

young man in the face of danger. Because of Specialist Glende's brave actions, five American lives were saved on the battlefield. He deserves our respect for his honorable service.

I thank our colleague, Representative SLAUGHTER, for bringing this legislation. I urge the body's adoption of H.R. 5019, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As I have been listening here just for the last few moments—and at this point, as the song says, “We are over halfway there”—of listening through these what many people would say are just post office namings, if you listen to the stories that are being told, these are the stories of America, these are the stories of those who serve, those who gave their life, those who served us in other ways in their communities.

For that reason, if no other, this should be mandatory to watch in the elementary schools and high schools all across this country because this is what we are talking about is the best of America.

With that, I would ask support of passage of H.R. 5019, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5019.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

**CORPORAL JUAN MARIEL  
ALCANTARA POST OFFICE  
BUILDING**

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4443) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue, in New York, New York, as the “Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4443

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

**SECTION 1. CORPORAL JUAN MARIEL ALCANTARA POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue, in New York, New York, shall be known and designated as the “Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara 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 “Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4443, introduced by Representative CHARLIE RANGEL of New York, which would designate the postal facility located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue, in New York, New York, as the Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building.

Army Corporal Alcantara was killed on August 6, 2007, in Baqubah, Iraq. He died due to wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. Juan was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star; a Purple Heart; an Army Good Conduct Medal; and, prior to his death, the Army's Commendation Medal.

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Juan moved to the United States with his family when he was 5 years old. Growing up in Washington Heights in New York, he became known as a kind and helpful person.

He mentored youth and encouraged them to set goals and aspire to their dreams. After his father passed away, Juan became even more dedicated to taking care of his family. He made the courageous decision to join the Army and serve his adopted country. He was posthumously awarded naturalized U.S. citizenship.

It is my honor to ask my colleagues to support H.R. 4443 and memorialize the sacrifice and heroism of Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), who represents the fabulous community of Harlem, and in support of H.R. 4443.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I sincerely thank the gentleman from Nevada for this opportunity to support H.R. 4443, naming a post office in my district after a fallen hero who, as was reported by the chairman, came to this country as a kid on August 24, 1984, with his family from the Dominican Republic.

He didn't come to this country to become a hero; he came in search of the

American Dream, as so many thousands of people have. Ultimately, after living and playing in the vicinity of this post office that we will name after him, he finished school and saw an opportunity in serving in the United States Armed Forces, as a matter of fact, joining the 2nd Infantry Division, which I was honored to serve from 1948 to 1952.

Juan lost his life, and he gained his citizenship after that through provisions that we have made in the immigration law. There are so many thousands of young people that won't have post offices named after them, and some will be forgotten by many people who have no idea where our young people have lost their lives or what even they were fighting for.

That is why it is so important for us as Americans, as we continue to fight the longest war in our history, you should remember that it is more than the post office, it is more than their life, but it is what this great country stands for as we try to protect America all over the world.

It is so important to us, as Members of Congress who have this responsibility to determine when that moment comes, that our Nation's national security is threatened and when we will be going to war, and that these thousands of lives, not just the people who for economic or other adventurous reasons join the military, but in fact, a sacrifice that all of us have to make when our great Nation is threatened.

We are still going through this period, and it seems to me, Madam Speaker, that when the President of the United States or Members of the United States Congress believe that our Nation's national security has been threatened, that we should also make certain that we have a mandatory service that goes with us, so that no matter what neighborhood, no matter what the economic status is, that when that flag goes up, all Americans, regardless of their age, should be prepared—should be prepared and anxious to make some type of sacrifice in support of our Nation's security.

Certainly for those who are young enough to serve, they should not be confined to just those who volunteer, but everyone should be made vulnerable or at least given the opportunity to be drafted into the military to serve this great Nation.

So I appreciate the support of the House to name this post office—it will be symbolic—on Vermilyea Avenue after the name of this brave young person, a son, a brother, a father, and—most of all now—an American who gave his life for this great Nation.

I thank the gentleman from Nevada for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we have no other speakers, and we are ready to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Again, we support the passage of this bill to honor the ultimate sacrifice that Corporal Juan Alcantara made for this country. He and so many other servicemen and -women risk their lives every day to protect the freedoms that we hold so dear, and it is only right that we recognize and respect their great courage.

We thank Representative CHARLIE RANGEL for bringing this important legislation to us and ask the body's full support of H.R. 4443.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is always a privilege to honor those who have sacrificed for us.

With that, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4443, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4443.

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.

#### CYNTHIA JENKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3957) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218-10 Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens, New York, as the "Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3957

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

#### SECTION 1. CYNTHIA JENKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218-10 Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Cynthia Jenkins 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 "Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3957, which was introduced by Representative GREGORY MEEKS of New York, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218-10 Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens, New York, as the Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building.

Essie Cynthia Jenkins served the communities of Jamaica, St. Albans, Springfield Gardens, and Rosedale, New York, for 12 years as a New York assemblywoman. She made history by being the first African American woman elected to represent southeast Queens. Ms. Jenkins served as chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Affirmative Action and a delegate to both the Governor's and White House Conferences on Libraries. She was also instrumental in the State's decision to make a 250-bed Veterans' Home to St. Albans in the 1980s.

Prior to her career in public service, Ms. Jenkins was a librarian for 23 years, working in every southeast Queens branch library. In 1966, she earned a Master of Library Science degree from Pratt Institute. It was around this time when she met her husband, Joseph Jenkins. The two had a son, Joseph Jenkins, Jr., who credits his mother's strong spiritual beliefs and active membership in the Springfield Gardens United Methodist Church with his decision to become an ordained minister at the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bay Shore, Long Island.

Ms. Jenkins, sadly, passed away on October 31, 2001, at the age of 77; however, her passion for learning lives on. Her undergraduate alma mater, the University of Louisville, named a scholarship in her honor, known as the Essie Jenkins Torchbearer Endowment, established in 1999. Since then, many young people have had the opportunity to go to college, thanks in part to the dedication and trailblazing efforts of this remarkable woman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3957, and with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the author of this legislation.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor H.R. 3957. I urge its quick and unanimous passage and ask all Members to join me in honoring one of southeast Queens' best and a memorable public servant, Cynthia Jenkins.

Let me, at this time, also thank my colleagues from the New York delegation who all signed onto this bill, because Cynthia was a history maker. She was the first African American woman in Queens County to be elected to the New York State Assembly. She

was elected because of the work that she did prior.

For 22 years, she worked as a librarian and made sure that every single library in southeastern Queens would remain open. She, in fact, worked in every library in southeastern Queens. She fought hard on behalf of libraries and those who enjoyed their services, even preventing many branches from closing in a time of cutbacks. She wanted to make sure the children had a safe place to go to learn after school. She also had various programs within the public libraries.

As indicated, when servicemembers returned from Vietnam, it was Cynthia Jenkins who played an integral role in opening the State Veterans' Home in St. Albans at the veterans' facility. That facility still exists and continues to serve thousands of veterans to this very day.

In addition, her advocacy on behalf of civil rights was inspiring for many at a time when civil inequality was rampant. She was instrumental in trying to make sure that there was a district where an African American could run for Congress one day—the seat that I hold today.

She also was the founder of Social Concern, which took care of young people, older people, and seniors who were frail and had to stay in their homes and helped make sure they got the food and quality health care that they needed.

Indeed, Cynthia Jenkins, a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a member of the community, was a long, hard fighter who did not know how to take "no" for an answer when she was trying to make sure that the community received its due.

Today, I ask all of my colleagues to honor this public servant who was dedicated to her community, dedicated to libraries, dedicated to literacy, dedicated to the commitment of social and racial equality, and that we unanimously pass this bill memorializing the late Cynthia Jenkins, our assemblywoman.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers and are ready to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3957, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218-10 Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens, New York, as the Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building.

Cynthia Jenkins worked as a librarian, community activist, and civil rights advocate after moving to Queens from Louisville, Kentucky. In 1969, while working for the Queens public library system, Cynthia cofounded the Black Librarians Caucus, to address racial inequalities in the public library system, as well as an educational action program, the Social Concerns Committee of Springfield Gardens, Inc.