

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for agreeing to work with me on H.R. 6407 and I ask that our letters of exchange be inserted into the RECORD.

DECEMBER 8, 2006.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your December 8, letter regarding the Committee on Ways and Means jurisdictional interest in H.R. 6407, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, and your willingness to forego consideration of H.R. 6407 by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on Ways and Means has a valid jurisdictional interest in H.R. 6407 and that the committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration at this time. In addition, I will support your request for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Ways and Means to a House-Senate Conference committee on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

As you have requested, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 6407 on the House floor. Thank you for your assistance as I work towards the enactment of H.R. 6407.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

DECEMBER 8, 2006.

Hon. TOM DAVIS,
*Chairman, Committee on Government Reform
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS: I am writing concerning H.R. 6407, the "Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act," which was introduced on December 7, 2006, and is scheduled for floor action.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over matters concerning trade and customs revenue functions and the bill contains provisions impacting these issues. For example, contained in the bill is a provision that directs the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to apply United States customs laws to certain mail, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to this bill, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6407, The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act.

This measure is the accumulation of 10 years of hard work and I would like to thank Chairman DAVIS and Congressman MCHUGH for their unwavering commitment to this bill, and their steadfast commitment to modernizing and reforming all aspects of the federal government.

The United States Postal Service is currently operating under a system built in 1970.

In 1970, Richard Nixon was President, gasoline cost \$0.36 per gallon, and very few people had even heard of computers, much less owned one.

Much has changed since then. The primary mode of written communication now is via email or fax, not first class mail. Consumers have a whole range of options to send mail and packages urgently. Most households either have or have access to a computer. But the Postal Service still operates at the same frequency as it did in 1970.

The simple fact is that this generation-old structure is unable to support the functioning of the 21st Century economy. With ever-accelerating declines in First Class Mail volumes, it's becoming more and more difficult for the Postal Service to collect revenue. This in turn leads to the need for frequent rate hikes, which is nothing more than an indirect tax increase on average Americans and a significant cost increase for businesses that heavily utilize the mail.

Mr. Speaker, this bill strikes the correct balance between the need for Postal reform and the obligations that the Postal Service has to the American people. If enacted, this bill will guarantee universal service, streamline back office operations, provide for workforce stability and implement a logical, reasoned process for increases in postal rates, which will generally be in line with the rate of inflation. Such stability and predictability will allow the Postal Service to grow along with the needs of its customers.

Mr. Speaker, America relies on the United States Postal Service to deliver our mail. Every Member of this body relies on the Postal Service to deliver important communications to our constituents. It's time we give the Postal Service the tools they need to remain an efficient, effective organization in the years to come.

I urge a "yes" vote on the bill.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6407, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act.

The Government Reform Committee, of which I am vice-chairman, has held hearings and briefings on postal reform for several years now, and I am glad to see our efforts come to fruition today.

The United States Postal Service has been forced to cut back on its service due to serious financial challenges. H.R. 6407 is an effort to modernize our nation's postal laws for the first time in 36 years. It is intended to help ensure the United States Postal Service can survive in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Due to the increasing use of electronic forms of communication, such as email, first-class mail volume is declining, but postal addresses are increasing. In lieu of simply increasing rates, an entire reform of the postal service is necessary.

H.R. 6407 would require the Postal Service to operate in a more businesslike manner by creating a modern system of rate regulation, establishing fair competition rules and a more powerful regulatory commission.

H.R. 6407 will also promote both price stability and pricing flexibility. Giving the Postal Service pricing flexibility will allow USPS to price its core mail products in a way that keeps them competitive and, quite literally, in the mail. By limiting the amount of future postage rate increases, however, the bill also

takes an important step towards encouraging the Postal Service to increase mail volume and keep the mailbags full while giving mailers predictability and stability.

Universal postal service should be the first and foremost goal of reform. This can only be accomplished if the financial and operational crisis facing the United States Postal Service is met with innovative and bold action. H.R. 6407 takes such action.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. 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 Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6407, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were refused.

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ROBERT LEE "BOBBY" HOLLAR, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 4050) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 East Thompson Street in Thomaston, Georgia, as the "Sergeant First Class Robert Lee 'Bobby' Hollar, Jr., Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 4050

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

SECTION 1. SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ROBERT LEE "BOBBY" HOLLAR, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 East Thompson Street in Thomaston, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant First Class Robert Lee 'Bobby' Hollar, Jr. 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 "Sergeant First Class Robert Lee 'Bobby' Hollar, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4050, offered by the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND. This bill would name a post office in Thomaston, Ga. to honor Sgt. First Class Bobby Lee Hollar, who was killed in action while serving our nation in Iraq.

Sergeant Hollar was the kind of man who makes it possible for Americans to live in freedom and his service to his country was nothing short of remarkable. He was a Tank Commander in the U.S. Army National Guard before joining the 108th Cavalry Division in Griffin, Georgia. For seven years following that, he worked within the 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg and Colorado Springs. He believed passionately in what he did, and at the young age of 35, he died entirely too young.

I would also like to note here that naming this post office in honor of Sergeant Hollar is quite befitting, as he dedicated several years of his life to the Postal Service before returning to the military and deploying to Iraq. Friends and family from every part of his life remember his kindness, his spirit, and the way he put his heart and soul into everything he did. We are so fortunate for the bravery and allegiance of people like Sergeant Hollar, and it is with gratitude for his dedication and service that I support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman DAVIS and his staff, and to Mr. DAVIS and the Republican leadership for allowing this bill to come to the floor. I also want to thank Senator ISAKSON for handling this bill in the Senate and having it passed.

Sergeant First Class Robert "Bobby" Lee Hollar, Jr., was a loving husband, father of two, son, and friend. He was a respected and loved brother in arms to his brother soldiers in E Troop 108th Cavalry of the 48th Brigade of the Georgia National Guard and was mobilized and deployed as part of the U.S. Army Force Command in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant First Class Hollar arrived in Kuwait in May of 2005, and only 10 days later went into Baghdad with his fellow troops. His unit moved down to assist with missions in the Triangle of Death, and he patrolled out of his Forward Operating Base Michael south of Baghdad in mid-June 2005. His unit faced tough, hostile conditions in the Triangle of Death.

On September 1, 2005, while on patrol, Sergeant First Class Hollar's vehicle was struck by a powerful improvised explosive device. Although he survived at the scene and was evacuated to the field hospital for emergency surgery and treatment, his injuries were too se-

vere for him to survive. He died later that day, leaving his wife Amanda, his 2-year-old son Wesley, and another son by a previous marriage.

Sergeant First Class Hollar was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He was awarded various service and achievement awards as well.

Sergeant First Class Hollar was assigned to the Jonesboro, Georgia, Postal Facility and had taken up residence in Thomaston, Georgia. Sergeant First Class Hollar had become a pen pal for students at Crescent Middle School in Griffin, Georgia. In May of 2005, Sergeant Hollar visited the middle school and was accompanied by his then 1-year-old son, Wesley.

Sergeant Hollar touched the lives of the fourth and fifth grade classes with whom he was a pen pal. These children became very attached to Sergeant Hollar as he continued to write them from Iraq.

On September 2, 2005, their teacher, Katie Cobb, was unfortunately faced with the tough task of sharing the horrible news that their friend, Sergeant Hollar, had died from an explosive device that hit his vehicle.

That fourth grade class had the chance to know a true American hero. Sadly, when the class heard of Sergeant Hollar's death, they learned a tragic but important lesson about the high cost of defending freedom.

According to Ms. Cobb, the students all started crying and were very upset about Sergeant Hollar's death. Ms. Cobb stated that she was proud that her students became even more appreciative of their freedom from knowing Sergeant Hollar. After his death, the students proceeded to write their government officials asking that his memory be carried on by having the Thomaston Post Office named in his honor.

It is a rare occasion when a post office can be named for such a wonderful individual who was an active postal employee and Active Duty service-member who died while serving his country as an American hero.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members would support S. 4050 in honor of this great man.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of S. 4050, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Thompson Street in Thomaston, Georgia as the Sergeant First Class Robert Lee "Bobby" Hollar, Jr., Post Office Building.

S. 4050, sponsored by Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON, passed the Senate by unanimous consent on December 6, 2006.

Robert Lee "Bobby" Hollar was born in Woodstock, Virginia. Hollar served in the Georgia National Guard's 108th Infantry Brigade Cavalry Division based out of Griffin, Georgia, as a tank commander in Iraq. Prior to his service

in the 108th Cavalry Regiment, Hollar was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, and he was a military scout before that.

Mr. Hollar also was a dedicated public servant. He served as a devoted postal letter carrier for years before being deployed to Iraq.

Mr. Hollar was killed in Iraq on September 1, 2005, when a roadside improvised explosive device exploded along the Humvee in which he was riding. Mr. Hollar was 35 years old when he was killed in action. No greater service can one give to their country than to be killed in its defense. I urge passage of this bill.

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

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. 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 Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 4050.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR A SEVERANCE PAYMENT FOR EMPLOYEES OF LEADERSHIP OFFICES AND COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1104) providing for a severance payment for employees of leadership offices and committees of the House of Representatives who are separated from employment solely and directly as a result of a change in the party holding the majority of the membership of the House.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 1104

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SEVERANCE PAY FOR COMMITTEE AND LEADERSHIP STAFF DISPLACED BY CHANGE IN MAJORITY PARTY STATUS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this resolution, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term "committee" means a standing or select committee of the House of Representatives or a joint committee of the Congress whose funds are disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term "eligible displaced staff member" means an individual described as follows:

(A) The individual is separated from employment with a committee or a leadership office solely and directly as a result of a change in the party holding the majority of the membership of the House, as certified by the chair of the committee or head of the leadership office (as the case may be).

(B) Prior to the date of the separation from employment described in subparagraph (A), the individual was an employee of the committee or leadership office involved for not fewer than 183 days (whether or not service was continuous).