inspector general was not included in those reforms. H.R. 5300 fixes that by providing the GAO inspector general the same resources and oversight now provided to other IGs across the government.

Those reforms include requiring the head of GAO to notify the Congress if the GAO inspector general is to be removed or transferred, providing Congress the knowledge it needs to weigh in on such decisions if necessary.

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 H.R. 1510, the GAO Inspector General Parity Act. I commend both Senator MICHAEL BRAUN for introducing the bill and also my colleagues, Representatives ROBERT GARCIA and LISA MCCLAIN, for introducing the House companion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) to explain the bill.

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Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House to pass the bipartisan Government Accountability Office Inspector General Parity Act.

The GAO, of course, is an independent, nonpartisan agency responsible for monitoring government operations to detect waste, fraud, and abuse.

Like other Federal agencies, the GAO has an inspector general watching over their operations, conducting audits, improving efficiency, and ensuring the agency follows the law.

Congress has in the past several years made important reforms to strengthen the inspectors general systems for all of our agencies, to guarantee their independence, and to make sure they have the resources and the tools that they need.

Those reforms regrettably did not apply to the GAO. Our bill is a simple and bipartisan fix to correct these oversights.

Among other reforms, we are going to ensure the GAO has the independent general counsel they need to communicate budget requests directly to Congress without any sort of interference.

The bill did pass the Senate unanimously, thanks to the Senate sponsors, Senator and now Governor-elect MIKE BRAUN and Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Chairman GARY PETERS.

In the House, I am grateful for the support of Chairman COMER, Ranking Member RASKIN, and my House co-lead, Representative LISA MCCLAIN of Michigan.

This bill passed unanimously by voice vote from the Oversight Committee, and I urge adoption of this long overdue bill to send to the President's desk and urge it to become law.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this bill, and I am prepared to close.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has the only time remaining.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this commonsense bill to support the GAO Inspector General in carrying out their oversight mission.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1510.

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.

#### DESSIE A. BEBOUT POST OFFICE

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2274) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 Wyoming Street in Shoshoni, Wyoming, as the "Dessie A. Bebout Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2274

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

#### SECTION 1. DESSIE A. BEBOUT POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 Wyoming Street in Shoshoni, Wyoming, shall be known and designated as the "Dessie A. Bebout 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 "Dessie A. Bebout Post Office".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. 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 Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2274, which would name a post office in Wyoming for Dessie A. Bebout, and I encourage support from both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, 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. 2274. Dessie Bebout was a lifelong public servant, and this legislation would honor her legacy by naming a post office in Shoshoni, Wyoming, after her.

We support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill honoring a veteran and a local postmaster, Dessie A. Bebout.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2274.

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.

#### FIRST LIEUTENANT THOMAS MICHAEL MARTIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3267) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Dakota Avenue South in Huron, South Dakota, as the "First Lieutenant Thomas Michael Martin Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3267

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

#### SECTION 1. FIRST LIEUTENANT THOMAS MICHAEL MARTIN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Dakota Avenue South in Huron, South Dakota, shall be known and designated as the "First Lieutenant Thomas Michael Martin Post Office Building".

(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 "First Lieutenant Thomas Michael Martin Post Office Building".