

people all over the world, to put spirit and energy in a game that had lost some of its luster.

Certainly, Sammy indicated that it is not always where one comes from. As a matter of fact, he used to shine shoes, like Isaiah Thomas, the great basketball player who at one time used to shine shoes at Shine King. So, he indicated that it is not always so important where one comes from in life, but what is really important is where one is going. No matter who ends up with the highest number, both of these esteemed gentlemen have, indeed, reached the top.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with all of my colleagues in saying a hardy "thank you" to Mark McGwire and to Sammy Sosa for revitalizing the game of baseball.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH).

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, the odds of one of us of becoming a Member of Congress are actually longer than the odds of becoming a major league ball player. I must confess if I had my druthers, I would choose to be a major league ball player. For me, the ideal job would be to play right field for the Chicago Cubs.

But I learned very early in life, Mr. Speaker, as a ball player in the Little League, that it was probably an impossible dream for me. As hard as I tried, as much as I hustled, I must confess, and perhaps my political consultants would not want me to say this, I stunk as a baseball player.

But as someone who takes vicarious joy in looking at ball players who know how to play the game, I take particular pride that Sammy Sosa happens to play for the Chicago Cubs. And I take also pride as an American in the accomplishments of Mark McGwire.

Wrigley Field is not in my congressional district. I have the parking lots across the street. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES) has the actual ball park. So when Sammy Sosa hits a home run on Waveland Avenue or goes to right field and hits a home run on Sheffield Avenue, those balls are landing in the district of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES).

But Chicago happens to be a city of immigrants. I think it is altogether fitting that Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire both share the record at this point, and one happens to be an immigrant, because the City of Chicago and our country was built by immigrants.

Let me say that in this cynical era where sports is all about big money, and baseball has certainly not been immune to those issues, and in the era of sports agents, it is very refreshing to have two great heroes like Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire who play the sport for the love of the game.

I do not see Mark McGwire play baseball as often as I see Sammy Sosa, but it is clear to those of us in Chicago who watch him on a daily basis that here is

somebody who plays the game the way it ought to be played, who plays it the way they used to play it in the old days, who plays it with great enthusiasm and who has an all-around style of game.

Mr. Speaker, I just would like to commend Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire, and I would to close by raising a question about Commissioner Bud Selig of baseball. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the commissioner, "Where were you on Sunday, Mr. Commissioner? You should have been in Chicago at Wrigley Field."

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed the comments of all of my colleagues on both sides. I am reminded of the story of Mr. Sosa when he was a young boy about 10 years old. His father died and he was left to help his mother take care of his seven brothers and sisters down in the Dominican Republic. There he got some rags together and some shoe shine polish and would go to the beach and he would shine people's shoes.

As fate would have it, he met a man named Bill Chase who lived on the outskirts of San Pedro, and Mr. Chase was a factory owner. He was so impressed with the shoe shine operation of the Sosa brothers, because he did it with his brother, that he would give them extra tips. He bought Sammy a glove and then he began to watch him play baseball. He was so impressed with them, that he helped them to move forward to a baseball career here in the United States.

There is so much to that story, Mr. Speaker, of how when we work together, when we bond together and lift each other up, how we can make things happen. How when we touch other people with our lives, that we can help them get to where they have to go.

But there is another important lesson in that too. So many Minor League baseball players are playing baseball right now, not knowing whether they will ever have an opportunity to come to the big leagues. But we want to salute all of them, including, of course, our friend Mark McGwire. We want to salute Sammy Sosa with a simple, simple quote. It is from a noted religious scholar named Dr. Charles Swindoll, and I think it epitomizes our two players that we honor today.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Swindoll says, "... men and women of God, servant-leaders in the making, are first unknown, unseen, unappreciated and unapplauded. In the relentless demands of obscurity, character is built. . . . [T]hose who first accept the silence of obscurity are best qualified to handle the applause of popularity."

Mr. Speaker, I think that statement by Dr. Swindoll certainly epitomizes and describes our two great baseball players that we honor today. And so as this Congress pauses to salute these great gentlemen, we say to Mark

McGwire and to Sammy Sosa, "The Congress of the United States of America salutes you. And we thank you for bringing life to life and lifting all of us up, including our children, so that generations to come will look back on this wonderful, wonderful year and say that we too were a part of it."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join in voting for this tremendous and wonderful resolution.

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to take a moment to thank the gentlemen from Illinois, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. YATES, and Mr. DAVIS for introducing this resolution to recognize the achievements of Sammy Sosa. I was also pleased to recognize the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT), who introduced H.R. 520 which we just considered and passed, recognizing the sports achievements of Mark McGwire.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately this year's baseball season is not over. In fact, the Cubs are competing for a spot in the playoffs. This, in fact, is good news for all Americans, for indeed we have more time for Sammy Sosa to display his baseball skills and perhaps to hit a few more exciting home runs.

More importantly, though, it means there is more time for all Americans, especially young people, to learn about grace, sportsmanship, and dignity from gentlemen who have set a great example for sportsmanship.

I think this is really important at this time in our history, because it is critical that young people have role models. Today, we as Members of Congress pay tribute to those who have displayed sportsmanship, great achievement, and helped all Americans have heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FREEMAN HANKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4002) to designate the United States Postal Service building located at 5300 West Jefferson Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as the "Freeman Hankins Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4002

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

#### SECTION 1. FREEMAN HANKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Postal Service building located at 5300 West Jefferson Street, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

shall be known and designated as the "Freeman Hankins Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Freeman Hankins Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4002 was introduced on June 5 of this year by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), our distinguished colleague who serves as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Postal Service. Pursuant to the rules of the full committee, this bill enjoys the sponsorship of the entire delegation from the great State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman for his leadership on this issue, for bringing forward not just this particular renaming, but one that will soon follow. In doing this, I think that the gentleman that has once again upheld the tradition that has been established both in this Congress and in previous Congresses in relegating to those very worthy individuals the honor of having a postal facility named after them.

Certainly, Mr. Hankins is, indeed, a prime example of the kind of individual that has really come to be synonymous with making this country what it has been and what we all hope it will remain to be, the greatest and longest-lived democracy on the face of the Earth.

□ 1730

He was perhaps best known for his service in the Pennsylvania State legislature, first as a Member of the House of Representatives, beginning in 1961, and then as a member of the Pennsylvania Senate in 1967, where he served until his retirement in 1989. During those nearly three decades of service, this gentleman compiled a record that did for his community the kinds of things that all good Americans look to their government for. He did, perhaps most of all, carry forward the legislation in his State to designate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday as a State holiday.

Over, as I said, the nearly three decades, he received numerous awards, served on so many different boards in service to that State, such as the Penn-

sylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Agency, Lincoln University, and on and on and on.

I know, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) will have much more to say about the particulars of this individual's achievements, and I do not want to preempt his opportunity. So let me just say that my colleague has done a service to this House, in my opinion, by bringing forward the name of Mr. Freeman Hankins for designation of this post office building, and I am honored to join with him in urging all of our colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Let me, first of all, in a much more perfunctory way, thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH). I think many must realize that this is the person that this Congress has given the burden of being the legislative steward of our postal service. Some 700,000 plus Americans work for the United States Postal Service. It is an extraordinarily important element of our national economy, and which we all pat ourselves on the back for the economic success here in our country, but our economy could not function without a universal system of mail delivery. The gentleman from New York has done so much to help ensure the efficient and effective running of the world's largest and really best postal service. It is the one that is benchmarked by all of our economic competitors around the world.

I want to first of all thank him, mention to the House that we will be having a markup quite soon on some important legislation, and I know that he would like to have the House's attention on, but I take this time to let him know that I truly appreciate the work that he has done. All of us who come to the Congress, obviously, could imagine doing any number of things, but none could imagine a responsibility greater than the role that the gentleman from New York is playing.

Let me say that, obviously, I rise in support of H.R. 4002. I was in the post office that we now are going to be naming after the gentleman that I had an opportunity to follow to the State Senate. He actually preceded me in the State Senate. It is in the heart of the West Philadelphia community, the 7th senatorial district, that Freeman Hankins served for more than two decades. He also, like myself, before his service in the Senate served in the Statehouse.

He led the way, in terms of Philadelphians, and served on the board of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, which is an agency I eventually had the opportunity to chair the executive board of, and which has helped over a million children in Philadelphia receive financial assistance to go on to college and to obtain

a college education. But it was Freeman Hankins who helped create this entity, one of the first of its kind in the country, a State agency governed by a board of legislators. Unlike other boards, and any other board we can find in any other State, it is a State agency governed by lawmakers, with a minority of the appointments made by the governor, eight members in the Statehouse and eight in the State Senate, and is the finest student financing agency anywhere in the country.

Freeman Hankins is credited with passing the Martin Luther King Day Holiday bill but also was the spearhead in helping to develop the Minority Business Development Agency. He served on the Lincoln Board, on which I had an opportunity to later sit in his seat on the Lincoln University Board of Trustees, which is a university that we know has graduated many of the top leaders in our country.

But Freeman Hankins was not just another public servant. He was also a businessman who ran a business in west Philadelphia, a mortuary and a funeral home. He was the leader of a national association of African American funeral home directors. He was a substantially wealthy individual who, nonetheless, dedicated the majority of his time to public service. And I remember as he would take his summer vacation at his beach house in Atlantic City, we just considered that an adjunct to his district and would visit there often to chat with him about important matters.

He was a gentleman and a statesman, someone who gave honor to the State Senate in his service, and we want to take this opportunity to encourage all of my colleagues to favorably consider this bill. He is someone who, in the naming of this post office in west Philadelphia, will remind his constituents long after his passing of his service, and will remind them that the type of public official that comes along every once in a while can truly make a difference in people's lives.

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

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

In closing, let me first of all respond to the gentleman from Pennsylvania on his very gracious remarks. I have always viewed this postal subcommittee as a challenge, not as a burden. Perhaps it could have been a burden had we not had such, I think, admirable cooperation on both sides of the aisle, a recognition I think most prominently displayed by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) that this is a very important system, one, as he said, that really does bind our Nation together. And we all recognize that this is the kind of activity that deserves our concerted attention and our concerted care, and he has been a leader in ensuring that. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with him and thank

him for his cooperation, his input, his leadership and his comments.

I would also say, with respect to this particular bill, that we have had the opportunity, and I would argue or certainly assert, the honor to do a fair number of these this year, and I can never recall a single word of opposition to any of them. I say that not because these are automatic or that the naming process is simplistic, but rather that Members think very carefully before they bring to the floor and work on behalf of a particular nominee being designated with this naming honor. And certainly today that is shown again in this bill designating the postal facility in the honor of Freeman Hankins, and I will again say for the bill that follows as well.

So we owe our thanks to the gentleman from Pennsylvania for once again bringing to us a very worthy individual and one that, I think, is fully deserving of this particular honor. And, again, in closing, I would proudly join with the gentleman in urging all my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4002.

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.

#### MAX WEINER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4003) to designate the United States Postal Service building located at 2037 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Max Weiner Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4003

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

#### SECTION 1. MAX WEINER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Postal Service building located at 2037 Chestnut Street, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Max Weiner Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Max Weiner Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4003, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, it may seem somewhat anticlimactic, because this bill is, at least in form, if not identical very similar to the one we just considered. But the individual we seek to honor is truly unique, and once again, as I said, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is to be thanked for his leadership, for his careful consideration of the nominee of Max Weiner for the designation of this particular postal facility at the address of 2037 Chestnut Street in the great city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. And, again, as a matter of record, pursuant to the committee rules, this bill enjoys the sponsorship of the entire delegation from the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Weiner was truly, by everything that I have seen, a tremendously energetic worker for consumer rights and for consumer protection. He fought hard, so very hard, for literally thousands of Pennsylvanians who might otherwise have found themselves in so many difficult, challenging positions and situations: The loss of their homes, the loss of heat during the extraordinarily cold weather that can sometimes visit those of us who feel lucky enough to live in the northeast. He fought to protect the privacy of the underprivileged and for greater access for them to the mass transit system.

And in his endeavors he did much else as well, Mr. Speaker. He was the founder of the Consumers Education and Protective Association and the Independent Consumer Party. In short, Mr. Speaker, just time and time again the sort of individual who remained in their community, who fought hard, who worked hard not for power or glory, certainly not for money, but because, simply, they cared about their communities, but most of all cared about their neighbors and wished to make their lives a little better today than yesterday and, hopefully, their live a little better tomorrow than it was today.

Again, I will yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania who has brought this bill to us, and with that I would thank him for his leadership and urge all of my colleagues once again, please, to support this very worthy nomination.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 4003.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from New York for his kind re-

marks, and let me assure him that if Max Weiner was around today and here he would probably be outside protesting all of us for some reason or another.

Literally no less than a thousand times he has been out on the battlefield. He has filed in his lifetime probably more lawsuits against the Philadelphia Gas Works, the Philadelphia Electric Company, the Philadelphia Water Department, every State agency imaginable, fighting aggressively on behalf of individuals, and as class actions, consumers who, by some set of circumstance, based on the review of his organization, had been cheated either by the outcome or by a process, or somehow, nonetheless, even if the decision-making was correct, somehow still could not meet the burden that was being asked of them, and he would fight on their behalf.

For many, many decades he led the Consumer Education and Protective Association of Philadelphia, and one could always be assured that at least on 6 days out of a 7-day-week he would be out in front of city hall with a table, with petitions, for some cause or another. And in his latter years, well into his 70s, he started to actually have some of his greatest success at winning lawsuits against and stopping of rate increases from various utilities, and forcing people to comply with various rules and regulations and statutory requirements that had been put upon them by municipal utilities.

He also exercised his right to vote, but not as a member of the Democratic party or Republican Party. He formed his own party, the Consumer Party, and ran as their standard bearer for every conceivable office that we could imagine that was ever on the ballot in Philadelphia. But he was loved by all. Even those who he opposed knew that in his heart he was speaking on behalf of those who he felt needed someone to speak for them.

Even though he has been gone for many years now, it is his spirit, and the public spiritedness of his work that brings me to the point of offering this bill. I am thankful for having the support of all my colleagues from Pennsylvania. I think all of us probably have in our districts a Max Weiner. And if we do not, we need one, because there is often a necessity for someone to operate somewhat outside of the box and to speak on behalf of those whose voices otherwise may have been marginalized. Max Weiner did that in Philadelphia, and his work and his legacy is something that all of us from the Philadelphia community will always respect and remember.

□ 1745

Again, I am sure he would probably be even somehow railing against this Congress or the State and Senate or the Council if he was with us today about something. In the final analysis, he would probably be right, at least in the spirit of his remarks.