

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.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5027 pays tribute to the life of a fallen United States hero. Specialist Eric Ulysses Ramirez paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this great Nation. Tonight, the House of Representatives remembers his devoted service.

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Specialist Eric Ulysses Ramirez was a model citizen, a husband and a father. He was a sheriff's deputy, and he also served as a National Guardsman.

In February of 2003, Specialist Ramirez and his Guard unit were activated to take part in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Tragically, on February 12 of this year, just 42 days before his tour of duty in Iraq would have been completed, Iraqi insurgents killed Eric in an attack. Eric Ramirez was to have returned from Iraq in March with the 670th Military Police Company.

Eric is survived by his wife, Tracy Bensen-Ramirez, by his young daughter, Isis, and a brand new son, Chase. Last December, Eric was given permission to leave Iraq and return to Florida for his son's, Chase's, birth.

Mr. Speaker, this Post Office at 411 Midway Avenue in Mascotte, Florida, which is Eric's hometown, will be an exceedingly deserved and appropriate commemoration of his life. Eric loved his family. He loved his hometown. He loved this country so much that he fought and struggled and gave his life to defend them.

I strongly urge all Members to join me and also the distinguished gentlewoman from my home State of Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) to support this legislation that will create the Specialist Eric Ramirez Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) for her efforts and sponsorship of H.R. 5027.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 5027, legislation naming the U.S. postal facility in Mascotte, Florida, after Eric Ramirez.

This measure, which was unanimously reported by our committee on September 15, 2004, was introduced by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) on September 8, 2004. H.R. 5027 enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Florida delegation.

Eric Ulysses Ramirez was born and raised in Florida. He was a graduate of Mount Dora High School in Mount Dora, Florida. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy, served in the National Guard,

and was working as a sheriff's deputy in San Diego, California, when his unit was activated. Specialist Ramirez was deployed to Iraq in February 2003.

Sadly, Specialist Ramirez was killed when his unit was attacked. He died on February 12, 2004. He left behind a wife, Tracy; daughter, Isis; and son, Chase.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the sacrifice, the diligence and the giving of himself of Eric Ramirez, and I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE), the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a fallen soldier, a man who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might live free.

Eric Ulysses Ramirez was killed in action on February 12 of this year. He only had 42 days remaining on his tour of duty when he was killed by a rocket-propelled grenade launched by Iraqi insurgents.

Eric gave his life fighting in the sands of Iraq to secure our liberty while granting a new start to an oppressed people. As his friends and family know, Eric was a man of courage who was willing to fight to preserve a safe future for his children and for his countrymen.

In his lifetime, he was a model citizen, husband, father and son, as well as a sheriff's deputy and National Guardsman. He graduated from the Mount Dora High School which is very near Mascotte, and he planned on attending the University of Central Florida, but instead, he enlisted in the Navy for 4 years. Upon his return, his commitment to public service was evident when he took a job as a sheriff's deputy in San Diego.

Specialist Ramirez answered the call to duty yet again when his unit was activated to fight in Operation Iraqi Freedom in February 2003. Tragically, this would be his last mission.

Since the awful day that took the life of this American hero, I have come to know the family that he left behind. His wife, his children and his parents, Reverend and Mrs. Felix Ramirez, who live in Mascotte.

I attended the funeral of this brave young man, and although I did not know him personally, when I attended the funeral, I felt as if I did know him. I was very obviously struck with emotion when I met his parents and learned that his father, Felix Ramirez, was the minister who was conducting the service for his own son. As he conducted the service, I was awe-struck with his courage and with his belief in our American troops and in what his son did to help make Iraq a free country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of this body to join me in honoring specialist Eric Ramirez's life and his service by naming the United States Post Office at 411 Midway Avenue in Mascotte, Florida, as the specialist Eric Ramirez Post Office.

The beautiful town of Mascotte is where Eric grew up and where his family now calls home. I believe it is the very least that we can do to honor Eric and to repay his family for the son, husband and father that they lost when he fought to defend our freedom.

Lastly, I want to also thank my Florida colleagues for their willingness to support this measure. Passage of this bill is a tremendous bipartisan effort and shows the true compassion of the Florida delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I will conclude, yielding myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we rise to recognize Eric Ramirez who was lost in service to this Nation. First, I want to thank again the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) for bringing this naming of this Post Office Building before the House of Representatives and recognizing one who, again, gave his life in service to this Nation.

It was just one week ago, Mr. Speaker, right below the level where you stand tonight, when we heard the Prime Minister of Iraq Allawi tell us that 1 million Iraqis were murdered or missing, his fellow countrymen, and that over 300,000 to date have been found slaughtered in mass graves. Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his fellow man, and here Eric Ramirez gave his life in service to this Nation so that, tonight, every American can enjoy the freedoms that they have, and the people that he never knew or never met have the potential to live in freedom and not see a tyrant continue to murder, to maim and slaughter the people of Iraq.

So we give thanks tonight for the life of Eric Ramirez. We ask that God take him in his arms and all of those who served this Nation and lost their lives and their loved ones tonight in his care and remember them.

So, again, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) for remembering one American hero tonight, Eric Ramirez, and his family with this great honor.

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 Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5027.

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.