

I strongly support this resolution.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

This is a very important issue to discuss. I think it is one that many of us often look at very casually as we are naming a post office, but many times citizens of America whose names go on these post offices are people that we know we need to remember. And I bring one of those individuals before us today in our legislation to name the post office in Beaver, Pennsylvania, after Robert Linn.

Robert Linn was one of those amazing people who anybody who ever met him would never forget. So I rise in support of the Robert Linn Memorial Post Office in Beaver, Pennsylvania.

He was sworn into office as the mayor of Beaver, Pennsylvania, on January 2, 1946, and he served the Borough of Beaver, Pennsylvania, for 58 consecutive years as mayor. I am not exaggerating. It was really 58 years. So he was able to see many of the people he married as mayor welcome their grandchildren and great-grandchildren into the world.

Prior to taking over the position of mayor at its original salary of \$2,500 a year, Mayor Linn worked for the Duquesne Light Company. His first job was handling customer service before he eventually became supervisor of employee benefits, and he actually retired from the company in 1974. He continued his service both in the public and private sector throughout his life, and he was really known as a gracious gentleman. As I mentioned, anybody who knew him would never forget him. He showed up every day in a coat and tie. It didn't matter if it was Sundays, Saturdays, early, late. He was always in a coat and tie.

In 1995, the Guinness Book of World Records recognized Robert Linn as the longest-serving mayor in American history. His selflessness, his regard for the greater good, is reflected in these 15 consecutive terms that he served up until his death at age of 95 on August 22, 2004.

There is much more to Bob Linn than just being the longest-serving mayor in American history. It was Bob Linn, the father of four daughters, Mary Scheidmantel of Beaver; Eleanor Hesser of Beaver; Mary Hockenberry of New Cumberland, Pennsylvania; and Beth Mitchell of Virginia Beach, Virginia. There was Robert Linn, a grandfather of eight and a great-grandfather of one. He was definitely a dedicated family man, and he would do anything for his loved ones, including everyone in the Borough of Beaver.

For example, when he was in his early 80s, he wanted to show his grandson that he, too, could ride a bicycle.

Unfortunately, he learned the hard way that maybe he shouldn't be riding a bicycle. Although he was capable of running the town quite effectively as mayor in his advanced years, he was a little past his prime when it came to bike riding, when he fell off and broke his wrist, but he continued in his public service.

There was Robert Linn, the mentor. A Beaver police chief was quoted as saying, "One of the most important things that Mayor Linn ever told me was 'You can think what you want, but once it is said, it is said.'" He said, "I still to this day use this advice, and I pass it on to others. He was like a father to me," said Chief Anthony Hovanec.

Bob Linn was a teacher for 6 years at the Beaver Falls Junior High School and a volunteer scorekeeper for the Beaver High School football games. He was just a man who loved his community.

Finally, there was Robert Linn, the American and dedicated public servant, the one that I knew the best. He was a man dedicated to the community in which he lived to making sure it became better and better with every year he served in public life.

Beaver Borough was Bob Linn's passion. His crowning achievement was the Streetscape project, which he proudly declared his finest accomplishment as mayor. This project received the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation's Harry S. Truman Beautification Award. The Streetscape transformed the Borough of Beaver into a real-life version of a Norman Rockwell painting. It removed all the utility poles, all the parking meters, and replaced them with trees and Victorian-style street lamps and bricked the sidewalks and streets.

The Borough of Beaver and the 5,000 residents who live there still agree that Bob Linn's assessment that the borough was one of the "best places you can be" is certainly true. Mayor Linn was also successful in having the borough named a National Registry Historic District in 1996 and successfully converted the old freight train station in town into a museum. In fact, so many locals gathered there in October of 2000 that then-Governor George Bush, when he stopped his train on his cross-country tour, attracted so many residents of Beaver that they had to stop the train.

The Borough of Beaver and the 5,000 residents who live there still agree that Bob Linn was the most effective community leader they have ever seen. And I think beyond just the Borough of Beaver, people in the Commonwealth and people across the Nation need to see as an example of public service what Bob Linn did.

His effect on the borough goes much farther than aesthetics. He was a father, mentor, teacher, volunteer, and really the embodiment of a public servant. He truly loved Beaver to its core. He tirelessly dedicated himself and his

life to making it the best place that it can be.

I urge my colleagues to support the Robert Linn Memorial Post Office to honor a man who so generously dedicated his life to the town that he loved so future generations can know all about Bob Linn.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4768.

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 North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4768.

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.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TERCENTENARY COMMISSION ACT OF 2005

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4586) to extend the authorization of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4586

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 "Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TERCENTENARY COMMISSION.

Section 9(b) of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act (Public Law 107-202; 36 U.S.C. note prec. 101) is amended by striking "not later than January 16, 2007" and inserting "not later than January 16, 2009".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. 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 under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Franklin stands out in American history as a Founding Father of this country and a true Renaissance man.

Since childhood, we have all enjoyed the wonderful stories of his remarkable life as statesman, scientist, inventor, and diplomat. We have now been afforded the opportunity of bringing the

life and times of Benjamin Franklin to cities across the United States and overseas through the work of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission. This Commission was established by Congress in 2002 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth in 2006.

The Commission hosts exhibits in a number of communities around the United States as well as in France, where Franklin served as the American Minister to Paris. These exhibitions represent a rare opportunity for the public to view the largest collection of Franklin artifacts through displays of his household furnishings, original works of art, manuscripts, and documents. In addition, through interactive multimedia exhibits and an Internet Web site, viewers are able to immerse themselves into the Franklin experience. The Franklin celebrations, organized under the Commission's guidance, offer the public an opportunity to become more familiar with Benjamin Franklin by getting a glimpse into the inspiring life of this American treasure.

Because of the expanded nature of its program, it is requested that the life of this Commission be extended so that they can continue their valuable work.

I urge all Members to come together and recognize the life and continuing legacy of Benjamin Franklin by supporting H.R. 4586.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 4586, the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act.

This bill, which was introduced by Representative MICHAEL CASTLE of Delaware on December 16, 2005, and was unanimously reported by the Government Reform Committee on March 30, 2006, extends the authorization of the Commission until fiscal year 2009.

Mr. Speaker, in 2002 Congress created the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission, a panel of 15 outstanding Americans chosen to study and recommend programs to celebrate Franklin's 300th birthday and to mint a commemorative coin of Ben Franklin. Extending the Commission past 2007 to 2009 will allow the funds from the sale of the recently issued Ben Franklin commemorative coins to truly benefit the many Commission programs planned and underway to honor Ben Franklin.

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, which was founded in 2000 by a consortium of five Philadelphia cultural institutions, is currently presenting an international traveling exhibition entitled "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World." This exhibit has been organized to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Frank-

lin's birth and will travel around the United States and France. The exhibit premiered in Philadelphia last year and just recently stopped in St. Louis, Missouri, and from there it would go on to Houston, Texas; Denver; Atlanta; London; and Paris.

Benjamin Franklin was this Nation's greatest citizen perhaps, diplomat, statesman. He was a scientist, a philanthropist, humanitarian, inventor, and humorist.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I can remember when I was a child and found things to read that reading about Benjamin Franklin was really just simply one of the great joys of growing up, and I never will forget one thing that he said. I mean, he had all of these ideas about virtue, and he said on temperance, "Eat not to dullness, drink not to elevation." And I was asking a young fellow the other day what that meant, and he said that Franklin was saying don't eat until you get too filled and don't drink until you get too high. So, obviously, there are a lot of people in our country and our society who could remember that.

But I am indeed pleased that we are recognizing the amazing achievements of Benjamin Franklin by celebrating his 300th birthday and presenting an international traveling exhibition.

I firmly support H.R. 4586 and urge its passage.

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

□ 1830

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4586, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4586, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to extend the life of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JACOB FLETCHER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5664) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 Cooper Street in Babylon, New York, as the "Jacob Fletcher Post Office Building," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5664

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

SECTION 1. JACOB SAMUEL FLETCHER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110

Cooper Street in Babylon, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Jacob Samuel Fletcher 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 "Jacob Samuel Fletcher Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. 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 under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5664, offered by the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) would designate the post office building in Babylon, New York, as the Jacob Samuel Fletcher Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, Jacob Fletcher's love for his country was second to none, and his patriotism was evident in his service in the United States Army. He was a 1994 Babylon High School graduate who enlisted in the Army shortly after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

After completing basic training, he continued on to earn his wings as a paratrooper. Based in Camp Ederle, Italy, Jacob Fletcher was one of the first Americans to land, along with his fellow paratroopers, just north of Baghdad during the first week of the war. Jacob, just 11 days shy of his 29th birthday, was killed on November 13, 2003, when a roadside bomb exploded next to the bus he was on in the town of Samarra.

With gratitude for his bravery and sacrifice to our country, I ask all Members to join me in naming the Babylon, New York, postal facility in his honor.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL), one of the great sons of New York.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished friend from Illinois for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank my friend from Long Island, Congressman PETER KING, for sponsoring this resolution and for allowing me to cosponsor it with him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jacob Fletcher and his family, and urge my colleagues to support this resolution to name the Babylon post office in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, the Babylon post office no longer resides in my congressional