

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1722

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

SECTION 1. LEONARD W. HERMAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 Banyan Trail in Boca Raton, Florida, shall be known and designated as the “Leonard W. Herman 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 “Leonard W. Herman Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 1722, which names the postal facility in Boca Raton, Florida, after Leonard W. Herman.

H.R. 1722, which was introduced by Representative ROBERT WEXLER on March 27, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure, which has been cosponsored by 24 Members, has the support of the entire Florida congressional delegation.

Mr. Leonard Herman was a bombardier in the United States Army, and he flew numerous missions over Germany during World War II. He displayed heroic actions and earned high honors and several distinguished medals for his bravery.

Perhaps one of Mr. Herman's greatest achievements was his contribution in seeking to save the lives of thousands of “survivors” of German concentration camps who were dying because of the lack of adequate food, clothing and medical supplies. According to accounts by Professor Robert L. Hilliard, “Leonard Herman took it upon himself to advise and seek help from many of our government leaders regarding the plight of the survivors. His efforts were instrumental in President Truman's learning about displaced persons' situations in the U.S.-occupied Germany. The President changed U.S. policy and issued orders to provide the assistance and materials needed by the Holocaust survivors. Lieutenant Herman played an important role in saving thousands of these lives.”

And so, Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative ROBERT WEXLER from Florida, for introducing this legislation, and I urge swift passage.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

It is an honor for me to speak today about a true American hero who epitomized bravery and loyalty to his country. Leonard Herman was a decorated World War II veteran who helped save the lives of his fellow servicemen, as well as thousands of civilian victims of the war. He was also instrumental in bringing appropriate attention to President Truman regarding the needs of Holocaust survivors and other displaced persons.

Leonard Herman served as a bombardier with the U.S. Army and flew in countless combat missions over Germany. Honoring his country, he proudly completed two tours of duty. Among his awards are the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Fighting against heavy enemy fire, his valiant skills as a bombardier directly saved the lives of his fellow crewmen on repeated occasions.

During the war he saw firsthand the plight of his fellow Jews, the Holocaust survivors, and urgently began a letter-writing campaign to senior U.S. Government officials, as well as to President Truman.

Through his determination, U.S. policies towards these victims and other displaced persons were enacted so as to provide the food, shelter and clothing they desperately needed to begin new lives.

Today we honor Leonard Herman for his great service to his country and his humanitarian achievements by naming this post office for him.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a distinguished and decorated Jewish war veteran, Mr. Leonard Herman, by naming the postal facility at 601 Banyan Trail in Boca Raton, Florida, as the Leonard W. Herman Post Office. Mr. Herman signed up for two tours of duty during World War II, serving as First Lieutenant from December 12, 1942 through January 29, 1946. His courage during the war and the tenacity with which he fought, after the war, to change U.S. policy towards the survivors and displaced persons of concentration camps makes him a real American hero.

As a bombardier in the United States Army, Leonard Herman flew numerous combat missions over Germany and committed numerous acts of bravery that helped save countless lives. On October 8, 1943, he shot down an enemy fighter aircraft as it closed in on his plane. This courageous act saved his crewmen and earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross Award. In addition, the heroism he displayed during his tour won him several high honors, including an Air Medal, three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart.

Perhaps one of Mr. Herman's greatest achievements was his contribution to the efforts of a few young soldiers, including his

brother Edward Herman, who sought to save the lives of thousands of “survivors” of German concentration camps who continued to die because of the lack of adequate food, clothing and medical supplies. According to the accounts of Professor Robert L. Hilliard, “Lt. Leonard Herman took it upon himself to advise and seek the help from many of our government leaders regarding the plight of the survivors. His efforts were instrumental in President Truman's learning about the Displaced Persons situation in U.S. occupied Germany. The President changed U.S. policy and issued orders to provide the assistance and material needed by the Holocaust survivors. Lt. Herman played an important role in saving thousands of their lives.”

It is my greatest honor to sponsor this legislation that will recognize Mr. Leonard Herman for his bravery and service to this country. The Post Office designation is a fitting and long overdue tribute. I urge Members of the Committee to support this bill.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, to close, I want to commend the gentleman from Florida for introducing this resolution. We have no further speakers, and I would yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1722.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. 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 question will be postponed.

**STAFF SERGEANT OMER “O.T.”
HAWKINS POST OFFICE**

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2078) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14536 State Route 136 in Cherry Fork, Ohio, as the “Staff Sergeant Omer ‘O.T.’ Hawkins Post Office”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2078

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

**SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT OMER T. “O.T.”
HAWKINS POST OFFICE.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14536 State Route 136 in Cherry Fork, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the “Staff Sergeant Omer T. ‘O.T.’ Hawkins 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 “Staff Sergeant Omer T. ‘O.T.’ Hawkins Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 2078, which names the postal facility in Cherry Fork, Ohio, after Omer T. "O.T." Hawkins.

H.R. 2078 was introduced by Representative JEAN SCHMIDT on April 30, 2007, and was reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2007, by voice vote. This measure, which has been cosponsored by 16 Members, has the support of the entire Ohio congressional delegation.

Staff Sergeant Omer T., better known as "O.T.," Hawkins, died on Thursday, October 14, 2004, in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when his convoy was hit by a roadside bomb. He was assigned to the 44th Engineer Battalion based in Camp Howze, Korea. His Army colleagues have described him as "a tremendous warrior coupled with compassion" and said that "his skill as a superb non-commissioned officer who could influence any soldier defined his life and the principles he defended."

Staff Sergeant Hawkins graduated from North Adams High School on a Friday in 1991, and that following Monday he enlisted in the Army. Miss Cherry Frederick, his sister, said, and I quote, "The only thing that he ever wanted to do was go into the military." Family and friends will forever remember Staff Sergeant Hawkins' dedication and service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative SCHMIDT from Ohio, for introducing this legislation. I urge swift passage of this bill.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to a remarkable soldier and another true American hero. On October 14, 2004, SSGT Omer "O.T." Hawkins from Cherry Fork, Ohio, gave his life in service to our Nation. He was killed when his convoy hit a roadside bomb outside Ar Ramadi, Iraq. O.T. was only 31 years old.

Born on November 29, 1972, O.T. always knew that he wanted to join the Army. When he was only 10 years old,

O.T. wrote a letter to the Army asking if he could sign up despite his being so young. At North Adams High School, O.T. showed his leadership while participating in many school activities. He was a member of the Academic Team, played baseball and was voted "Most Likely to Succeed" by his senior class.

After high school he could have pursued just about any career, yet the military remained his number one love and lifelong goal. Only 2 days after his high school graduation, and 8 years after he wrote that priceless letter to the Army expressing his desire to join, he reported to basic training.

O.T. was not only following his personal dream, he was following in the footsteps of his father who served proudly as an engineer in the Marine Corps.

Once in the Army, O.T. quickly developed a leadership style armed with an arsenal of wit and knowledge, a perfect combination that was recognized by his comrades and superiors. Having served on tours of duty in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Egypt, Kosovo and Somalia, O.T. was a deeply respected and beloved leader. His colleagues have described him, as "a stunning leader and a great man," and said that "his aura always gave great hope to his soldiers."

O.T. loved this country more than anything else and was proud to serve in the protection of its citizens. Friends and family will forever remember O.T.'s dedication to the cause of freedom and his commitment to bringing that cherished freedom to people around the world where he served.

It is with gratitude for his bravery and sacrifice and for the sacrifice of those who loved him that I ask all Members to join me in naming the Cherry Fork, Ohio, postal facility in his honor.

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

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT).

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Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2078, legislation to name the United States Postal Facility in Cherry Fork, Ohio, as the "Staff Sergeant Omer T. 'O.T.' Hawkins Post Office." I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation to honor an American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation.

Born on November 29, 1972, O.T. always knew he wanted to be a soldier; and at the age of 10 he actually wrote the Army requesting that he become a member of the Army. In high school, he was a member of the academic team and was voted "Most Likely to Succeed." Instead of going to college or taking another career path, just shortly after graduation he joined the Army.

In the Army, O.T. quickly developed a leadership style armed with an arsenal of wit and knowledge that was admired by all who served with him. His deployments took him across the globe, including Desert Storm, Somalia, Haiti, Egypt twice, Bosnia, and Kosovo. His colleagues described him as a tremendous soldier, someone who loved his country.

U.S. Army SSGT Omer O.T. Hawkins died on Thursday, October 14, 2004, in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when his convoy was hit by a roadside bomb. His letter as an innocent young boy illustrates the lifelong desire O.T. had to serve his country and why I am humbled to sponsor this bill honoring him.

He believed in what he did, and his last message was:

"I will continue to fight when others falter and grow weary of their duty. I firmly believe in the Constitution. In fact, I believe it applies to all humanity, not just America."

I would like to share a poem written by O.T.'s nephew Joshua for his funeral:

"A soldier isn't judged by how good his aim is or how many bullets he's used. He isn't judged by how many lives he's taken or how many ribbons decorate his uniform. He won't be judged by how many wars he's fought or enemies he's made.

"A soldier is judged by how many flags hang for him and how many yellow ribbons decorate cars for him.

"I know my Uncle O.T. is above us smiling because he knows that in 20 years people won't remember how many medals he received but how hard he fought for his country."

Please help ensure that future generations of SSGT O.T. Hawkins' family, friends, and neighbors in Cherry Fork, Ohio, never forget how hard he fought for his country.

Please support H.R. 2078.

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

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

Just to close, let me just indicate there are heroes and sheroes all around us. Many of them are indeed giants who give of themselves in such a way that others pay little note to. And so when we take the time to name a Federal installation after a soldier who gave his or her life, in essence we are taking some of the dirt from around, taking the person out of the hole, and elevating them to the status of giant that they really are and have been.

So I commend my colleague from Ohio for introducing this legislation, and I urge its passage.

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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2078.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**STAFF SERGEANT MARVIN "REX"
YOUNG POST OFFICE BUILDING**

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1425) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4551 East 52nd Street in Odessa, Texas, as the "Staff Sergeant Marvin 'Rex' Young Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1425

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

**SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT MARVIN "REX"
YOUNG POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4551 East 52nd Street in Odessa, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Staff Sergeant Marvin 'Rex' Young 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 "Staff Sergeant Marvin 'Rex' Young Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 1425, which names a postal facility in Odessa, Texas, after Marvin "Rex" Young.

H.R. 1425, which was introduced by Representative MICHAEL CONAWAY on March 9, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on March 29, 2007, by voice vote. This measure, which has been cosponsored by 31 Members, has the support of the entire Texas congressional delegation.

On August 21, 1968, Staff Sergeant Marvin Young was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry. He was leading a patrol when the 25th Infantry Division came under attack by a large force of North Vietnamese. The squad leader was killed, and Staff Sergeant Young assumed command and repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to help his men. De-

spite orders to pull back, he remained behind to assist several of his men who were unable to withdraw. With critical injuries to his body, he continued to fight to cover the withdrawal of his troops. The enemy engulfed his position, and he was killed.

Staff Sergeant Young's parents were presented the Medal of Honor at the White House on April 7, 1970, by President Richard Nixon.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative MICHAEL CONAWAY from Texas for introducing this legislation and urge swift passage.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to speak on the floor today to name a post office in Odessa, Texas, for a truly great American.

Marvin "Rex" Young was a genuine war hero at the young age of 21. He grew up in Odessa, Texas, and was quite athletic during high school, playing both football and baseball. A smart student, he also enjoyed art and spent time painting. His plans were to attend Texas Tech University after graduating from high school, but, unfortunately, he never got the chance.

Rex Young joined the U.S. Army in September of 1966 and was deployed to Vietnam in 1967. He served with Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division as a staff sergeant. He was wounded twice during the war, once in December, 1967, and again in February, 1968. But it was on August 21, 1968, in a true act of heroism that he would provide the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

He was acting as a squad leader on a reconnaissance mission in South Vietnam. His unit was attacked by the enemy and received a barrage of incoming fire. The forward platoon lost its commander, so Rex Young instinctively took command and organized his men into a defensive position, all the while under heavy enemy fire.

In attempting to withdraw, he allowed his men to retreat while he stayed behind providing covering fire. It was during this action that he was critically injured. Heroically, he still managed to help the other members of his unit to retreat while continuing to cover for them. As more infantrymen pulled back, he remained behind to ensure their safe withdrawal. While the group fought its way back, he was hit again in the leg and in the arm. Fearing that seeking medical aid would slow down his team, he refused it. It was there that he sacrificed himself for the safety of his comrades.

It was this act of selfless bravery, courageous leadership, and heroism that earned him the country's highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor. The medal was posthumously awarded to his family by President Nixon on April 17, 1970. It is for those same reasons that we name this post office for Marvin "Rex" Young in his hometown.

I ask all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 1425.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Texas and the person who introduced this resolution (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's yielding.

Next Monday, our Nation will pay tribute to all the young men and women who fought and died so bravely and honorably for our Nation. On Memorial Day, we will celebrate with parades and speeches and flag waving and fireworks, as we should. From the Revolutionary War to the war we are fighting today, we celebrate and remember the fallen as a group. For those of us who have lost a loved one in a war or through the service of this country, Memorial Day has a deep meaning.

For the family and friends of the men who served with Marvin "Rex" Young, the last Monday of May is much more than just symbolic. On this day, Rex's family and friends and fellow soldiers remember and honor his brave actions on behalf of his country.

On August 21, 1968, while in battle in Vietnam, Rex sacrificed his life to save the lives of his friends and comrades. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery and sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to honor the life and memory and heroism of Staff Sergeant "Rex" Young.

Rex was born in Alpine, Texas, on May 11, 1947, the third and youngest child to Marilyn and Roy Young. Rex's mother has provided this picture of Rex serving in Vietnam back in 1967 and 1968.

The family moved to Odessa when Rex was a child. I met Rex when we were both attending Odessa Permian High School. Rex was a year ahead of me and graduated in 1965. He was a gifted athlete, played both football and baseball while at Permian. His mother said Rex was more interested in just being on the team and contributing, but he was much more than that. He was a star player. Childhood friends remember Rex as an exceptional athlete who could have written his own ticket in baseball. And they remember him as a very unselfish guy, so they were not surprised when he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery in battle.

After graduation, Rex attended Odessa College and Kentfield Junior College in California and then joined the United States Army on September 15, 1966. He completed basic training at Fort Bliss, Texas, and advanced infantry training at Fort Lewis, Washington, and then departed for Vietnam on October 20, 1967. He was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry of the 25th Infantry Division, known as the "Bobcats." Rex earned his first Purple Heart from a shrapnel wound on December 7, 1967; and he earned his second Purple Heart on February 1, 1968, during the TET Offensive.