

will take the logical next step of consolidating the two funds and replacing them with the newly created D.C. Teachers, Police, and Firefighters Pension Fund.

I am also pleased that we were able to include provisions supported by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and the City government to transfer administration of retirement programs for D.C. Police Officers, Firefighters, and Teachers from the office of the Chief Financial Officer to the D.C. Retirement Board. This provision will consolidate responsibility of retirement benefits and has already been approved by the D.C. Government, but can only go into effect with Congressional action.

Last year, I was pleased to join Congressman DAVIS in sponsoring another bill affecting retirement funds for D.C. Police Officers and Firefighters, the D.C. Military Retirement Equity Act, which was signed into law on November 22, 2003. That law allowed retired D.C. Police Officers, Firefighters, Park Police Officers, and Secret Service employees to "buy back" military service time and credit it toward their retirement in order to avoid cost reductions in their monthly benefit payments.

These changes today will improve the management of pension funds for D.C. Police Officers, Firefighters, and Teachers, many of whom work in the District of Columbia but reside in my home State of Maryland. Police Officers, Firefighters, and Teachers serve our communities every day to ensure that our children are educated, our streets are safer, and our neighborhoods are protected. I am pleased to take this small step to improve the administration of pension benefits for these workers.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4657, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MARTHA PENNINO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5133) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11110 Sunset Hills Road in Reston, Virginia, as the "Martha Pennino Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5133

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

SECTION 1. MARTHA PENNINO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11110 Sunset Hills Road in Reston, Virginia, shall

be known and designated as the "Martha Pennino 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 Martha Pennino Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5133.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5133, sponsored by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), designates the postal facility in Reston, Virginia, as the Martha Pennino Post Office. The entire Virginia delegation supports this legislation, and I am pleased to join them tonight.

On September 17, Virginia's Fairfax County, which I represent, lost one of its most influential community leaders, Martha Pennino. I rise tonight to honor and remember Martha Virginia Pennino, a former vice chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, with whom I served for 12 years on the board.

Mrs. Pennino died September 17, 2004, at Inova Fairfax Hospital at the age of 86, leaving a long and lasting legacy.

Known as Mother Fairfax, Mrs. Pennino was born in 1918 in Roanoke, Virginia, and was raised in Gloucester, Massachusetts. She received a bachelor's degree from Emerson College in Boston.

Mrs. Pennino served three terms on the Vienna Town Council prior to being elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in November 1967, representing what was then the Centreville District.

From 1968 to 1991, Mrs. Pennino was at the center of nearly every major decision made in Fairfax County. She was involved with such projects as the Dulles Toll Road, the Reston Hospital Center, South Lakes High School, the Reston Community Center, and the Reston Regional Library.

Mrs. Pennino played an instrumental role in the planned community of Reston, which was taking shape when she took office and was also critical in getting Interstate 66 built inside the beltway.

During her years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Mrs. Pennino was deeply committed to help-

ing the poor and homeless. She pushed for the building of the Embury Rucker shelter for the homeless, supported building low-cost housing, and buying and renovating the rundown Stonegate apartment complex. Prior to the construction of the shelter, she even provided cots in her supervisor's office and opened it at night for people with nowhere else to go.

Mrs. Pennino received many accolades for her work in Fairfax County. In 1985, she was awarded the Tom Bradley Regional Leadership Award from the National Association of Regional Councils. The group cited her efforts in developing the first energy policy for a metropolitan area, the region's car-pool program, and a fair-share housing program. Washingtonian Magazine named her Washingtonian of the Year.

Mrs. Pennino was also involved with many community boards and foundations. She was a member of the Advisory Board of the Northern Virginia Youth Services Coalition, director of the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, a commissioner on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, and a member of the Board of Visitors of George Mason University.

Additionally, Mrs. Pennino served as President of the Virginia Association of Counties of the Virginia Municipal League and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for 17 years, holding posts of president and chairman.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to express my gratitude to Martha Virginia Pennino for her service to Fairfax County and the mark she has left on her community. She will be sorely missed. In recognition of her dedicated service, I ask that the Reston Post Office be renamed in her honor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I very much thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the chairman of the committee, who I know felt very strongly about Martha, having served with her, and was a close friend to her.

As my friend said, on September 17, Fairfax County lost one of its most important and influential citizens ever. Martha Pennino was known as Mother Fairfax. Through her leadership, Martha Pennino helped oversee development of Fairfax County into one of the most successful jurisdictions in the entire country. She was a kind and compassionate public servant who made sure that all people were treated fairly, regardless of their circumstance.

Born in Roanoke, Virginia, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) said, she grew up in Gloucester, Massachusetts. She lived for many

years in Massachusetts and went to Emerson College in Boston.

Early on she had dreams of becoming a ballerina or an actress. She did have a flare for the dramatic. But her plans changed upon meeting Walter Pennino. She says she knew at the outset that she would be with him for life. They moved to Vienna, Virginia, in the 1950s after her husband took a job at the Pentagon and began searching for a typically American place to live.

What she did not know when she moved to the small town of Vienna, Virginia, in Fairfax County was that through her work she would help transform the county into one of the premier locations, attracting thousands of families from all over the country.

Knowing that she wanted to get involved in her community, not just wanting to stand on the sidelines, Martha Pennino began her public life by serving three terms on the Vienna Town Council. In 1968 she was elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors as a representative of the Centreville District. As the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) said, she served for many years with him. At the time of her election, though, she was only the seventh woman elected to office in Virginia, paving the way for women throughout Northern Virginia.

She continued to serve on the Board of Supervisors until 1991, including 17 years as vice chairman. By the time she left the board, she was the longest-serving woman in office in Virginia. During her tenure, she was involved in most of the major decisions affecting the county and was instrumental in seeing Reston develop into a successful planned community. From the moment she saw Reston as conceived by its founder, Robert E. Simon, she was determined that Reston would be a place where all people would be welcomed and no one would be excluded.

Through her commitment, she saw the very rapid development of projects that included the Dulles Toll Road, South Lakes High School, and the Reston Regional Library, among many other things. She helped create a true sense of community for all those living in this new area.

Martha Pennino also helped establish the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission to help fight discrimination throughout the county. Having lived through the Jim Crow era, she knew that too often people were being treated differently because of their income level or their race, and Martha wanted to ensure that past discrimination had no place in her community.

Martha Pennino will best be remembered by the citizens of Fairfax County for her commitment to the poor and to the homeless in her community. As the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) has said, she opened her office at night for people without a home and provided them a bed and a warm place to rest. She also ensured that with the enormous development occurring in Fairfax County, there would be low-

cost housing options for those who needed them and that these buildings would be as aesthetically pleasing as other housing options in the area.

One story that has followed Martha Pennino and perhaps best characterizes her style involves former President Jimmy Carter. When then-Governor Jimmy Carter was running for President, Martha Pennino hosted a party for him. During the party, they ran out of ice. As only Martha could, she asked Jimmy Carter to run out and pick up some more ice at the 7-11, and he did.

I would also like to take a minute again to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS), for his efforts in seeing this legislation come to the floor, and my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), who has helped us bring so many good pieces of legislation to the floor. I know that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) was a close friend of Martha Pennino, and I know that he as well as we regret her passing.

So in honor of her work to help all residents of Fairfax County, for being an instrumental part in managing the growth of the county, I ask that the Reston Post Office be named after Martha Pennino. In doing so, we honor and remember this remarkable woman so future generations can know what one person can do and what this very special person has accomplished for the benefit of her entire community.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, I had the pleasure of serving on the Fairfax Board of Supervisors with Martha Pennino for 12 years. I want to say I am very grateful for the opportunity to have known her and to have worked with her on so many projects. She was a classy lady, and I am going to miss her.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 5133.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I simply would want to commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) for their leadership in bringing this important measure to the floor. I urge its passage.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a co-sponsor and in strong support of H.R. 5133, legislation to designate a United States Postal Service facility in Reston, Virginia, as the Martha Pennino Post Office.

Martha Pennino, known as "Mother Fairfax," passed away on September 17. She was a leader in Fairfax County, and was instrumental in helping the county achieve the success it enjoys today. She served from 1968 to 1991 on the Fairfax Board of Supervisors, and served as the board's vice chairman for 17 years. Under her leadership, Reston became a successful developed community, and several important projects, including the Dulles Toll Road, South Lakes High School, and the Reston Regional Library, were undertaken.

It is Martha Pennino's dedication to those in Fairfax County with the least that will also be remembered. She was committed to the poor in the community, often opening her office at night to allow the homeless to rest their heads in a warm, safe place. Under her leadership, a homeless shelter was opened in her district, and she was an advocate for low-cost housing in Fairfax County, to help ensure that as the county grew, its poorest residents would not be left out of the county's progress. Martha Pennino's desire for Fairfax County to be an inclusive community is also reflected in her work to help establish the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission. Martha Pennino wanted everyone in Fairfax County to feel that they truly belonged to Fairfax County.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 5133, and proud to commemorate the life of Martha Pennino, an outstanding leader in Fairfax County, and a tireless advocate for those in need.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5133.

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.

SPECIALIST ERIC RAMIREZ POST OFFICE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5027) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 411 Midway Avenue in Mascotte, Florida, as the "Specialist Eric Ramirez Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5027

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

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST ERIC RAMIREZ POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 411 Midway Avenue in Mascotte, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Eric Ramirez Post Office".

(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 Specialist Eric Ramirez Post Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5027.