

I would also like to thank Chairman HASTINGS and Subcommittee Chairman FLEMING for their support and look forward to working with them to ensure this legislation is signed into law to remember a man who devoted his life and career to the ideals formed during his early days at the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, again I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 588, which is a bill that would rename the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge as the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I too urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1640

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 588.

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.

#### JOHN J. COOK POST OFFICE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2079) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Main Street in East Rockaway, New York, as the "John J. Cook Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2079

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

#### SECTION 1. JOHN J. COOK POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Main Street in East Rockaway, New York, shall be known and designated as the "John J. Cook 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 "John J. Cook Post Office".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I would like to ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 2079, introduced by the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Main Street in East Rockaway, New York, as the John J. Cook Post Office. This bill was introduced in June of this year and was favorably reported out of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on November 3.

John J. Cook served the community of East Rockaway, New York, for more than six decades, working as a letter carrier at the facility to be named after him. Serving his community for 60 years and 4 months, Mr. Cook went above and beyond to serve his neighbors and exemplified professionalism and courtesy each and every day on the job. Mr. Cook delivered mail on the same route for nearly all of his 60 years on the job; and according to many in his community, he continually touched the lives of countless people spanning generations.

According to one East Rockaway resident, he was "the best." He knew all of his customers very well and gave personalized service throughout his career. The resident went on to say that "they don't make people like him anymore."

Sadly, Mr. Cook passed away in 2005 at the age of 78. He left behind his wife, Roberta, and many who will miss this true public servant and model postal employee.

I urge all Members to join me in naming the postal facility in East Rockaway, New York, after John J. Cook; and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in supporting H.R. 2079, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Main Street in East Rockaway, New York, as the John J. Cook Post Office.

The measure before us was introduced by Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY on June 1, 2011. In accordance with committee requirements, H.R. 2079 is cosponsored by all members of the New York delegation. It was reported out of the Oversight Committee by unanimous consent on November 3, 2011.

H.R. 2079 honors John J. Cook, a man who worked for more than 60 years with our Nation's postal service. Mr. Cook began working for what was then the United States Postal Department on January 8, 1944, after returning from service in World War II. From 1948 until his retirement in 2004, he walked the same route 6 days a week, with neither snow nor sleet nor rain preventing him from completing his appointed duties.

Mr. Cook was a fixture of the East Rockaway community, known and be-

loved by all. Even now, 7 years after his retirement, East Rockaway residents fondly recall Mr. Cook's kindness and empathy as a public servant. By all accounts, he went above and beyond the call of duty to serve his neighbors. His professionalism, courtesy, and dedication to the job made him a model letter carrier.

After 60 years and 4 months of faithful service to the United States Postal Service, Mr. Cook passed away in 2005 at the age of 78. Mr. Cook's career is a stunning example of what our dedicated postal workers contribute to our communities. Even as the postal service faces severe financial and operational strains, we must never forget that the service's success depends on the dedication of employees like John Cook.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we pass H.R. 2079 in recognition of Mr. John J. Cook's commitment to his work at the postal service, his compassion for his community, and his service to a grateful Nation. I also ask that we keep the example of his career in mind as we work together to craft what should be a bipartisan piece of legislation, to ensure that the institution Mr. Cook loved so much can continue to serve our Nation.

With that, I urge the passage of H.R. 2079, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, at this point I would like to withdraw my motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion is withdrawn.

#### PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ALEJANDRO R. RUIZ POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3004) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 260 California Drive in Yountville, California, as the "Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3004

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

#### SECTION 1. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ALEJANDRO R. RUIZ POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 260 California Drive in Yountville, California, shall be known and designated as the "Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz 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 "Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3004, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 260 California Drive in Yountville, California, as the Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building. This bill is cosponsored by the entire California State delegation and was reported by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on November 3.

Madam Speaker, it is altogether fitting and proper that we name this post office in honor of Private First Class Ruiz. Born on April 26, 1924, in Loving, New Mexico, PFC Ruiz enlisted in the Army during World War II and was deployed to the island of Okinawa in 1945. On April 28, 1945, PFC Ruiz and his platoon were ambushed by Japanese soldiers hiding in fortified bunkers. Under a hail of machine gun fire, with enemy grenades being lobbed from every direction, PFC Ruiz single-handedly killed 12 Japanese soldiers and completely destroyed the enemy machine gun nest.

In the face of overwhelming odds, PFC Ruiz acted with the utmost courage, risking his own life to save the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. While he was shot in the leg during the battle, PFC Ruiz and his squad leader were the only two men to escape death or serious injury that day. For his bravery and valor, Private First Class Ruiz was presented with the Medal of Honor by President Truman in June of 1946. He went on to continue his service in the Army, fighting in the Korean War and retired a master sergeant in the mid-1960s.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, on November 23, 2009, Private First Class Ruiz died of congestive heart failure at a hospital in Napa, California, at 85 years of age. I am truly grateful for the service of Private First Class Ruiz and all the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect and defend our country each day. I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting H.R. 3004, which designates the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 260 California Drive in Yountville, California, as the Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building.

This measure was introduced on September 21, 2011, by our colleague from California, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, and has been cosponsored by all members of the California delegation. H.R. 3004 was favorably reported out of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on November 3, 2011.

Alejandro R. Ruiz served his country valiantly for nearly 20 years, reaching the rank of master sergeant by the time of his retirement.

□ 1650

Born in New Mexico, Mr. Ruiz served our Nation with exceptional courage and valor. During service in World War II, his unit, the 27th Infantry Division of the 165th Infantry, was ambushed by Japanese troops sheltered in a camouflaged pillbox on Okinawa. Private First Class Ruiz grabbed an automatic rifle and charged forward through a storm of bullets and grenades. As an enemy soldier rushed toward him, his weapon jammed. After clubbing the enemy with the butt of his rifle, Private First Class Ruiz grabbed a different rifle, charged the pillbox and killed 12 enemy soldiers stationed inside. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions.

Mr. Ruiz died on November 23, 2009, of heart failure in Yountville, California. He was 85 years old.

I ask that we pass H.R. 3004 to honor Alejandro Ruiz' heroic actions in defense of our Nation as well as the long and productive life he lived thereafter.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California and sponsor of the bill, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman from Texas for bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the ranking member for his good work on this and for yielding me time to speak on this.

This is very near and dear to me. The California Veterans Home in Yountville, California, is in the heart of my district and my home county. I've known it my entire life, and it's been home to many brave men and women who have served courageously in our military. These are heroes and heroines who put their lives on the line for everything that we as Americans believe in and everything that we enjoy today.

There is a post office on that facility that provides mail service for 1,100 heroes and heroines at the California Veterans Home. These guys get their mail there every day. It saves them from having to make an impossible trek to the closest town. If they were forced to

do that, it would put them again in harm's way because it is a very dangerous route to travel; and in their advanced age, it makes no sense for them to have to do that. So this is a very, very important facility.

And here just recently, a very distinguished hero at the California Veterans Home, Alejandro Ruiz, passed away. The reason we want to name the post office after Alejandro Ruiz is because he earned a Congressional Medal of Honor. Now, it has already been noted on the floor the heroic activities of the day in question, but here's a man who, without any concern for his own safety, charged an enemy pillbox filled with enemy combatants, avoiding rifle fire, avoiding grenades, and took this responsibility on to save his comrades who were there fighting with him.

When his weapon became disabled, he returned, got another weapon, more ammunition, and again charged this pillbox. On the second attempt, he was able to reach the pillbox, get on top of it, and dispatch all those who were trying to kill his comrades. Had it not been for his activities, many Americans would have lost their lives that day, and the advancement of the American troops would have been stopped.

This man is a true hero, and that is probably redundant given he has received the Congressional Medal of Honor, and I think it is the appropriate tribute to name this postal facility after Alejandro Ruiz.

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of this bill, H.R. 3004, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of H.R. 3004, to designate a United States Post Office in Yountville, California as the "Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building."

Pfc. Ruiz was a former United States Army soldier who served our nation honorably between 1944 to 1964.

He received the Medal of Honor on June 26, 1946 for his actions in the Battle of Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands during World War II.

President Harry S. Truman presented Pfc. Ruiz with the highest military decoration the United States has to offer.

Pfc. Ruiz's unit was stopped by a camouflaged enemy pillbox where these soldiers encountered machinegun fire and grenade attacks.

Pfc. Ruiz was able to destroy the pillbox under heavy fire and save the lives of many comrades.

He faced overwhelming odds and not only served his unit bravely, but also served his country admirably.

As a Member of Congress, and a veteran, I am proud to stand here before you because of the efforts of Pfc. Ruiz, and soldiers like him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3004.

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. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### OFFICER JOHN MAGUIRE POST OFFICE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1412) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 462 Washington Street, Woburn, Massachusetts, as the "Officer John Maguire Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1412

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

#### SECTION 1. OFFICER JOHN MAGUIRE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 462 Washington Street, Woburn, Massachusetts, shall be known and designated as the "Officer John Maguire 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 "Officer John Maguire Post Office".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

S. 1412, introduced by Senator JOHN KERRY of Massachusetts, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 462 Washington Street, Woburn, Massachusetts, as the "Officer John Maguire Post Office." The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on October 20 and was reported favorably by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on November 3.

Madam Speaker, John Maguire was born and raised in Woburn, Massachu-

setts, growing up in a home where his father was chief of police in Woburn for 15 years. After graduating from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Officer Maguire was sworn in as a Woburn police officer by his own father in June of 1977. Wearing badge No. 23, which had been his father's badge number, Officer Maguire worked for over three decades as a tireless public servant, protecting the people of Woburn.

On December 26 of last year, three armed men went into a department store in Woburn and proceeded to steal money and jewelry. Arriving on the scene to back up his fellow officers, Officer Maguire used his cruiser to block the gunmen who were fleeing on foot from the store. Exiting his vehicle, Officer Maguire and one of the suspects exchanged gunfire. Officer Maguire was able to kill the suspect; but, tragically, he was mortally wounded himself. Officer Maguire had celebrated his 60th birthday just 3 days prior to his death and was less than a year away from retirement.

Madam Speaker, it is altogether fitting and proper that we name this post office in Woburn for Officer John Maguire. And to Officer Maguire and all those who wear a badge and courageously protect and serve our towns, cities, and counties each and every day, we are eternally grateful for all that you do and all that you sacrifice. I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I urge the body to pass this legislation.

I rise in strong support of S. 1412, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 462 Washington Street in Woburn, Massachusetts as the "Officer John Maguire Post Office."

The measure before us was introduced on July 25, 2011 by Senator JOHN KERRY.

Our distinguished colleague, Congressman EDWARD MARKEY of Massachusetts, also introduced a companion version of the underlying bill on July 25, 2011.

Both S. 1412 and H.R. 2640 have met the requirements for consideration established by the Oversight Committee and enjoy the support of all members of the Massachusetts delegation.

S. 1412 was reported out of Committee by voice vote on November 3, 2011.

John "Jack" Maguire was born on December 23, 1950 in the city of Woburn, Massachusetts.

He became a police officer for the Woburn Police Department in June 1977 and was sworn in by his own father, then-Police Chief Thomas Maguire. Throughout his career, he wore Badge Number 23—the same badge his father had worn.

Officer Maguire has been called a 'life-long student.'

He graduated from Austin Prep High School in 1969 and from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell in 1973.

In 1998, more than 20 years later, he earned a master's degree in business administration from Franklin Pierce College.

He went on to earn a second master's in science and criminal justice administration from Western New England College in 1999.

That same year, he earned a doctorate in philosophy from the American College of Metaphysical Theology.

Following the celebration of his 60th birthday late last year, Officer Maguire gave notice of his intention to retire in the fall of 2011.

On December 26, 2010, however, Officer Maguire found himself on duty in the middle of a New England blizzard.

Armed robbers threatened the employees of the Kohl's department store in Woburn and then fled the store with money and jewelry.

Responding to a fellow officer's call for assistance in a foot chase, Officer Maguire rushed to the scene and blocked an escape path with his cruiser.

He then got out of his vehicle to confront an assailant. The two exchanged gunfire, which killed the gunman and left Officer Maguire mortally wounded.

John Maguire was the first officer killed in the line of duty in Woburn, Massachusetts since the department was established in 1847.

I know the City of Woburn, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the family of Officer Maguire are grateful for his service and sacrifice. We are truly indebted to men and women like him, who risk their lives to protect our communities on a daily basis.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we recognize Officer Maguire's devotion to his profession, his community, and our country's safety by passing S. 1412.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield 5 minutes to the sponsor of the companion bill, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY).

Mr. MARKEY. I thank the gentleman very much for yielding. I thank the gentleman from Texas as well. This is a very important bill.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2640, which I introduced in the House of Representatives, and Senate 1412, introduced by Senator KERRY and Senator BROWN, and that is to name the Woburn Post Office in honor of Officer John—his friends called him "Jack"—Maguire.

□ 1700

At 9 p.m. on December 26, 2010, during the height of a blizzard, two men invaded a Kohl's department store on Washington Street in Woburn, Massachusetts, to rob the jewelry counter as the employees prepared to close. As one robber entered the store, the second stood lookout on the outside, while a third man waited in a nearby getaway vehicle.

The robber in the department store was a career criminal with a long and violent record. He took a large amount of jewelry and fled outside the store into the driving snow. Eyewitnesses and store employees dialed 911. Officer Maguire arrived in the parking lot moments after the robbery. He saw an officer chasing a gunman on foot and drove his cruiser to a location to prevent the escape of the gunmen into a residential neighborhood in Woburn. Officer Maguire jumped out of his cruiser on Washington Street, and the