

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman who is working on this for yielding me this time.

I rise tonight to honor Beatrice "Bea" Watson, a woman who dedicated her life to her community and to democracy. I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle from California for supporting this legislation on a bipartisan basis. Bea Watson died on August 5 at the age of 83. My bill, H.R. 3569, would designate the Santa Ana Avenue post office in Fontana, California, to be named in her honor.

My friend, Bea Watson, was a distinguished member of the Fontana community. Bea strove to make a positive difference in her hometown, a positive role model, and was an inspiration to all she came in contact with, and she led by example.

In over 45 years of life in Fontana, she served as an elected city councilmember, clerk, historical society officer, women's club president, chamber of commerce member, and organized many events such as parades and festivals in Fontana.

Bea was also recognized for her outstanding achievement and loved by all her community for her contributions to the Fontana community. Through her life, she received over 22 prestigious community awards, including the Fontana PTA Council Award, the Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Volunteer Award, the Community Spirit Award, and the California Legislature Woman of the Year Award.

In fact, Bea was so loved by the community that she was given the title of "Mrs. Fontana" or "Busy Bea" in the City of Fontana. Her efforts have touched the lives of her neighbors and her impact on the community will create a lasting legacy for generations to come.

As a volunteer, as a public servant and as a friend of her community, Bea proved herself to be an exemplary American. She was an excellent example of the meaning of volunteerism, and the quality of life in Fontana is better because she cared and gave so much of herself knowing that it would be a better place for others.

Although now gone, she will continue to serve as an inspiration to us all. It is with great honor that I ask Members of Congress to designate the post office in California's 43rd Congressional District as the Beatrice Watson Post Office. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Again, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the 53 Members from California who signed on.

[From The Press-Enterprise, Aug. 14, 2007]
EX-FONTANA COUNCILWOMAN BEA WATSON
DIES

(By Mary Bender)

Former City Clerk and Councilwoman Bea Watson, a tireless community volunteer who organized the city's Christmas and Fontana Days parades, died Sunday and will be remembered in a funeral service Monday.

She was 83.

Mrs. Watson was elected to two terms as Fontana city clerk, completing her eight years in office in December. She also served one term as a city councilwoman, from 1992 to 1996, losing her re-election bid to Manuel Mancha by 68 votes.

"Bea was a citizen who truly cared for this community," said Linda Nunn, Fontana's deputy city clerk. "She will truly be missed."

Mrs. Watson, who had been ill for three months, died of congestive heart failure at Legacy Rehabilitation Center in San Bernardino, according to Monica Bentley, her granddaughter.

She is survived by her husband, Larry Watson, a production specialist for KFON Channel 3, the city's government access station that airs meetings of the Fontana City Council and Planning Commission.

Other survivors include her daughter, Patricia Bentley, of Fontana, her brother, Fay Allen, of San Bernardino, her sister, Marguerite Botsford, of Fontana, Monica Bentley and another granddaughter, and a great-grandson.

Mrs. Watson's successor, City Clerk Tonia Lewis, said she would recruit friends and colleagues to help out with civic events. "It's hard to fill her shoes because she was so active in everything," Lewis said. "She didn't take no for an answer."

Mrs. Watson didn't let her ailments slow her down. "Toward the end, she was so sick and so bent over," Lewis said.

"She had a hard time getting around. She shuffled and it never stopped her," Lewis said. "She just kept going, like the Energizer Bunny."

One of Mrs. Watson's passions was the Fontana Historical Society, which was established in 1974 but in recent years needed an infusion of volunteers to replace its aging roster.

"She got me involved with the Historical Society because the society was failing for lack of membership. She hated to see things fail, so she would gather together people she knew who could handle those things," Lewis said. "We had no choice."

Mrs. Watson was active in several other local organizations and events, including the Fontana Woman's Club, the Fontana Exchange Club; American Legion Auxiliary, Post 772; and the Fontana Chamber of Commerce.

She served on committees to commemorate Fontana's 50th and 75th anniversary celebrations, and organized the city's annual Community Prayer Breakfast since 1990. She also was an active volunteer for the Fontana Days Festival, the annual summer celebration of the city's 1913 founding by A.B. Miller, and organized the city's annual Festival of Winter.

"The Christmas parade was her baby. She felt like she was doing it for the kids in Fontana," Lewis said.

Born July 1, 1924, in Ashtabula, Ohio, Mrs. Watson came West in 1944, living in San Bernardino before moving to Fontana. She attended San Bernardino Valley College and was a retired telephone company administrator with Pacific Bell.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I join with my fellow colleague from California in support of H.R. 3569, a bill to name the post office on Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana after Beatrice "Bea" E. Watson.

She was truly a pillar of the community and well-recognized in Fontana. As my colleague said, the California delegation uniquely requires 53 cosponsors in order to bring a bill. That means that a very diverse State, the

most diverse in the Nation, has to come together on these post office namings. This is an example when we did.

Bea dedicated her life to the community and in every sense was in fact a true Californian, although in fact, like myself, she was born in Ohio and came to California at age 20. She originally moved to San Bernardino where she attended the San Bernardino Community College. She then worked for the telephone company as an administrator for Pacific Bell.

Only years later did she arrive in Fontana. Nevertheless, her dedication allowed her to become truly a pillar of the community, a city councilwoman, and to serve in various capacities for the rest of her life, through both Fontana's 50th and 75th anniversaries.

It is not lightly that we consider naming post offices after people not in the postal community, and I join with my colleague today and the California delegation unanimously urging passage of this bill.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I concur with my colleagues from California and urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3569.

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.

MARINE CORPS CORPORAL STEVEN P. GILL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3974) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 797 Sam Bass Road in Round Rock, Texas, as the "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3974

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

SECTION 1. MARINE CORPS CORPORAL STEVEN P. GILL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 797 Sam Bass Road in Round Rock, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill 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 "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman

from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all 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 gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, once again we have a member of the Armed Services who gave the true devotion of service and we seek to honor him by naming this post office in his honor.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this bill, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the committee for all they have done on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution honoring the memory of United States Marine Corps Corporal Steven Patrick Gill of Round Rock, Texas.

In January of 2002, Steven Gill placed his college education on hold to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. The events of September 11 moved Steven to take up arms to defend his country. On July 21, 2005, he paid the ultimate sacrifice while deployed in Iraq doing that duty of defending his country.

Steven Gill was born on November 3, 1980, to Bill and Rose Gill of Houston, Texas. After moving to Round Rock, my hometown, in 1993, Steven attended Westwood High School. He was an active member of King of Kings Lutheran Church, and took part in numerous mission trips to help those in need.

After high school, Steven enrolled at Concordia Lutheran College in Austin, Texas, where he studied towards his goal of becoming a youth minister in the Lutheran Church. As it did for so many Americans, the tragic events of September 11 changed the course of Steven's life.

Upon completion of basic training, Steven received follow-up training to become an infantry marine rifleman at the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, California. He also attended Amphibious Reconnaissance School at Naval Amphibious Base, Norfolk, Virginia. On July 21, 2005, Steven was serving as a reconnaissance man with Echo Company, Third Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 8, Second Marine Division in Zaidon, Iraq, when he was killed in action.

Steven served one tour in Iraq and was awarded a Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Selected Marine Corps Reserve, National Defense Service

Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, two GWOT Service Medals, and an Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Steven Gill gave his life so we can enjoy the freedoms that we have today in this great Nation. It is my honor as his Congressman and a resident of Round Rock, Texas, to honor the sacrifice of Steven Gill for his country here today and to honor his family who gave us their son. As Congress returns to work after honoring our Nation's war heroes, I am proud to offer this small tribute to one of those heroes from Texas.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3974.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of this bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 797 Sam Bass Road in Round Rock, Texas, as the "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill Post Office Building" in honor of the late Marine Corporal Steven P. Gill, a 24 year old Marine Corps reservist killed near Zaidon, Iraq by an IED on July 21, 2005.

A native of Round Rock, Corporal Gill was not only a model soldier, but also a model citizen.

After graduating from Westwood High School in 1999, he enrolled in Concordia University. Corporal Gill planned to enter the seminary, but his work with children and church youth groups inspired him to pursue a life as a youth minister.

Then, on September 11, 2001, his life, like so many other American's, changed dramatically. In the words of his father, Bill Gill, "When he saw those towers crashing, he had to do something."

Convinced by his father to finish the semester, Corporal Gill enlisted in the Marines in January, 2002, later assigned to the 4th Marine Division, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, based in San Antonio, the same unit his father served in years ago.

Corporal Gill is a shining example of an individual who continually and selflessly served those around him, both through his work for his community and his country. His spirit lives on through the work of his mother, Rose Gill, who, despite losing her job in wake of his death, continues to promote the Marines and the sacrifice of her son.

Three months after his death she ran in the Marine Corps Marathon and has run in his honor every year since, raising money for wounded soldiers.

"He knew the sacrifice he might be called to make, and he accepted that," his father said. I urge you to honor that sacrifice and the amazing life of this genuine American hero.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3974.

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.

COMMENDING ED BLOCK COURAGE AWARD FOUNDATION AND DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2007 AS NATIONAL COURAGE MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 45) commending the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation for its work in aiding children and families affected by child abuse, and designating November 2007 as National Courage Month.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The text of the Senate concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 45

Whereas the Ed Block Courage Award was established by Sam Lamantia in 1978 in honor of Ed Block, the head athletic trainer of the Baltimore Colts and a respected humanitarian;

Whereas each year in Baltimore, Maryland, the Foundation honors recipients from the National Football League who have been chosen by their teammates as exemplifying sportsmanship and courage;

Whereas the Ed Block Courage Award has become one of the most esteemed honors bestowed upon players in the NFL;

Whereas the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation has grown from a Baltimore-based local charity to the Courage House National Support Network for Kids operated in partnership with 17 NFL teams in their respective cities; and

Whereas Courage Houses are facilities that provide support and care for abused children and their families in these 17 locations across the country: Baltimore, Maryland, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Chicago, Illinois, Miami, Florida, Detroit, Michigan, Dallas, Texas, Westchester County, New York, Oakland, California, Seattle, Washington, Charlotte, North Carolina, Cleveland, Ohio, Atlanta, Georgia, St. Louis, Missouri, Indianapolis, Indiana, Buffalo, New York, San Francisco, California, and Minneapolis, Minnesota: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) National Courage Month provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about the positive role that professional athletes can play as inspirations for America's youth; and

(2) the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation should be recognized for its outstanding contributions toward helping those affected by child abuse.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all 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 gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

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