

Whereas on November 16, 2007, the State of Oklahoma will begin a new century of statehood: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress recognizes and celebrates the centennial of Oklahoma statehood and wishes its people another hundred years of continued growth, prosperity, and achievement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H. Con. Res. 254, a resolution recognizing and celebrating the centennial anniversary of Oklahoma statehood.

H. Con. Res. 254 was introduced by Representative MARY FALLIN of Oklahoma on November 13, 2007, and reported from the Oversight Committee on December 12, 2007, by voice vote. This measure, which has been cosponsored by 55 Members, has the support of the entire Oklahoma delegation.

Friday, November 16, 2007, marked Oklahoma's centennial celebration. The Sooner State has played a significant role in the development and history of our Nation and will continue to be a cornerstone of the independent spirit that makes our country great.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Oklahoma's past achievements, current accomplishments, and the State's goodwill as it continues into the future. I urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 254, which recognizes and celebrates the 100th anniversary of Oklahoma statehood.

Mr. Speaker, Oklahoma is a State that takes energy production so seriously that it has oil wells on the grounds of the Governor's mansion. It is a State people were so anxious to move into that they jumped the gun in claiming homesteads and entered sooner. That is where the nickname comes from, the Sooner State.

Mr. Speaker, at a time in which energy independence is talked about but not achieved, in which States like our own, California, are major energy producers but less than half of the oil that it consumes, Oklahoma continues to aggressively find the resources that lie beneath it and to make it available for us.

Additionally, throughout its heartache, Oklahoma has given us Gene

Autry. I won't skip over Brad Pitt. It has given us music. It has given us both country and a number of other great venues. But, most of all, it gave us J.C. Watts, the longest winning streak in history in college football, and they are proud of it. And, last but not least, it gave us Will Rogers.

So as we look at Oklahoma, a State that takes oil seriously, that in fact was rushed into because it was such a great place, I also join with my colleagues in supporting this resolution recognizing that, after 100 years, Oklahoma is still a meaningful and important part of this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 254. The question was taken.

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

Ms. NORTON. 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.

□ 1300

LANCE CORPORAL DENNIS JAMES VEATER POST OFFICE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3911) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Church Street in Jessup, Pennsylvania, as the "Lance Corporal Dennis James Veater Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 3911

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

SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL DENNIS JAMES VEATER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Church Street in Jessup, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Lance Corporal Dennis James Veater 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 "Lance Corporal Dennis James Veater Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

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

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3911, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Church Street in Jessup, Pennsylvania, as the "Lance Corporal Dennis James Veater Post Office."

H.R. 3911 was introduced by Representative CARNEY of Pennsylvania on October 22, was reported from the Oversight Committee on December 12 by voice vote. This measure which has been cosponsored by 18 Members has the support of the entire Pennsylvania congressional delegation. Lance Corporal Veater was wounded in Anbar province, Iraq, and died of his wounds in Fallujah, Iraq. The mission was believed to be his last mission just 2 weeks before returning home.

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

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I join with my colleague from the District of Columbia in supporting the naming of this post office after Lance Corporal Dennis Veater. He was a dedicated marine who enlisted in 2004 upon his high school graduation and entered the Marine Corps Reserve at age 17, following in the footsteps of his marine sergeant major father. Lance Corporal Veater wanted to serve his country, and he wanted to make a difference.

On March 9, 2007, just 2 weeks before his scheduled return to the United States, Lance Corporal Veater was mortally injured while conducting combat operations in Anbar province, Iraq.

He leaves behind his fiancée, whom he planned to marry upon his return, and his 14-month-old son, Dominick.

Lance Corporal Veater did not die in vain. Today Anbar province is safer because of the work he and the other marines did there. I join with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in thinking it is very important to remember this man and the work he did for his family back home.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) such time as he may consume.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman and appreciate the comments of our friends on the other side.

Dennis Veater is somebody we are very proud of from the 10th District, and I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3911.

I would like to take a moment to talk about and honor Dennis Veater

and those from Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District. He was born in Quantico. He moved to Pennsylvania where he graduated from Abington Heights High School in 2004. At the age of 17 he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves. Dennis proudly followed in the footsteps of his father, a retired marine sergeant major.

Unfortunately, as we have already found out, 2 weeks before his scheduled return, he was mortally injured while conducting combat operations in the Anbar province, Iraq. He died of his wounds in Fallujah. Lance Corporal Veater died fighting for our freedom. He is truly a hero, and he represents what is best about Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

It is my hope by naming the post office at 95 Church Street in Jessup, Pennsylvania, as the Lance Corporal Dennis Veater Post Office, future generations will remember what this brave young man did for them.

I urge all Members of Congress to honor this hero and vote in favor of this legislation.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania for thinking to do something that we rarely see. We see post offices honoring Members of Congress, honoring judges, honoring very honorable people. But in my service on this committee, I have not seen a post office named for a young person who has died recently in battle. I do think it is an important way to indicate, particularly to the family, to what must surely be for many young men, many who knew him and looked forward to his returning in just 2 weeks from the time he died, that his memory will live not only with this Congress and in this resolution but also permanently with a United States Post Office in his honor.

We are pleased we were able to dedicate this resolution before the end of this Congress because this young man died just in March of 2007.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3911.

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.

PAUL E. GILLMOR POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2174) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2174

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

SECTION 1. PAUL E. GILLMOR POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "Paul E. Gillmor 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 "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in consideration of S. 2174, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building."

S. 2174 was introduced by Senator VOINOVICH of Ohio on October 17, 2007, and reported by voice vote on December 12, 2007. Congressman Gillmor was serving his 10th term in the United States House of Representatives representing the Fifth Congressional District in Ohio until his untimely death in September 2007.

I know that the entire House grieved and was shocked to learn that Representative Gillmor died right here at his home, the place where he prepared to come to this very House. He is very much missed on both sides of the aisle. This is a very appropriate way to remember this long-time Member of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Senator VOINOVICH for seeking to honor the legacy of our late colleague and offer condolences to the family of Representative Gillmor and his colleagues in the Ohio congressional delegation and those in his district. I urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield for such time as he may consume to the gentleman who now seeks to fill the shoes left by the passing of our col-

league and friend, Mr. Gillmor, Mr. BOB LATTA.

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2174 sponsored by Senators VOINOVICH and BROWN to name the United States Post Office in Tiffin, Ohio, after Paul E. Gillmor.

I first met the Congressman when he began his public service career over 40 years ago. Congressman Gillmor admirably served as a State senator, as president of the Ohio senate, and also of course as a United States Congressman since 1989. Congressman Gillmor cared for the people of his district and was dedicated to serving them.

I was taught by my father who served in this Chamber for 30 years that a true public servant is an individual who sees how much they can give of themselves to the people they represent, and I truly believe that Paul did exactly that. I think it is a fitting tribute to name a United States Post Office in Tiffin, Ohio, in his honor.

He unselfishly gave of his time and energy to serve the citizens not only of the Second Senate District but also the Fifth Congressional District for over 40 years.

It is truly an honor for me to follow the Congressman who served in this seat. I ask that this body approve the naming of this post office in the name of Congressman Gillmor.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I express once again the condolences of every Member of this House, and for that matter the commendation to our colleague for offering this commemoration to our colleague.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleague in urging support for this bill. I traveled extensively with Paul Gillmor. He was a close friend of Henry Hyde and loved to be an advocate for a better understanding not just of the State of Ohio, but of our Nation abroad. It is very befitting that we do this and do it in a timely fashion. I move support for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of S. 2174, to designate the U.S. Post Office at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building."

Mr. Speaker, I doubt I've ever had an easier sell when it comes to convincing my colleagues to support legislation.

As was noted repeatedly on this floor when Paul died on Sept. 5 at his home in Arlington, he was a man we all liked, even those of us on the other side of the political aisle.

A small-town banker, a businessman, a Vietnam War vet, a former Judge Advocate General, a husband and father of five, he was known to all of us as a man who worked hard for and cared deeply about his constituents, who spent most of his life in service to his country and who, just 12 days before his death, was touring flood-ravaged areas of his beloved Ohio and trying to see how he could help.

He was a moderate, an effective legislator and, most importantly and most memorably, a