

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.

In 1982, Cynthia became the first African American woman elected to public office in southern Queens, winning a seat in the New York State Assembly. For the next 12 years, she worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents, focusing particularly on educational issues.

Cynthia passed away on October 31, 2001, at the age of 77. She continues to be remembered for her dedicated public service and for always fighting for the principles she believed in.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor the life and public service of State Assemblywoman Cynthia Jenkins.

I thank Representative MEEKS for introducing this bill.

I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it was stated in my remarks previously that Ms. Jenkins, sadly, passed away October 31, 2001. I think from her faith background and for her children, it was a sad day, but it was also a happy day, because every time we remember those such as we are remembering today, there was a birth and there was a death—and we are remembering the death—but in between there is a dash or a space. Those lives that we memorialize today on the House floor are in that dash or space. So, for me, the dates mean a birth and a death, but it is the nondate in the middle that makes what we are doing here today so special in the lives of these individuals.

With that, I would urge all to support H.R. 3957, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). 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. 3957.

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.

GEORGE THOMAS ‘MICKY’ LELAND POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 78) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Alameda Road in Houston, Texas, as the “George Thomas ‘Mickey’ Leland Post Office Building.”

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 78

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

SECTION 1. GEORGE THOMAS “MICKY” LELAND POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Alameda Road in Houston, Texas, shall be known and designated as the “George Thomas ‘Mickey’ Leland 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 “George Thomas ‘Mickey’ Leland 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. 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 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. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 78, which was introduced by Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas. H.R. 78 would designate the post office located at 4110 Alameda Road in Houston, Texas, as the George Thomas “Mickey” Leland Post Office Building.

Mickey Leland was an effective spokesman for disadvantaged people across the United States and the world. During his six terms in Congress and 6 years as a Texas State legislator, he strongly advocated for civil rights, hunger relief, and health care for the poor. He helped establish the House Select Committee on Hunger, of which he was chairman.

Under Mickey’s leadership, the Select Committee reemphasized the priority of hunger and the alleviation of poverty within the foreign assistance programs of the United States. He succeeded in expanding funding for primary health care in developing countries and fought against the injustice of apartheid in South Africa.

Additionally, his legislative initiatives included establishing the National Commission on Infant Mortality, providing better access to fresh food for at-risk women, children, and infants, and instituting the first comprehensive services for the homeless.

Mickey was a powerful advocate on other causes as well. While chairing the House Select Committee on Hunger, he was a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittees on Telecommunications and Finance, Health and the Environment, and Energy and Power. He chaired the Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services, and he served on the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service and the Subcommittee on Compensation and Employment.

Tragically, Mickey was killed in a plane crash, along with 15 others, following a humanitarian mission to Ethiopia. He was survived by his wife, Alison, and three children: Jarrett, Austin, and Cameron.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy and example of Mickey Leland by passing H.R. 78.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the author of this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it was really good to hear the initial description of Congressman Mickey Leland. He loved being called Mickey Leland. Although his full name is George Thomas, Mickey was what he went by. He was a person of the people.

Today, I stand here in support of H.R. 78, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Alameda Road in Houston, Texas, as the George Thomas “Mickey” Leland Post Office Building.

I thank the ranking member and the chair of the full committee of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee for their kindness and their diligence in helping to bring this to the floor of the House. It is appropriate to have it in this year, the 25th commemoration of Mickey’s death, along with 15 other brave individuals who were flying to provide lifesaving commodities for those who were starving and dying.

This bill will acknowledge this 25th year that we have lost Mickey Leland. It will acknowledge the charitableness of his heart. It will acknowledge he was a person who was willing to sacrifice his own life. It will also acknowledge that he was our fellow colleague in the United States Congress.

I am glad that we are doing this, and I again thank the committee because it is important to note that, over the years of this very historic, hallowed institution, Members have come and they have served. That should be our continuing challenge: to serve America and to serve the world.

Mickey was born in November 1944. He was born to George Thomas and Alice Raines in Lubbock, Texas. Soon, Mom brought the family to Houston, Texas—to our advantage and benefit. He thrived in this city, where as a youth he enjoyed a successful career as a high school sports star at historic Phillis Wheatley High School in Houston, Texas, which is still standing. In fact, as I speak on the floor today, there are advocates trying to preserve the historic old Wheatley High School where Mickey went to school.

Mickey entered Texas Southern University in 1965 and received a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy in 1970. In fact, we called Mickey “the pharmacist,” as a nickname. It introduced him to caring about people and health care.

Mickey was so good, he served after graduation as an instructor of clinical pharmacy at TSU for 1 year. While working there, he established a door-to-door outreach campaign in low-income neighborhoods to educate people