

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

Statement in Support of H.R. 3152, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 456 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Richard G. Lugar Post Office"

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of a bill to name a U.S. Post Office in Indianapolis in honor of Senator Richard Lugar, who passed away earlier this year.

The bill is supported by the entire Indiana delegation, and I believe it's a wonderful start as we work to advance his iconic legacy.

I was fortunate to know Senator Lugar.

He understood what it meant to be a true public servant, and the values he expertly displayed have inspired my work in Congress since.

Senator Lugar, who served as mayor of Indianapolis from 1968 to 1975, also represented Indiana honorably in the U.S. Senate from 1977 to 2013.

He was a brilliant scholar, a brave member of our armed forces, and a dedicated public servant who championed people and principle over party.

His distinguished life is a testament to the type of leader that Indiana cultivates.

And his public service is an unquestionable example of his deep commitment to our country.

A native Hoosier, he studied at Denison University, and at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

Following graduation, he served in the United States Navy as an intelligence officer.

He rose to prominence in local politics, serving as mayor of Indianapolis.

But it was in the Senate where he became the venerable political leader that we have come to recognize.

He served as the Chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee, where he garnered bipartisan support for significant reforms in domestic policy.

Though his Senate tenure is perhaps best remembered for his wide-ranging impact on international affairs.

He served for 34 years on the Senate Foreign Relations committee, including two terms as chair.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, he helped reduce the threat of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons through the passage and implementation of the Nunn-Lugar program.

This bipartisan effort secured and dismantled the former power's most deadly weapons, making our world a safer place.

He also played an essential role in America's enactment of sanctions against the Apartheid government of South Africa and in the U.S. recognition of democratic government in the Philippines.

He contributed to the expansion of the NATO Alliance, the implementation of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to end the global AIDS epidemic, and the ratification of anti-terrorist treaties.

For all he accomplished, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013 by President Obama, our nation's highest civilian honor.

And in his final years, he served as President of the Lugar Center, a non-profit organization focusing on global food security, combating nuclear proliferation, enhancing foreign aid, and promoting bipartisan governance.

His tireless efforts and commitment to good governance helped make the world a better and safer place.

And his commitment to bipartisanship won the respect of people across the political spectrum, including President Obama.

In our increasingly divided society, it is now more important than ever that we reach across the aisle and listen to each other's concerns – the way Senator Lugar did through his many years of public service.

All of us – regardless of party allegiances – should draw inspiration from Senator Lugar's dedication to our country.

And all of us should strengthen his legacy by pledging to advance the Hoosier values – and American values – of bipartisanship and cooperation that defined his life.

I call on every Hoosier, and every American, to join me in building on his record of statesmanship, by uniting against the growing threats of vitriol and blind partisanship.

Let this bill be the first step to advance that goal.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort, and I yield back the remainder of my time.