of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 472, honoring the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association on their 70th anniversary.

Since 1939, AOPA has effectively represented the general aviation community at the local, State, and Federal levels. With a membership of more than 415,000—or two-thirds of all of the pilots in the United States—AOPA is the largest and one of the most influential aviation associations in the world. I have been a member for a number of years.

General aviation is a catch-all category that includes all nonscheduled, all nonmilitary aviation. There are more than 230,000 general aviation aircraft in the United States, which use nearly 19,000 small and regional airports. These airports help connect people and industries that do not always have easy access to our commercial airports.

Recently, general aviation has come under attack by the media and those that view general aviation as a corporate indulgence or an expensive toy used exclusively by the wealthy. That is simply not true. Actually, the fact is that companies that utilize general aviation are more productive and, thus, more competitive.

I can give two examples from my hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Recently, I was talking to a businessman there. He's a contractor. He's built a number of buildings. They've decided to expand into the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and into Canada. As you know, Michigan is surrounded by the Great Lakes so it's very hard to get from point A to point B quickly. However, they bought an airplane, and they were able to zip easily from the Grand Rapids headquarters to all the work sites in Canada and in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. More often than not, these airplanes pay for themselves.

I have another businessman in Grand Rapids who told me that his airplane saved him a considerable amount of money because when his executives went to visit his plants scattered around the U.S.—most of them in forests because he's in the lumbering business and he has 30-some businesses around the country—it takes at least one person one day to get to any of these sites using commercial aviation because they have to go to a major commercial airport, rent a car and drive 30, 40 miles into the forest to their site. But with their own private airplane, they could usually land within a few miles. They can complete three business visits in 1 day instead of one.

So, as they say, these airplanes pay for themselves.

In addition, most of the private pilots I know are not rich but middle class working people that love to fly. In the wake of these disparaging stories that have appeared in the media, the AOPA and its supporters in Congress have worked hard to educate the public and spread the word about the importance of general aviation to our economy and our transportation system.

Every private pilot is passionate about flying, and the AOPA is the organization they rely on to stay abreast of current political events and aviation events and to advocate on their behalf.

I congratulate the AOPA on this historic anniversary, and I wish them continued success, and I look forward to celebrating future anniversaries with them as well. And I hope by then, I am able to fly more often than I am while I'm in the Congress.

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

I would like to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his efforts to promote general aviation. It's very clear, having, myself, several classifications as a multiengine commercial instrument single engineer, that general aviation needs to do all it can to promote and respond to the needs of its pilots—in particular, training of the pilots. It is very important that we recognize the significance of this organization and what it means to general aviation.

I concur with the remarks of the ranking member and also concur with the gentleman and his remarks with respect to the importance of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, H. Res. 472, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), which congratulates and salutes the 70th anniversary of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and its dedication to general aviation (GA), safety, and the important contribution that GA provides to the United States. The resolution also commends AOPA for: creating the Air Safety Foundation, leading the recovery of the GA light aircraft manufacturing industry, and setting the stage for the development of the Next Generation Air Transportation System by being an early proponent of the civilian use of the Global Positioning System. I thank Representative DENT for his leadership on this measure.

AOPA was incorporated on May 15, 1939, as a non-profit organization dedicated to GA. Since then, the organization has been a leading advocate for GA pilots and now represents about 415,000 members. AOPA has also provided GA pilots with valuable safety education and training through the Air Safety Foundation, which was created in 1950. The Air Safety Foundation is the largest non-profit organization dedicated solely to GA safety.

AOPA was a primary supporter of the General Aviation Revitalization Act (GARA) of 1994. The GA industry boomed following the passage of GARA, which placed fair and reasonable limitations on the time period during which a manufacturer would be legally liable for aircraft defects.

I congratulate AOPA for working to support GA over the past 70 years. GA stimulates local and regional economies—it comprises over one percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product and supports almost 1.2 million jobs. In addition, GA provides communities with essential services, and affords businesses the flexibility and mobility that they require. Many industries and public services depend on GA to be successful and efficient, including emergency medicine, firefighting, news services, energy exploration, and farming.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 472.

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Madam Speaker, the swift passage of this bill is very important.

I yield back my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 472.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RALPH REGULA FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. BOCCIERI. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1687) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, SW., Canton, Ohio, as the ''Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse,'' as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1687

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

SECTION 1. RALPH REGULA FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator of General Services shall ensure that the federally occupied building located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, SW., Canton, Ohio, is known and designated as the ''Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse''.

(b) REFERENCES.—With respect to the period in which the building referred to in subsection (a) is federally occupied, any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to that building shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOCCIERI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1687.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1800

Mr. BOCCIERI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill I introduced, H.R. 1687, as amended, and urge its quick passage.

This bill designates the building located at McKinley and Third Streets, S.W., Canton, Ohio, as the Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse. The bill has strong, bipartisan support.

While I know Congressman Regula as my predecessor, many of you on both sides of the aisle were also fortunate enough to call him a colleague, a mentor, and a friend. He was a true steward of his district and earned every accolade from his constituents, who knew him only as Ralph. He combined a unique blend of procedural acumen, hard work, and collegial personality in rising to a position of leadership on the House Appropriations Committee. All the while, he never forgot where he came from, consistently setting the standard and making sure that his constituents received the assistance they needed with their problems.

As a former teacher and principal, Ralph was a leader in pushing to improve our students' reading skills, develop teacher training, and increase Pell Grant funding. He also increased by millions of dollars the amount of Federal money committed to research in fighting cancer, heart disease, and birth defects.

Ralph was a leader in alternative energy. And he was an early champion of fuel cell technology, helping my district earn a reputation as a national leader in fuel cell research and development.

Congressman Ralph Regula served with distinction and represented the 16th District of Ohio for over 30 years—in fact, it was 36 years. He is a native Ohioan, born in Beach City, Ohio, on December 3, 1924. After high school, Congressman Ralph Regula served in the United States Navy with distinction and honor in World War II. He later graduated from college and earned his law degree in Canton, Ohio, at William McKinley School of Law. He went on to become a lawyer and later a State legislator.

He was first elected to Congress in 1972 and served 18 consecutive terms, retiring last year to spend more time with his lovely, lovely wife, Mary, and college sweetheart, as well as their three children and four grandchildren.

As much as I wish to claim this as an original idea, I have to give thanks and credit to Senator SHERROD BROWN, who first introduced this legislation last December before I was sworn in.

It is appropriate that we honor Congressman Ralph Regula with this bill because in many ways this building would not exist without his efforts, having laid the groundwork for it many, many years ago.

The Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse will continue Ralph's legacy, serving Stark County for many years to come. It is most fitting and proper to honor Congressman Regula with this designation.

I support this bill, as amended, and urge its immediate passage.

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

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the chairman and the sponsor, the gentleman from Ohio, for sponsoring this legislation. He mentioned the history of Mr. Regula. He obviously served honorably the people of the 16th District in Ohio for 18 consecutive terms, from 1973 until last Congress, becoming the second longest-serving Republican Member in the House, Mr. Speaker.

Congressman Regula has a great legacy and has had a long and distinguished career in public service, always, always serving his country. Early on, he served in I think the most honorable way that one can ever serve this country, and that is in the Armed Forces, in the Navy. After completing his legal education, he went into private practice of law. In the early 1960s, Congressman Regula served as a member of the Ohio State Board of Education, and then he went on to serve in the Ohio House of Representatives, also in the Ohio State Senate prior to his election in the Congress.

Naming this Federal building in Ohio is appropriate to recognize Congressman Regula's commitment to public service, to his constituents, and to this Nation. The respect that he earned while serving in Congress is really demonstrated by what we are seeing today, the fact that this bill is sponsored by Ohio representatives from both sides of the aisle.

Again, I want to thank the sponsor of this legislation. I support the passage of this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same. Again, this is a man who has served this country with distinction.

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

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

Mr. SERRANO. I thank the gentleman.

Today, I rise in support of H.R. 1687, legislation to bring well-deserved recognition to Congressman Ralph Regula, who was first elected to Congress in 1972.

Congressman Regula retired in January of this year after serving in Congress for 18 consecutive terms. He had a wealth of experience on the House Appropriations Committee, serving as chairman of both the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee and the Interior Subcommittee.

When I assumed the chairmanship of the House Financial Services Appropriations Committee in this Congress, Congressman Regula was the ranking member, and he was a mentor and a partner. I learned a lot about how to be an effective chairman from Congressman Regula by watching him in action and talking to him as my ranking member.

As a Member from an urban district, New York City, I also learned a lot about him and about farming. And I must tell you, I learned something that may sound funny to some folks, but I learned the difference between jelly and jam, and he was an expert on the subject. What I most treasure is his friendship because Congressman Regula was a true and generous friend to me.

The designation of this Federal building and courthouse in Canton, Ohio, as the Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse is an appropriate honor for this man who has devoted his life to public service. He served in the Navy, was a lawyer, a member of the Ohio State Board of Education, the Ohio House of Representatives, and the Ohio State Senate before joining Congress and beginning his many years of distinguished and dedicated service on behalf of his constituents of the 16th Congressional District of Ohio.

We are doing something really good today; we are honoring a man who deserved this. And let me just conclude by saying this: I imagine when we leave here—when the day comes that I leave here—you want to be remembered for your work, but I think more than that you want to be remembered by your colleagues as how you treated them and how you interacted with them. Ralph Regula was a gentleman. Ralph Regula was a colleague. Ralph Regula never had anything nasty to say about anyone. And as I said before, coming from a community where I came from and coming from a community where he would tell me about driving his pickup truck and going out to his farm, it was two different worlds, and yet I learned to admire him, to love him, and to respect him.

And so today I wanted to join this celebration to say thank you to him. And I know, Mr. Speaker, it's somewhere outside the rules of the House to speak to a TV audience or to people in the gallery, so I won't do that, but I suspect that Congressman Regula is watching us today and needs to know that we care about him, that we care a lot, and that this is an honor, one of many, that he truly deserves.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Thank you, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for the recognition. And I want to thank Mr. BOCCIERI of Ohio for introducing this piece of legislation.

Mr. BOCCIERI—I can't call him Congressman Regula's replacement because nobody can replace Congressman Regula, but he is his successor. And, unluckily, I also happen to be his successor as the dean of the Ohio Republican Delegation because in the last two elections you guys have wiped everybody out, and at eight terms, I'm the head guy on our side in the State of Ohio.

But, as has been mentioned, Ralph served 36 years here. And 36 years is the longest that any Republican Member of Congress has served from the State of Ohio. He had a lot to do, and I think Mr. PETRI is going to talk about his work with the parks when he was the chairman of the Interior Subcommittee, but Ralph's real gift, when it came to our side of the aisle at least, back in happier days—and Mr. BOCCIERI, happier days are when the Republicans were in the majority, that definition. Ralph guided us. And if you looked at the Ohio delegation back in the 1990s, most of us were the chairmen of full committees. We had two cardinals, Mr. Regula and Mr. Hobson of Springfield. And that was all Ralph's doing. He made a commitment to make sure that there was an Ohioan on every committee that mattered.

When I was elected—I'm a lawyer by training—I said, Ralph, I think I would like to be on the Judiciary Committee. And he said, What are you, nuts? We need a Republican from Ohio on the Transportation Committee. And he put me there, and it was one of the happiest times of my life.

There are two things that I want to talk about. Mr. SERRANO is right about his observations, but I came in the Class of 1994, so I'm one of those Republican revolutionaries that created the first majority since 1954. And Mr. Speaker, you may remember—and others may remember—that at that time there was a lot of rhetoric in this Chamber and there were some things that became targets. And parks became targets. But what I will always remember is that it was the desire on my side of the aisle to zero-fund things like the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. And I thought that was misguided, and Congressman Regula, as the chairman of the Interior Subcommittee, also felt that that was misguided. And as a result, although those agencies saw reductions during that time, they were never zeroed out. And I think in this appropriation cycle we will finally get back to the level of funding that they received prior to 1994.

I will tell you that a few years before Congressman Regula's retirement he was in line as the most senior guy to become the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. And he worked very hard at that. He created an organization called CARE, and worked hard—raised a lot of money in what you had to do and all that other business—and he was denied that honor, that opportunity. I will tell you that, in my mind, it had a lot to do not with the quality of the other candidates, who were both excellent. It had a lot to do with the fact that Ralph had angered people back in the 1990s because he wouldn't eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts, he wouldn't eliminate the National Endowment for the Humanities, he wouldn't agree to shut down the Department of Education. And as a result, even though Ralph had a long and distinguished career here, I think he was punished.

The other thing I want to say about Ralph is his partner, his life partner, Mary—Mary, of course, is the brains behind the First Ladies' Library. Mr. Speaker, if you ever happen to be traveling through the State of Ohio and you have to take a restroom break or you have to get off and get a soda, stop at the First Ladies' Library, because it really is an amazing creation that wouldn't be in existence today if it wasn't for Mary Regula, with the support of her husband, Ralph Regula.

So, Mr. BOCCIERI, I again want to thank you very much. This is an amazingly wonderful bipartisan effort on your part, and Senator BROWN, who you mentioned, to name something after somebody who really deserves to have something named after him. I never have served with a finer public servant than Congressman Regula. I know that that building will make him proud, and it should make the citizens of Canton, Ohio, proud as well. And I thank you for honoring my friend.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I wish to thank the gentleman from Ohio. His remarks were not only appropriate, they were well-guided in terms of what Mr. Regula meant not only to our part of Ohio, but what he meant to America.

Campaigning through the district and having the occasion to work with Congressman Regula while I was in the State legislature, people knew him not as a conservative, not as a liberal, not as a Democrat or Republican, but just as Ralph. And that type of leadership, that type of portrayal of American politics is what we should all rise to emulate. He was a man of his word, a man of integrity, and a man who believed in the Constitution. And he told me, he said, When you go to Congress, John, make sure that you protect the Constitution and, in particular, the fact that we own the checkbook, we write the checks, we appropriate the money, we here in Congress are responsible for the taxpayers' dollars. He was responsible for millions and millions of dollars coming back to the State of Ohio, whether it was research in fuel-cell technology or whether it was the First Ladies' Library that his wife had such a brilliant idea to anchor in our part of Ohio and the Midwest, or just funding for all the medical research that we're doing in our State, he was a leader. And he believed in the innovation and creativity of the American people, and in particular of all Ohioans. He was a man of great integrity, and someone who obviously I, as Congressman LATOURETTE said, would not be able to replace, but certainly respect as his successor.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentlelady from California, our Speaker of the House of Representatives, Speaker PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and thank him for giving us this opportunity to come to the floor to sing the praises of our former colleague—we always will have him as a colleague in our hearts, but former colleague on the floor, Congressman Ralph Regula of Ohio.

□ 1815

As many of you know and as has been acknowledged, Ralph Regula served in the House with great distinction for 38 years of service, 38 years of service and not only service, great leadership. Last year we sadly said good-bye to him, but now tonight we will honor him by creating a longstanding testament to his leadership, designating the courthouse and Federal building in his hometown of Canton as the Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

I want to acknowledge Congressman JOHN BOCCIERI for his work in shepherding this legislation through Congress and for doing an exceptional job, I believe, following in the footsteps of Ralph Regula in representing Ohio's 16th Congressional District.

Congressman Regula's entire life was devoted to public service and still is. He was a distinguished Navy veteran of World War II. He served our country in that way, and he served in both the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives as well as the State Board of Education. And aren't we fortunate that when he came to Congress, he was already an experienced legislator with a strong commitment to educating our children.

Thirty-eight years. Imagine that. Some of our Members weren't even born when Ralph Regula came to the Congress. Thirty-eight years in the House of Representatives, earning the distinction of being the second-longest-serving Republican in the Congress.

Congressman Regula's leadership benefited our entire Nation. It was a personal privilege for me to work with him on the Appropriations Committee. I saw firsthand his leadership, his knowledge of the issues, the respect that he commanded for all who came before him and the respect he had from both sides of the aisle.

I personally am grateful to him for transforming San Francisco's former Army base—he was very much a part of doing that—the Presidio, into one of our Nation's premier parks, and we have honored him on many occasions in San Francisco, most recently at Fort Baker.

None of us can come together and talk about Ralph Regula without talking about Mary Regula because they

served here in Congress as a team. Ralph would be the first to say that it was the love of Mary and their three children and four grandchildren that made his leadership possible. And we all know that Mary is the one who made a decision that we would have a National First Ladies' Library in Canton, Ohio, to honor the contribution to our Nation of the First Ladies of America. It's a phenomenal thing. She had an idea, she executed it, and now people can visit and see that important part of American history thanks to Mary Regula.

Today we honor a great congressional leader, a great friend to all of us, and a great man. I urge all of my colleagues to understand the privilege that we have of expressing our appreciation for Ralph Regula's leadership by supporting this legislation, and I join my colleagues from Ohio on both sides of the aisle for the honor that we are paying to Ralph Regula tonight. And I again thank JOHN BOCCIERI for shepherding this through the Congress.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I concur with the Speaker's eloquent remarks, especially about Mary, who champions women in their role in politics. And for my two daughters who are sitting behind me and the ones I have at home, she has been a shepherd for all in the 16th District as well as our country.

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

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

Mr. PETRI. I thank my colleague for yielding. I thank the previous speakers, particularly the Speaker of the House for taking the time from her busy schedule to come down here to honor a distinguished colleague on the occasion of naming the Federal courthouse in his hometown after him, and that's the gentleman I had the privilege of serving with for nearly 30 years and getting to know and one whom I admire a great deal, and that is Ralph Regula.

You've heard about the spirit with which Ralph Regula approached his responsibilities as a legislator. It was positive. He worked with all Members of this body, and he did what he thought was in the best interest of this country and this institution.

You learn a lot about Members of this body when you visit their districts. And my wife and young daughter and I had the habit, as we would drive back to Wisconsin for the August break, of picking a different route across the country and taking a few extra days and stopping to see historic and interesting places and making it an educational and fun thing rather than just an ordeal to go across the country. And one year we decided to go through and visit John Seiberling, another colleague in Akron, Ohio, from a distinguished family, Seiberling Tire and all that, and he had his home which they had lost in the Depression, Stan Hywet, which is one of the largest private homes in the United States.

And in the course of doing that, he took us through the thing, and I discovered that he and Ralph Regula had worked together for many years to create what is now, I believe, the largest national park east of the Mississippi, the Cuyahoga. I know they were both tremendously proud of that. It was a wonderful opportunity for that area of Ohio because there are large cities on various sides of this and it provides recreational and other opportunities for a large population. And if they had not acted when they did, it might not be there today. It was done by those two Representatives working as best they could with colleagues in both political parties and will stand, I think, as a lasting monument to their joint efforts on behalf of our country and certainly the people of their region in Ohio.

Ralph and Mary were and are a great team. And one other thing I think I might mention, Ralph is kind of a gentleman farmer, I guess, and he used to spend a lot of time working there, and he loved his grandchildren and family and all of that. But Ronald Reagan was kind of a gentleman farmer, too. He had this ranch out in California where he cleared brush and was trying to develop it. And it turned out that he and Ralph were talking over at the White House for some reason about some other things, and Reagan discovered that Ralph was going back to work on some fencing on his farm and he asked him if he could explain how he did it. So Ralph came back to a meeting afterward and said that Reagan had taken careful notes and everything else and then a week or two later gave him, I think, a signed copy of the instructions that Ralph had given to him, that it was a good fence.

Ralph did a great job and it's an appropriate honor. I strongly support the passage of this legislation.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, just a few more comments and I think we will be wrapping this up very soon.

To piggyback on what the gentleman was suggesting, as I said earlier, Ralph was not known as a Democrat or a Republican, a conservative or a liberal; he was just known as ''Ralph.'' I remember, in some closing remarks at a recent banquet that we were at, I was telling folks, and I feel at liberty to say this, I'm a freshman Member here, that this collegiality that we are sharing right now becomes few and far between at times and we need to return this Chamber, this body, our dialogue to that kind of respect for each other, where we may disagree on ideas, as Democrats and Republicans, we both believe in the end goal. And like a married couple, we may argue about how we get to the end destination, taking this exit ramp, that road, but at the end of the day, like a married couple, we always end up where we need to go. And we need to respect that. And I think that this bill respects the service of Ralph Regula and his contributions to northeast Ohio, and in particular what it will mean to the people of Stark County who go there to find relief and find help from their government. And every day they walk into that building, that building that's being built right now, they will see his designation, his name, and it will be a remembrance of what he meant.

Just one last comment, Mr. Speaker. This district that I am currently representing and serving in is, by all measures, arguably a swing district. It has Democrat and Republican registrations, even Independents inside the race. But yet he held this district for 36 years, and the Congressman before him held this district for 18 years, and the other Federal building in the city is named after him, Frank T. Bow. And so what this says is that the people of northeast Ohio, in particular the 16th District, they respect legislators, they respect Congressmen like Ralph Regula and his predecessor because they believe in our greatest asset, which is our people.

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

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I will be brief.

I want to echo the words of the gentleman from Ohio. I think they were very well-stated. I also want to thank the Speaker of the House for coming down today and speaking in such well-deserved words but kind words to a man that really loved this institution, loved this country, and served both so very well.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1687, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI), designates the building located at McKinley Avenue and Third Streets, SW. in Canton, Ohio, as the ''Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse''. The bill has broad bipartisan support.

The designation honors the exemplary public service of our former colleague from Canton, Ohio, Ralph Regula. Ralph represented the 16th district of Ohio for 36 years, from January 3, 1973 to January 3, 2009. Former President Gerald Ford, while serving as the House leader, recommended Ralph Regula for an appointment to the Committee on Appropriations. He served with distinction on the Subcommittee on the Interior and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services.

Ralph Strauss Regula was born in Beach City, Ohio, on December 3, 1924. During World War II, Congressman Regula served in the United States Navy. He later went on to earn a B.A. from Mount Union College in 1948, and then graduated from the William McKinley School of Law in Canton, Ohio, in 1952.

Congressman Regula served in many different capacities in his long tenure in public service. He was a member of the Ohio State Board of Education from 1960–1964. Regula was then elected to the Ohio State House of Representatives from 1965–1967, and subsequently served in the Ohio State Senate in

1967–1972. He then went on to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in the 93rd Congress, and served for 36 years.

Congressman Regula last served as the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, and was one of the longest serving Republican Members of Congress. Congressman Regula retired at the end of the 110th Congress after a career of nearly 50 years of public service. Congressman Regula is married to Mary Regula and has three children and four grandchildren.

It is most fitting and proper to honor Congressman Regula with this designation.

I support H.R. 1687, as amended, and urge its passage.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. With that, Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KISSELL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1687, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. 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 motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE RECREATIONAL BOATING COMMUNITY

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 410) recognizing the numerous contributions of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to the continuing prosperity and affluence of the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 410

Whereas the boating community in the United States includes over 59,000,000 individuals, generates more than $33,000,000,000 annually in the United States economy, and provides jobs for 337,000 citizens of the United States who earn wages totaling $10,400,000,000 annually;

Whereas boaters often serve as stewards of the marine environment of the United States, educating future generations of the value of these resources, and preserving such resources for such generations' enjoyment;

Whereas there are approximately 1,400 active boat builders in the United States, using materials and services contributed from all 50 States;

Whereas boating, as an activity, provides opportunities for families to be together, appeals to all age groups, and has a beneficial effect on the physical fitness and scholastic performance of those who participate; and

Whereas, July 1, 2009, would be an appropriate day to establish as National Boating Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the recreational boating community and the boating industry of the United States should be commended for their numerous contributions to the economy of the United States, the well-being of United States citizens, and responsible environmental stewardship of the marine resources of the United States; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe National Boating Day with appropriate programs and activities that emphasize family involvement and provide an opportunity to promote the boating industry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. 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 House Resolution 410.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 410, recognizing the numerous contributions of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to the continuing prosperity and affluence of the United States.

This bipartisan resolution was introduced by Representatives RON KLEIN of Florida and HENRY BROWN of South Carolina, along with the co-Chairs of the Congressional Boating Caucus, Representatives GENE TAYLOR of Mississippi and CANDICE MILLER of Michigan.

House Resolution 410 honors the 59 million boaters in the United States. As evidenced by the bipartisan cosponsors of this resolution, American boaters span all across the country, including my constituents in Washington State who take to the waters of the Puget Sound.

□ 1830

Boating provides a great activity for thousands of families, Mr. Speaker, on our lakes and certainly on our great coasts—to fish, to dive, to snorkel or to simply enjoy America's stunning natural marine resources.

Boating isn't just a recreational activity. The boating industry is one of America's great industries that includes about 1,400 active boat builders in the United States, including many in my district, using materials and services contributed from all 50 States. These are American jobs that are creating a uniquely American product. Additional jobs include electricians, carpenters, painters, and engineers who work to repair or to refit recreational vessels—along with all the crew members and employees at our many marinas and harbors.

When taken together, boating in America generates more than $33 million annually for our economy, and it provides 337,000 jobs, totaling $10.4 billion in wages every year. For these reasons, I am urging my colleagues to support House Resolution 410.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 410, a resolution recognizing the recreational boating community and industries.

I now recognize for as much time as he may consume our colleague from South Carolina, Mr. HENRY BROWN.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I appreciate my colleague from Wisconsin for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for House Resolution 410, legislation I was proud to introduce with Representative KLEIN. As the Representative for 75 percent of South Carolina's coast and for many of my State's recreational and commercial boaters, I am proud of this resolution, which recognizes the numerous contributions of the recreational boating community and of the boating industry.

Boating is big business in the State of South Carolina, with more than $826 million in sales a year and with nearly 9,000 boating industry employees across the State. Boats are owned by families of all income levels in communities across my State and the Nation. In my district alone, there are 82,441 registered recreational boats, and there are 145 boating businesses which range from small charter operations and marinas to major boat engine manufacturers at Cummins Marine, an employer of hundreds of my constituents.

Nationally, the recreational boating community includes over 59 million Americans, and it makes a significant impact on our economy. Boaters also serve as stewards of the marine environment as the boating community has a long history of educating future generations on the value of these resources and on how to preserve them for their enjoyment. Additionally, through annual motorboat fuel taxes, boaters contribute more than $100 million towards fish restoration and towards other environmental programs.

More than anything else, boating is important to American families as it provides opportunities for them to spend quality time together. It appeals to all age groups, and it has the beneficial effect on the physical fitness and scholastic performance of those who participate.

At the request of my constituent, Mr. Bill Hanahan, I worked to include language in this resolution, marking the