

September 5, 2017

Dear Colleague:

Herein are the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's policies for commemorative resolutions, postal facility naming bills, semi-postal measures, and bills creating commemorative stamps for the 115th Congress.

## **COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

***What is a commemorative resolution?*** Commemorative resolutions are simple or concurrent resolutions recognizing or honoring a subject, person, event, or time period. One example of a commemorative resolution is a resolution to congratulate a sports team for winning a championship.

***How does the Committee handle commemorative resolutions?*** Pursuant to Committee rules, commemorative resolutions will not be considered. Committee Rule 13(c) states: "The Chairman shall not request to have scheduled any resolution for consideration under suspension of the Rules which expresses appreciation, commends, congratulates, celebrates, honors, recognizes the accomplishments of, or celebrates the anniversary of, an entity, event, group, individual, institution, team or government program; or acknowledges or recognizes a period of time for such purposes."

***Additional information.*** Special Order Speeches, Extension of Remarks, and One Minute Speeches can be used to honor, congratulate, remember, commemorate, or otherwise recognize particular subjects, events, persons, themes, and time periods.

## **POSTAL FACILITY NAMING BILLS**

***What is a postal facility naming bill?*** Postal facility naming bills refer to legislation designating or renaming a post office for individuals. All postal facility naming bills are drafted using a similar format, for example: *An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5003 Westfields Boulevard in Centreville, Virginia, as the 'Colonel George Juskalian Post Office Building.'*

***How does the Committee handle postal facility naming bills?*** The Committee considers postal facility naming bills accordingly:

- The Committee will not consider legislation designating post office buildings for living persons, except: bills naming facilities after former U.S. Presidents or Vice Presidents, former Members of Congress over 70 years of age, former state or local elected officials over 70 years of age, former judges over 70 years of age, or a wounded veteran of any age.

- The Committee will not consider legislation designating post office buildings for a person for whom Congress already named a post office building.
- Postal facility naming bills should have the co-sponsorship of the entire state delegation wherein the post office is located.
- Members sponsoring postal facility naming bills must provide to the Committee documentation summarizing the designee's background. Please contact the Committee for additional direction on what information should be included in the designee's biographical information. Offices may be asked to request additional biographical information on a designee from the Congressional Research Service.
- Postal facility naming bills will be considered by the Committee only after the required criteria are met in full.

***Additional information.*** Consulting with the Office of Legislative Counsel when drafting postal facility naming bills is advisable and encouraged. Members should also confirm with the U.S. Postal Service the facility to be named is eligible. If you are considering introducing postal naming legislation in the future, we urge you to contact the Committee in advance at 202-225-5074.

## **SEMI-POSTAL AND COMMEMORATIVE STAMP BILLS**

***What are semi-postal and commemorative stamp bills?*** A semi-postal stamp is a postage stamp issued and sold by the Postal Service at a price exceeding the postage value of the stamp. The difference between the sales price of a semi-postal stamp and the first class mail rate is then transferred to a federal executive agency for a specified cause (e.g., breast cancer research).

Commemorative Stamps are postage stamps issued in observance of a historical event, in honor of a noted person(s), or on a topic of national importance (e.g. civil rights pioneers). Each commemorative stamp issued is printed in limited quantities and sold for a limited time.

***How does the Committee handle semi-postal and commemorative stamp bills?*** The Committee will not consider bills proposing the issuance of a new semi-postal or a commemorative stamp in accordance with Committee Rule 13, Clause (a).

***Additional information.*** Recommendations for the subject matter of new commemorative stamps or semi-postal stamps should be submitted to the United States Postal Service Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and Postmaster General at <https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/csac/welcome.htm>.

Sincerely,

Trey Gowdy

Elijah Cummings