

According to the National Academy of Sciences, an average of 820 students are killed annually during school transportation hours, but less than 2 percent of them are school bus passengers. Most of those killed are children aged 5 to 7, and most often those children are killed in the area immediately surrounding the bus, either by a passing vehicle or occasionally by the bus itself.

While school bus transportation is eight times safer than traveling in a passenger vehicle and is the safest form of ground transportation available, unfortunately, accidents still happen. An average of seven school-age passengers are killed in school bus crashes each year, and an average of 19 children are killed getting on and off the bus each year.

Many of our communities honor School Bus Safety Week through local and State poster and speech contests, lessons utilized in School Bus Safety Community Awareness kits and other activities built around themes that raise awareness of school bus safety issues.

It is my hope that our children will be safer than ever before, and that our children will safely get on and off and travel on these school buses each day, and that drivers in our communities will be mindful of the laws designed to protect our Nation's school bus passengers.

□ 1500

This is a business dominated by individuals and very small businesses. Most school bus drivers are stay-at-home moms, retired people or others who need some part-time income. They do a really outstanding job and provide a great community service in helping keep our school children safe, and H. Res. 498 will help promote and improve that safety even further.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, Mr. MARCHANT of Texas and as well as Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and urge a favorable vote of passage of the School Bus Safety Week. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Res. 498, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 498.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam 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 question will be postponed.

CAPTAIN GEORGE A. WOOD POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4962) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the "Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4962

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

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN GEORGE A. WOOD POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Captain George A. Wood 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 "Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Captain George A. Wood of New York was killed on November 20, 2003, while fighting the war on terror in Iraq. Wood was on patrol when his tank rolled over an improvised explosive device. At the time, he was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Growing up in New York's Mohawk Valley, Wood was a football and track star at Notre Dame Junior Senior High School in Utica, New York. He later went on to earn his degree from Cornell and completed his postgraduate work at both New York State University Colleges at Albany and Cortland. His lifelong dream was to teach history and coach football at West Point.

Captain Wood leaves behind his wife and daughter and many lifelong friends. His friends will always reminisce about his wonderful storytelling ability and his goodheartedness that was transparent in everything that he did.

I would urge all the Members to come together to honor Captain George Wood by passing H.R. 4962.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague Representative MARCHANT in support of H.R. 4962, legislation sponsored by Representative BOEHLERT which names a post office in Utica, New York, after Captain George A. Wood. H.R. 4962, which was cosponsored by the entire New York delegation, was unanimously approved by the Government Reform Committee on June 29, 2006.

George A. Wood, a native New Yorker, was by all accounts a stellar person. A graduate of Notre Dame Junior Senior High School in Utica, George was a high school track and football star. After high school, he graduated from Cornell University and went on to earn master's degrees from New York State University Colleges at Albany and Cortland.

A history buff who was fascinated with military history, George joined the military and was assigned to B company, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division based in Fort Hood, Texas.

Sadly, at age 33, Captain Wood was killed while on patrol in Baqubah, Iraq, on November 20, 2003, when his tank rolled over an improvised explosive device. Captain Wood is survived by his wife Lisa and daughter Maria.

Mr. Speaker, it is always difficult to learn of a soldier's death, but I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the legacy, sacrifice and accomplishments of Captain Wood by designating the Utica post office in his name. I note that Captain Wood's father and grandfather were postal employees at the Utica facility. How fitting.

Madam Speaker, I urge the swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

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

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Speaker, today we have the privilege of honoring our fallen hero, U.S. Army Captain George A. Wood. The bill before us would rename the Pitcher Street Post Office in Utica, New York, the George A. Wood Post Office Building, which is a fitting tribute to a man who paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom and our security.

Captain Wood bravely served our Nation in Iraq where he met an untimely death on November 20, 2003. However, his memory will live on. Every day, Captain Wood will be in the hearts of his family and his friends and his classmates and his comrades and our neighbors by virtue of the naming of this

public facility, this Federal facility in his honor.

He is survived by his wife Lisa and his 6-year-old daughter Maria, and to them we send the Nation's condolences on your great loss of yesteryear and our optimism on a more promising future because of what the Captain Woods do so often for so many.

Captain Wood was born and raised in upstate New York's beautiful Mohawk Valley. He was an accomplished athlete at Notre Dame Junior Senior High School, and if you are from our neck of the woods, you know those teams are just dynamite. He excelled at both football and track and field.

He was also, and this is very important, a superstar in the classroom. He graduated not just from Cornell University but later earned master's degrees from both the State University at New York in Albany and State University at New York in Cortland.

In the Armed Services, Captain Wood served for 8 years in the 4th Infantry Division in Fort Hood, Texas, and there he became fascinated with the history of our great military. As a matter of fact, Captain Wood dreamed of teaching history and coaching football at the West Point Military Academy. Had he not paid the ultimate price for our way of life, I am confident that he would have seen this dream become a reality.

Captain Wood's discipline, his love of learning and his fine character have made him a model citizen for all of his countrymen and generations to come, a true role model, a genuine American hero.

Both Captain Wood's father and his granddad worked at the Pitcher Street Post Office, so there is a special affinity for the post office in the Wood family, and it would be our utmost pleasure and distinct honor to designate the facility at Utica, New York, as the Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building in honor of a true American hero.

I want to thank my colleagues in the majority and the minority and on the committee for dealing with this very important issue. Oftentimes, as we deal with the major issues that affect so many people around the world, we sometimes neglect the littler things, but they are equally important. They are very personal. They have real meaning for so many, and I thank my colleagues for their support and their cooperation. I urge all of my colleagues to proudly vote "aye" for this measure.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I urge the swift passage of this bill. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4962, 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. MARCHANT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4962.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A SALVADORAN-AMERICAN DAY

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 721) supporting the goals and ideals of a Salvadoran-American Day (El Dia del Salvadoreño) in recognition of all Salvadoran-Americans for their hard work, dedication, and contribution to the stability and well-being of the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 721

Whereas the aftermath of 40 years of internal political turmoil forced hundreds of thousands of individuals in the Republic of El Salvador to flee that country and seek peace and security in a new country, the United States;

Whereas Salvadoran-Americans constitute a significantly growing population in the United States, with the majority living in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and various other areas in the United States;

Whereas the history of the United States is a rich and enduring tapestry woven with the threads of many remarkable lives, cultures, and events, and the lives, work, and artistry of Salvadoran-Americans have added strength, vitality, and purpose to that tapestry;

Whereas the maturing Salvadoran-American community continues to make great economic and cultural contributions to daily life in the United States;

Whereas many of these Salvadoran-Americans actively participate in the United States educational system, further promoting their sense of American pride within communities in this country;

Whereas Salvadoran-American families should have an established day to acknowledge the contribution and value of their culture to the United States;

Whereas the strength of the Salvadoran-American culture can be preserved and passed on to future generations;

Whereas Salvadoran-American families, communities, and generations that follow are committed to maintain both Salvadoran and American cultures, while promoting cultural interchange;

Whereas free of prejudices and as proud men and women, Salvadoran-Americans participate and contribute to the social, educational, professional, and political systems of the United States;

Whereas Salvadoran-American individuals, families, organizations, and communities in cities and States across the Nation wish to share the establishment of a nationally recognized and celebrated Salvadoran-American Day (El Dia del Salvadoreño), beginning on August 6, 2005, and to be celebrated by all generations that follow;

Whereas on August 6, 1525, the official founding of Villa De San Salvador was declared in the Valle de las Hamacas (Valley of the Hammocks) where the indigenous ancestors of El Salvador fought historic battles against the submission and abuse of Spanish colonialism in order to preserve the life and liberty of the Cuscatleco population; and

Whereas August 6 is a day of recognition for Salvadoran-Americans to celebrate

throughout the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of a Salvadoran-American Day (El Dia del Salvadoreño) in recognition of all Salvadoran-Americans for their hard work, dedication, and contribution to the stability and well-being of the United States.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, 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 the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 721 offered by the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS). This resolution would support the goals and ideals of a Salvadoran American Day.

Currently, thousands of Salvadoran Americans reside in the United States, mostly within California, the Washington, D.C. area, and New York. August 6 marks the date of the celebration of Fiestas Agostinas, an observance that dates back to 1525, paying homage to the cultural festivities of El Salvador, and is widely observed by the Latino community in the United States.

This day has grown in significance over the years as the Salvadoran-American community has matured and adapted the holiday to fit the lives of Salvadorans living in the United States. Living in a country built by offerings from many cultures and nationalities, Salvadorans have brought forth many economic and cultural contributions to weave into the American fabric.

I urge all Members to come together to pay homage to many Salvadoran Americans that are thriving in our society today by adopting H. Res. 721.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, 40 years of political turmoil forced many individuals from the Republic of El Salvador to flee the country in search of peace and security in the U.S. Currently, there are over 900,000 Salvadoran Americans living in the U.S. The majority of them have found new homes in California, New York, and the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

The history of the U.S. is a rich and enduring tapestry woven with the threads of many remarkable lives, cultures and events. The lives, work, and