

Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Combat Action Ribbon.

Matthew Troy Morris was killed on April 6, 2008, when his vehicle encountered a makeshift bomb in Balad, Iraq. Matthew was only 23 years old. He is the oldest of four children, leaving behind Cory, Katie and Sam. Matthew's parents are Lisa and Glenn Morris of Cedar Park, Texas. His father, Glenn, served our country in the Vietnam war, and we should thank him for his service.

Matthew was engaged to be married to Ms. Julia Richardson. He is survived by his grandparents, Nancy Jackson and Joane Walters; his aunt, Diane Afflerbach; and uncles John and Brian Walters. The sacrifice our military families make often goes unnoticed, and I would like the entire Morris family to know that we will never forget Matthew and the pain that they have endured at his loss. Our country and this House have not forgotten Matthew, and we are proud to celebrate his life on this day.

Matthew Morris exemplified the highest ideals of the United States Armed Forces. And although his passing left a void in the lives of those who were fortunate enough to know him, they will forever carry the memories of this heroic young man close to their hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 298 and ask my colleagues to join in honoring an American patriot and hero, Army Specialist Matthew Troy Morris of Cedar Park, Texas.

On Saturday, I was at the dedication of the Veterans Memorial in Cedar Park, which holds the likeness of this young specialist, and there were hundreds of citizens—probably 500 people—there to celebrate that memorial.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 298, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 East Whitestone Boulevard in Cedar Park, Texas, as the "Army Specialist Matthew Troy Morris Post Office Building."

The measure before us was introduced by Congressman JOHN CARTER. In accordance with our committee requirements, H.R. 298 has been cosponsored by all the members of the Texas delegation. It was reported favorably by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on November 3, 2011.

Army Specialist Matthew Troy Morris was born on July 16, 1984, just across the Potomac River in Fairfax, Virginia. He was killed while serving in Balad, Iraq, on Sunday, April 6, 2008, after only 23 short years of life.

Specialist Morris was a loving son to his parents, Lisa and Glenn Morris, and a caring brother to his siblings Cory, Katie and Sam. Friends and family describe him as a dedicated soldier and an energetic and inspiring young man.

Matthew Morris joined the Army immediately after high school and was assigned to the 2nd Squadron of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment based in Fort Hood, Texas. While serving in Iraq, he earned the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the National Service Defense Medal, and several other decorations for heroism. Specialist Morris was a talented young man whose courage and sacrifice will forever be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we pass the underlying bill to recognize Specialist Morris' valor.

Having no requests for time, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I am truly grateful for the brave and heroic service of Specialist Morris and the countless other veterans who sacrifice their time, the families that sacrifice their time, and the bravery and courage of all our veterans in serving our country and protecting our freedom. It is true that freedom is not free; and veterans like Specialist Matthew Troy Morris, whom we're proposing to name this post office after, are perfect examples of the bravery and courage of the American military.

Specialist Morris was born on July 16, 1984, in Fairfax, Virginia. He later attended Cedar Park High School in Cedar Park, Texas.

Specialist Morris was in Iraq, serving as part of the Army's 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division based out of Fort Hood. Tragically, on April 6, 2008, at just 23 years of age, Specialist Morris was killed when the vehicle he was riding in hit an improvised makeshift bomb. Specialist Morris left behind his parents, three siblings, a fiancée, and dozens of other family and friends. For the bravery, courage, and heroism he displayed, Specialist Morris was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and National Service Defense Medal.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is eternally grateful for his sacrifice, and I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). 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. 298.

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. FARENTHOLD. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

## SERGEANT ANGEL MENDEZ POST OFFICE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2422) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Bay Street, Suite 2, in Staten Island, New York, as the "Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2422

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

### SECTION 1. SERGEANT ANGEL MENDEZ POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Bay Street, Suite 2, in Staten Island, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Angel Mendez 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 "Sergeant Angel Mendez 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. 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 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. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM).

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a brother, a member of the United States Marine Corps. He gave his life for his country and fellow marines during the Vietnam war.

Sergeant Angel Mendez was born to Puerto Rican American parents but was raised in the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin, an orphanage located in Mount Loretto, in my hometown in Staten Island, New York.

When Angel graduated from high school in 1964, he volunteered to join the United States Marine Corps. Angel Mendez was assigned to Company Fox-trot, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division as a corporal and often said he found a family in the United States Marine Corps. His company participated in Operation DeSoto in Duc Pho, Vietnam.

During a search and destroy mission on March 16, 1967, Mendez and his company were taken under intense Viet Cong fire. Half of the company sat across an open rice paddy separated by enemy fire. Among them was the platoon commander, Lieutenant Ronald Castille, who had been shot in his right

leg; and without hesitation, Sergeant Mendez volunteered to lead a small squad to help his fellow marines and move Lieutenant Castille to safety.

Castille remembers Mendez shouting, "I'm coming, Lieutenant, I'm coming," as he crossed the open paddy, providing cover fire for the platoon commander and other wounded marines. Mendez shielded Lieutenant Castille with his own body as he dressed the wound on his leg and attempted to carry the commander to safety, but it was at this point that he was shot in the shoulder. Two marines came to aid Mendez in carrying Lieutenant Castille to safety, but he refused to let go of the lieutenant and chose to directly expose himself to enemy fire while still carrying Castille's legs. Mendez was shielding Castille and the other marines with his own body when he was mortally wounded.

Lieutenant Castille survived the attack, which occurred on his 23rd birthday, and later went on to become the district attorney of Philadelphia and chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

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Sergeant Angel Mendez is a true hero who gave his life protecting fellow marines; and in honor of his bravery, he was posthumously promoted to sergeant and awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest award for valor a marine can receive.

Angel Mendez is survived by his brother, Ismael, and sister-in-law, Aida, who have long sought recognition for Angel's heroic actions on that day.

I believe it is important for Congress to honor the sacrifice of my fellow marine. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2422 in honor of Sergeant Angel Mendez, and designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Bay Street in Staten Island, New York, as the "Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office."

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI).

Mr. PIERLUISI. I want to commend my colleague, Congressman GRIMM, for introducing this bill to name a post office in his Staten Island district after Sergeant Angel Mendez, who, at age 20, in Vietnam, laid down his life for his fellow marines, earning the Navy Cross for his actions.

Sergeant Mendez died far too young, but his short life was filled with greatness. With this bill, Congressman GRIMM, a Devil Dog himself, honors Sergeant Mendez, the Marine Corps, and this country.

The bond between New York and Puerto Rico is deep and strong. Sergeant Mendez' parents were born in Puerto Rico and, like so many island residents of their generation, moved to New York in search of a better life for themselves and their children.

How Sergeant Mendez came to possess such character and courage will never be known; and, in fact, I am

moved by the description just made by Congressman GRIMM about his valor in Vietnam. But on that day in 1967 when he was mortally wounded on a battlefield thousands of miles from Staten Island, this New York son of Puerto Rican heritage became an American hero. Today, thanks to Congressman GRIMM, we pay tribute to his strength and his sacrifice, and engrave his name in stone.

I am now, more than ever, a proud Puerto Rican American remembering the life of Sergeant Angel Mendez. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2422.

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

H.R. 2422, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM), designating the postal facility at 45 Bay Street, Suite 2, in Staten Island as the "Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office," was introduced in July and favorably reported by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on November 3.

Stories like that of Sergeant Mendez demonstrate the bravery and courage of all those who have served or are serving in our Armed Forces. I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I am very pleased to join my colleagues in supporting H.R. 2422. Without a doubt, Sergeant Angel Mendez was a very courageous young man. He gave a lot for his country, and he certainly deserves this rich honor.

The measure before us was introduced by Representative MICHAEL GRIMM on July 6, 2011. It has been co-sponsored by all members of the New York delegation and was reported favorably to the House by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on November 3, 2011.

This legislation commemorates the bravery and the sacrifice of Sergeant Angel Mendez.

As a child, Sergeant Mendez was raised in an orphanage on Staten Island.

Upon his graduation from high school in 1964, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

During his service with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Sergeant Mendez was sent to Vietnam.

While on a search and destroy mission on March 16, 1967, Mendez and his company were ambushed by the Viet Cong, and his platoon's lieutenant was injured in a rice paddy some 100 yards away from where Sergeant Mendez was exchanging fire with the enemy.

Sergeant Mendez rushed to his lieutenant's aid and shielded him with his own body as he dressed his wounds. While in the process of carrying his lieutenant to safety, Sergeant Mendez was shot twice and suffered a fatal wound.

He was only 20 years old at the time of his death in battle.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2422 honors the ultimate sacrifice made by Sergeant Angel Mendez by renaming the Bay Street Staten Island Post Office in his name.

I urge all of my colleagues to pass this legislation.

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 Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2422.

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. FARENTHOLD. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### TOMBALL VETERANS POST OFFICE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2660) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 North Holderrieth Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, as the "Tomball Veterans Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2660

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

#### SECTION 1. TOMBALL VETERANS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 North Holderrieth Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Tomball Veterans 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 "Tomball Veterans 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. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2660, introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 122 North Holderrieth Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, as the "Tomball Veterans Post Office." The bill is cosponsored by the entire Texas delegation,