

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.

□ 1720

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,

and, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor myself.

There's no way a grateful nation can adequately express our thanks to those who serve. However, naming this post office in Tomball after those who serve is a small but fitting gesture to the brave men and women who are the reason this country is free.

I commend my colleague from Texas for introducing this legislation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague and friend from the great State of Texas, the sponsor of this bill, Mr. McCAUL.

Mr. McCAUL. I thank my good friend and colleague from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) for his support of my legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of our Nation's veterans and in support of this legislation, which would designate the post office located at 122 North Holderrieth Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, as the "Tomball Veterans Post Office."

It is appropriate, Mr. Speaker, that on the first legislative day after Veterans Day that this House would honor its veterans for their sacrifice and fidelity to our country. I cannot think of a more deserving community than Tomball, Texas, in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I just returned this weekend from visiting our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and meeting with the President of Pakistan. I also visited our wounded warriors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany on Veterans Day.

I'm pleased to report that our men and women in uniform are doing tremendous work and have made extraordinary progress in the war on terror. I was also humbled by our troops' sacrifice and unwavering commitment to our mission.

In Afghanistan, I witnessed the fruits of our soldiers' labor. For the first time, women are being educated and Afghans are enjoying freedoms, the likes of which they could only dream about under the Taliban's brutal regime.

In Iraq, where Saddam Hussein and his henchmen once brutalized the Iraqi people and silenced their voices, democracy is beginning to take shape. Today the Iraqi people are free to express their diverse points of view and engage in the same kind of political discourse that we are engaged in here right now in this very Chamber.

It is because of our soldiers that this is possible; that the American people can be safe from terror and tyranny; and that others around the world, for the first time in their lives, experience the freedoms which we so often take for granted.

I am so proud of our soldiers and what they have accomplished—soldiers like Marine Corporal Jeffrey Johnson of Tomball, who lost his life in Afghanistan in 2010 defending America and what our country stands for in the world.

Last year I attended Jeffrey's funeral in the small town of Tomball, where over 30,000 people—30,000 grateful Americans—lined up in the streets to show their respect for a true American hero. This unbelievable outpouring of support demonstrated that patriotism and love of country are still alive and well in America.

It's thanks to veterans like Jeffrey Johnson and so many others from Texas and across this great country that this is possible; and, for that, we must honor our men and women who have served in uniform.

That is also why I'm active with the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress, which preserves and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

My father, a World War II veteran who flew bombing missions over Nazi Germany, always reminded me that his generation, often called the Greatest Generation, handed down a better America to my generation.

□ 1730

That same can be said for today's veterans, such as Tomball heroes like Jeffery Johnson, whose sacrifices are building a better America today.

And so to all of America's veterans, let me say on behalf of this distinguished body, thank you for your service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2660, a bill 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." This past Friday, our Nation celebrated and honored the heroic service of all our Nation's veterans. Continuing that celebration, I urge that we enact H.R. 2660, introduced by Congressman MICHAEL GRIMM. This legislation is supported by all of the members of the Texas delegation, and was considered and reported favorably by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on November 3, 2011.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an estimated 1.7 million of our Nation's 22.5 million veterans live in the State of Texas. The legislation before us will commemorate the service of veterans of Tomball, Texas, by naming their local post office in their honor.

Such commemoration is but a small token of the debt our Nation owes its veterans. At a time when veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan face higher unemployment rates than the general population and when our veterans urgently need a range of services as they recover from both physical and psychological wounds, we must make it our highest priority to ensure our veterans have

quick and easy access to all the services and benefits they have earned by the commitments they have made and kept to our Nation.

That said, Mr. Speaker, let us come together in support of dedicating the Tomball, Texas, Post Office to its hometown veterans by passing H.R. 2660.

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in urging strong support for this bill honoring our heroic veterans. There are never enough ways we can thank the veterans who served so bravely this country.

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. 2660.

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. Mr. 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.

TROOPER JOSHUA D. MILLER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2415) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Dock Street in Pittston, Pennsylvania, as the "Trooper Joshua D. Miller Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2415

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

SECTION 1. TROOPER JOSHUA D. MILLER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Dock Street in Pittston, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Trooper Joshua D. Miller 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 "Trooper Joshua D. Miller 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. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within