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HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSION



**Joe Courtney**  
**Congress of the United States**

2nd District, Connecticut

August 2, 2007

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The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman  
House Oversight and Government  
Reform Committee  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Davis  
Ranking Member  
House Oversight and Government  
Reform Committee  
B-350A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Davis:

Today, I proudly introduced legislation to rename the Post Office located at 235 Mountain Road in Suffield, Connecticut after Corporal Stephen R. Bixler, United States Marine Corps, who was killed by enemy fire in Fallujah, Iraq on May 4, 2006. I write today to ask for your committee's consideration and support of this effort.

There is never enough we can do to honor the young men and women who give their lives in service to our country. However, when I was contacted by a member of the Suffield community and asked to introduce this legislation, I felt it was fitting and meaningful tribute to a proud Marine who served on behalf of his town and his nation. Because a post office is a central part of any community, I wanted to make sure that the people of Suffield felt the same.

For the past month, I have asked the Suffield community to share their opinion on whether the name of the post office should be changed. The response I have received is nothing short of astounding. My office received over 170 letters, emails and calls in support of naming the post office in honor of Corporal Bixler. These came from a variety of people who were touched by this young man in his short life: family members, classmates, teachers, teammates, fellow Boy Scouts, close friends and even Marines who served with Corporal Bixler in Iraq. Everyone of these people described a thoughtful and compassionate man who wanted nothing more than to serve his nation and make a difference for his community.

It is clear that the Suffield community is proud of Corporal Stephen R. Bixler and his service to our nation. On their behalf, I respectfully ask for your support of the legislation I introduced today to honor him. Please to not hesitate to contact me, or my Senior Legislative Assistant Neil McKiernan, at 225-2076 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress