

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

July 20, 2007

Congressman Joe Courtney  
215 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Courtney:

I am writing to encourage you to pursue legislation in the United States Congress that will change the name of the U.S. post office on Mountain Road in West Suffield, Connecticut to honor Marine Corporal Stephen R. Bixler.

As you know, Corporal Bixler was killed in Fallujah, Iraq on May 3, 2006 while on foot patrol. Corporal Bixler was proud of his service to the nation, and believed that he was able to make a difference in the lives of the Iraqi citizens he encountered. In addition to being a valiant member of our armed forces, Corporal Boxler was a Suffield native and an Eagle Scout. Renaming the post office in his honor would be an especially fitting tribute to Corporal Bixler because it will be a lasting reminder of his selfless service to our nation.

I join with State Representative Ruth Fahrbach, Suffield's Board of Selectmen and numerous residents of Suffield, in urging you to pursue this legislation to preserve the memory of one of our fallen heroes.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Jodi Rell".

M. Jodi Rell  
Governor



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR JOHN A. KISSEL**  
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

16 FREW TERRACE  
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082  
TELEPHONES  
HARTFORD: (860) 240-0531  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1421  
HOME: (860) 745-0688  
FAX: (860) 240-8306  
E-MAIL: John.A.Kissel@cga.ct.gov

**RANKING MEMBER**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS  
COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
SENATE MINORITY SCREENING COMMITTEE

July 26, 2007

Congressman Joe Courtney  
77 Hazard Avenue, Unit J  
Enfield, CT 06082

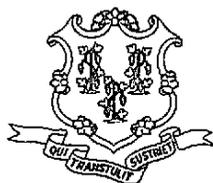
Dear Congressman Courtney: *Joe -*

Thank you for contacting me in regards to naming the Suffield Post Office in honor of Corporal Stephen Bixler. Although such a gesture can never make up for the loss of such a brave young man, I believe that honoring his life in this way will be a source of comfort to his family and friends. Corporal Bixler, who selflessly gave his life for his country, fellow service members, and all of us, deserves to be commemorated for his bravery and sacrifice. It is my hope that you will introduce this legislation to Congress and that the Suffield Post Office will be dedicated to the life of Corporal Bixler.

Thank you again for asking my thoughts on this issue. It was my pleasure to write in support of this wonderful young man, his family, and his friends.

Sincerely,

*John*  
John A. Kissel  
State Senator-7<sup>th</sup> District



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE RUTH C. FAHRBACH**  
HOUSE MINORITY WHIP  
SIXTY-FIRST DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 279  
WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06095  
TELEPHONE: (860) 240-8700

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress  
77 Hazard Avenue, Unit J  
Enfield, CT 06082

#### **Re: Suffield Post Office Comment Period**

Dear Congressman Courtney:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the request to name the Suffield Post Office for Corporal Stephen R. Bixler.

When Kevin Goff first contacted me about his suggestion to name the post office for Stephen, I thought it was an excellent idea. I suggested that he start by first contacting the Suffield Postmaster.

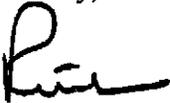
The death of Corporal Bixler brought together a community very divided on the war in Iraq. Residents lined the streets when his remains were transported from Bradley International Airport to the funeral home. Hundreds of friends, relatives and strangers attended his wake to show their love and support and to give thanks for his service and sacrifice to his country as well as to show support for grieving family members. As the funeral procession drove past the Suffield Post Office to the church, Suffield postal employees lined the street outside. (Stephen's father is a postal employee.) McAlister Elementary School students and teachers just across the street lined the route as well. Sacred Heart Church was overflowing with mourners.

I had the pleasure of presenting Stephen with a citation when he received his Eagle Scout award. He was an inspiration and set a positive example to the younger boys in his troop. To Stephen, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout was not just about accumulating badges. It was about guiding

The Honorable Joe Courtney Page 2

younger scouts to achieve their goals assisting them in any way that he could and setting a positive example for those who were to follow. Not because he had to but because that was who he was. Stephen accomplished much in his short life. Since I am not a resident of Suffield, I would defer to those who have decided to honor Corporal Bixler in this manner. I will say that in my opinion, naming the Suffield Post Office in honor of Corporal Stephen R. Bixler is appropriate, and well deserved and I am hopeful that Suffield residents agree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Fahrbach', written in a cursive style.

Ruth Fahrbach  
House Republican Whip



# TOWN OF SUFFIELD

83 MOUNTAIN ROAD • SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06078 • (860) 668-3838

Selectmen's Office

July 19, 2007

Congressman Joe Courtney  
77 Hazard Avenue, Unit J  
Enfield, CT 06082

Dear Congressman Courtney:

The Suffield Board of Selectmen strongly supports any and all efforts to name the Suffield Post Office in honor of Corporal Stephen R. Bixler. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously at their July 18, 2007 meeting to support this proposal. The naming of the Suffield Post Office in honor of Corporal Bixler is an appropriate tribute to a man who sacrificed his life for our Country.

The loss of Corporal Bixler had a profound impact on the Town of Suffield and the residents of Suffield have made great efforts to recognize this hero. The Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the residents of Suffield, would like to thank you for your continued efforts to name the Suffield Post Office in honor of Corporal Bixler and will provide any further support you may need in this endeavor.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Scott R. Lingenfelter".

Scott R. Lingenfelter  
First Selectman

SL:ck

July 9, 2007

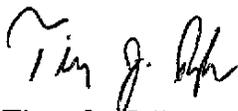
The Honorable Joe Courtney  
Congress of the United States  
77 Hazard Avenue, Unit J  
Enfield, CT 06082

Dear Representative Courtney:

I would like to lend my support to the suggestion that the Suffield Post Office located at 235 Mountain Road be named in honor of Corporal Stephen R. Bixler, United States Marine Corps. I believe that this would be a fitting tribute to a man who gave his life for his country. I am a member of the Suffield Board of Selectman, and I will ask our First Selectman to add an agenda item to our next meeting supporting this proposal.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,



Timothy J. Reynolds  
Selectman, Town of Suffield  
83 Mountain Road  
Suffield, CT 06078

860-668-1767