

I must say that it is so important that we do this, for he is a hero to so many people, and particularly to African-American people. Just the thought that this post office will be named after him, and children again will have to say, well, who was he, Henry McNeal Turner, I think somebody can turn around and say that he was a great man and accomplished a lot of great things in a very difficult time.

□ 1530

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I am honored to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the prime sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for their kind comments regarding Henry McNeal Turner and for bringing this bill to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, last year I introduced H.R. 3454 to designate the United States Post Office located at 451 College Street in Macon, Georgia, as the Henry McNeal Turner Post Office. Today we have the opportunity to honor a great man by passing this bill.

Bishop Henry McNeal Turner was one of Georgia's most dynamic African American men in the 1800s. He was a missionary, an evangelist, a theologian and church administrator, an Army chaplain, a postmaster, an author, a politician, and a staunch supporter of equal rights in America.

Bishop Turner was born in South Carolina in 1834. He taught himself to read and, at the age of 19, became a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. As he helped to build the membership of the church, Turner was appointed a deacon, then elder, and eventually bishop of the AME Church.

By 1880, Bishop Turner was responsible for churches from Nova Scotia to Louisiana. Additionally, Turner traveled extensively in Africa as a missionary and established churches in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and South Africa.

In the United States, Turner strove for equality amongst blacks and whites. In 1863, he helped organize the first United States regiment of African American troops and became the first African American Army chaplain appointed by President Abraham Lincoln.

During Reconstruction, he worked to make life in 19th century Georgia a better place for blacks. Turner helped organize the Republican Party in Georgia in 1867 and was first elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1868 as a Republican.

During his political career, Turner introduced bills for higher education for blacks, to protect black people from the Ku Klux Klan, and to give women the right to vote. Turner was an ardent supporter of public schools in

Georgia and championed equal rights by founding the Georgia Equal Rights League.

In 1869, after all the black legislators were expelled from the legislature because of their race, Turner was appointed postmaster in Macon, Georgia. But he was then returned to the Georgia legislature in the following year.

Bishop Henry McNeal Turner is remembered as a man of many accomplishments. His influence spread far and wide, and his power was felt from rural towns in Georgia to churches in Africa. In the United States Army, in the postal service, in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and in government Bishop Turner fought fiercely to improve the lives of the minorities and to defend their rights. Turner College and Turner Theological Seminary in Atlanta are named for him, as are many churches across Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Louisiana.

Bishop Turner stood for freedom, justice, and equality and left an endearing mark on our society. In reference to Bishop Turner, the Reverend Augusta Hall, Jr., senior pastor of the Saint Paul AME Church in Covington, Georgia, stated as follows:

"Georgia stands as your living testament. Churches you have built throughout her realm, ordaining those who would serve the Church of Allen, true servants of God you placed at her helm.

"Bishop Turner, even when your days drew nigh, look upwards you taught us, for inspiration comes from on high. Bishop Turner, may you dwell forever in God's heavenly sky. God bless the name of Henry Turner, may your legacy never die."

Bishop Turner's commitment to education, service, missionary work, the improvement of people, and racial equality deserve our recognition. Naming the post office in Macon, Georgia, of which he was postmaster at one time, is certainly a fitting tribute to this great man.

All 11 members of the Georgia congressional delegation are cosponsors and supporters of this bill to honor Bishop Henry Turner. I would encourage my colleagues to join me in passing this bill to recognize Bishop Turner's contributions to Georgia and America. I give special thanks to Elder Ben Ridley and current Macon Mayor Jack Ellis for their assistance and cooperation in researching Bishop Turner and for helping to bring this post office naming to a reality.

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

Madam Speaker, in listening to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), I could not help but think about the fact that, when he talked about how Henry McNeal Turner worked hard many, many years ago for equal rights, for African Americans, and women, it is so interesting, Madam Speaker, that the denomination in which he was a bishop, the African

Methodist Episcopal Church, just named one of our neighbors, one of my neighbors in Baltimore, Bishop Vashti McKenzie. I cannot help but think that it was people like Henry McNeal Turner who laid the foundation for such a wonderful opportunity for women and in particular for Bishop Vashti McKenzie.

So today we salute him, and I urge all of our Members to vote in favor of this very, very important piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I cannot help but be moved by what I hear about Bishop Turner, and I am very pleased that we have before us this naming post office bill for Bishop Turner, a man who was early on demonstrative of great courage, conviction, equality for African Americans, as well as for women, and for helping those who need it most.

So I urge this House to unanimously pass H.R. 3454, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) for introducing it.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3454.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4484) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Washington Street in Rockville, Maryland, as the "Everett Alvarez, Jr. Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4484

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

SECTION 1. EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Washington Street in Rockville, Maryland, shall be known and designated as the "Everett Alvarez, Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Everett Alvarez, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4484.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4484, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Washington Street in Rockville, Maryland as the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Post Office Building. It is with great pride that we in the Maryland Congressional Delegation honor a man for whom our entire Nation is eternally grateful.

During his life, Mr. Alvarez has faithfully served as a distinguished military officer and public servant. In 1960, after earning a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Santa Clara and becoming the first in his family to go to college, Mr. Alvarez joined the United States Navy.

After serving in the Navy for 20 years, he retired from his position with program management at the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington, D.C. and accepted an appointment as deputy director of the Peace Corps.

In 1982, President Reagan nominated him, and the Senate confirmed his appointment, as the deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration. After leaving the position of deputy administrator of the VA, Mr. Alvarez joined the Hospital Corporation of America before forming his own consulting company, Conwal, Incorporated.

A dedicated civil servant, Mr. Alvarez is best known to the public as the first American aviator shot down over North Vietnam. In 1964, then LTJG Everett Alvarez, an A-4 Skyhawk pilot, was assigned to Attack Squadron 144 on board the U.S.S. *Constellation*. On August 5, he was shot down and captured on the first raid in North Vietnam.

Commander Alvarez was reported as captured at about 4 p.m. Hanoi time at Hon Gai Bay in the Gulf of Tonkin. He was kept in the local jail cell in Hon Gai with two Vietnamese prisoners for 2 days, then moved to a nearby farm until August 12. On the 12th, he was taken in Hanoi and placed into room 24 in the infamous Hanoi Hilton where he lived until March of 1965, at which time other American prisoners started to arrive.

Commander Alvarez earned the dubious distinction of not only being the first naval aviator captured by the North Vietnamese, but also the longest confirmed prisoner of war in North Vietnam. On February 12, 1973, Commander Alvarez was finally released after 8½ years of imprisonment.

For his courageous service, Everett Alvarez holds numerous military decorations. He has been honored with the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, with combat "V," two Bronze Stars, with combat "V," the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Purple Heart medals.

In addition, a city park and two housing projects in California and Texas have been named in honor of Mr. Alvarez. In 1987, his hometown of Salinas, California, named a new high school in his honor. In March of 1998, he was awarded with the Daughters of the American Revolution's Medal of Honor.

Today, we have the opportunity to honor him in Rockville, Maryland, where Mr. Alvarez, his wife Thomasine, and his two sons, Mark and Bryan, currently reside. Unfortunately the Alvarez family was not able to be in the gallery this afternoon because Mr. Alvarez continues to serve America and America's future with his position on the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and is currently at their annual board meeting in Colorado.

Commander Alvarez's life stands as a testament to patriotism, to courage, and to perseverance. He, like any of our Nation's veterans, deserves our highest praise for risking his life defending this great Nation.

In the historical publication, *We Came Home*, Commander Alvarez reflects on his prisoner-of-war experience with this statement:

"For years and years, during our long incarceration, we dreamed of the day when we would come home to our families and friends. We never gave up hope that this day might come soon, because we had faith—faith in God, in our country, and in ourselves. It was this faith that maintained that someday our dreams would come true. No one can be prouder than I am for having had the association of some of the bravest men this country has ever seen—my fellow prisoners who were held in North Vietnamese jails."

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege for me to sponsor this legislation endorsed by all of the Maryland delegation to honor one of America's great heroes, Everett Alvarez, Jr.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4484, which names a post office after Everett Alvarez, was introduced by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), my good friend and colleague, on May 17, 2000.

Everett Alvarez was born in Salinas, California, in 1937. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master's degree in Operations Research and Systems Analysis, and a Juris Doctorate.

After earning his bachelor's degree in 1960, he joined the United States Navy and was an officer. He was taken pris-

oner of war in August of 1964 and held captive in North Vietnam for 8½ years until the general release of prisoners in February of 1973.

He served in program management at the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington, D.C. until his retirement in 1980. In 1981, he accepted an appointment as deputy director of the Peace Corps. President Reagan nominated him, and he was confirmed by the Senate, to be deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration in 1982.

Mr. Alvarez is a recipient of numerous military declarations and civilian awards and serves on several boards of directors. The fact is that he is a military man and he has given so much to his country, and someone once said freedom is not free. The fact is that Mr. Alvarez took time out of his life to sacrifice so that we could all be free and enjoy the wonderful life that we enjoy in this country and around the world.

Madam Speaker, I urge the adoption of H.R. 4484. I thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) for recognizing this great Marylander.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to acknowledge and demonstrate my appreciation to the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), and the ranking member; as well as the chairman of the subcommittee before whom this bill came, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and his ranking member, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

I want to also thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for his sponsorship of this bill. It is interesting that we have the two Marylanders managing the time for a bill to name a post office for a national hero that will be in Maryland. So I urge support of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4484.

The question was taken.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madame 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.

JAMES W. MCCABE, SR. POST
OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MORELLA. Madame Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the