

MAJOR ROBERT ODELL OWENS
POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5238, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1234 Saint Johns Place in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office."

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an opportunity for us all to pay tribute to a great American, a fighter for justice and equality, one of the most passionate advocates for educational opportunity, and a man who served in this body with distinction, Major Owens of New York.

Major Owens was born June 28, 1936, in Collierville, Tennessee.

He was educated at Morehouse College, from which he received his baccalaureate degree, and Atlanta University from which he earned a Master of Science degree.

Major Owens later moved to New York where he worked as a librarian before accepting an appointment from Mayor John V. Lindsay to serve as Director of the New York City Community Development Agency.

He also served as a faculty member in the Department of Public Administration at Medgar Evers College.

In 1974, Major Owens was elected to the New York State Senate and was reelected to serve a second term in 1978.

In 1982, Major Owens won a competitive primary to fill the seat of retiring Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives and the first woman ever to seek the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.

As the Member of Congress for the 11th Congressional District of New York, Major Owens represented a diverse district centered in Brooklyn, including low income areas of Brownsville and parts of Bedford-Stuyvesant, the large Hasidic community of Crown Heights, the heavily Caribbean areas of Flatbush and East Flatbush, and the more affluent neighborhoods of Park Slope and Prospect Park.

Affectionately known as the "Education Congressman" by his constituents, Major Owens fought tirelessly throughout his twelve terms in Congress to protect and expand educational opportunity for all Americans, especially those from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

As he often reminded his colleagues in the House, education was "the kingpin issue."

In an article he published in *Black Issues in Higher Education*, he wrote: "We have to believe that all power and progress really begins with education."

Major Owens served on the House Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

As the Ranking Member on the Education and Workforce Subcommittee for Workforce Protections, Congressman Owens helped lead the fight for minimum wage increases, blocked the attempt to eliminate cash payments for overtime, fought against efforts to roll back or repeal Davis-Bacon, and to weaken the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

As Chairman of the Education Subcommittee on Select Education and Civil Rights (1988 to '94), Congressman Owens was one of the earliest and strongest supporters of the Americans With Disabilities Act, which was enacted into law in 1991.

In recognition for his work to pass the ADA, Major Owens was awarded an honorary degree by Galludet University, the world's premier higher education institution serving deaf and hard of hearing people.

Major Owens loved serving in this body and he was a valued member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus.

As Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Task Force on Haiti, he led the successful three-year fight which restored the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Owens was a legislator's legislator.

Major Owens touched so many lives in so many helpful ways that he will always be remembered by people he served so ably and selfless for more than thirty years.

H.R. 5238 will honor the memory of this great man by enshrining his legacy on a public building in his district.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5238, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1234 Saint Johns Place in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office."

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN
EDWARD J. MAROHN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2018

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Captain Edward J. Marohn, the Chief of External Affairs for the Coast Guard First District in Boston, Massachusetts.

Captain Marohn joined the United States Coast Guard at the age of seventeen and has served this country honorably for thirty-one years. He served in a variety of afloat, ashore and staff tours on both Coasts and on the Great Lakes. He also conducted counterdrug, fishery enforcement, search and rescue, and environmental protection operations from the Bering Sea to the Sea of Cortez. Further, while serving in Michigan, he coordinated the execution of over 7,000 search and rescue operations that resulted in saving or assisting over 1,200 lives and \$10 million in property.

Complementing his remarkable operational career, Captain Marohn served as the Coast Guard Liaison to the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement in Silver Spring, Maryland; Assistant Chief of Enforcement for First Coast Guard District in Boston, Massachusetts; Maritime Drug Interdiction Officer at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and earned a Master of Marine Affairs from the University of Washington.

Recognized as an expert in fisheries management and enforcement, Captain Marohn has also served as the Coast Guard representative to the New England Fisheries Management Council, the Stellwagen Bank

National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, the U.S. delegation to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, and the North Atlantic Coast Guard Forum. Further, he was the sole Coast Guard representative on the U.S. State Department led delegation to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, where he negotiated the first ever U.S. enforcement presence in this international fishery regime.

Captain Marohn pioneered the Integrated Maritime Security Operations program, an international approach to law enforcement on the northern border that involves joint operations between the U.S. Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. These operations continue to serve as a model for overcoming jurisdictional challenges along a shared international maritime border to improve security. He is also known as the primary architect of the Coast Guard's Ice Rescue Program, and received the 2005 Coast Guard Innovation Award for Operational Management to recognize his groundbreaking achievement of developing the first-ever Ice Rescue Manual.

Today Captain Marohn has been married to his wife Christine for 26 years, and together they have two daughters, Meaghan and Lauren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Captain Edward J. Marohn as he retires from the United States Coast Guard. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his many years of dedication to his community and his country.

HONORING WILLIAM CLAYTON
TUCKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Clayton "W.C." Tucker, well known as a Christian man of great character and integrity with an enormous love for the Lord and his family.

Mr. William Clayton "W.C." Tucker passed away surrounded by his family on Friday, July 13, 2018. He was born on February 25, 1950 to William Tucker and Olivia Smith Tucker. He was a 1968 graduate of Siggers High School in Shannon and a 1971 graduate of Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs.

Mr. Tucker shared 39 years of marriage with the love of his life, Mrs. Patty Tucker. They were blessed to have raised two wonderful daughters, Camille Young and Dr. Emily C. Tucker, and three lovely grandchildren; Amber and Kayla Young and William Tucker Young.

In 1989, while attending Union Baptist M.B. Church in Shannon, Mr. Tucker was ordained a deacon. He later joined White Hill M.B. Church in Tupelo where he taught Men's Sunday School classes.

After 35 years of hard work as a Senior Certified Engineer Technician, Mr. Tucker retired from the Mississippi Department of Transportation. Post retirement, he launched Tucker's Fresh Produce and sold fresh vegetables at the Tupelo Farmers Market.

Mr. Tucker was an avid gardener who was featured in the *Daily Journal*, the *Lee County Courier*, *Mississippi State Extension Publications*, *Mississippi Farm Bureau Magazine*, *Minority Landowners Magazine*, and *WTVA* for

his successful high tunnel gardening techniques. He enjoyed working with the youth of White Hill Church and Haven Acres Boys and Girls Club teaching raised-bed gardening. He was a member of the Lee County Master Gardener's Association and the Mississippi Minority Farmers Alliance. He was a former 4-H volunteer and Red Cross volunteer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. William Clayton "W.C." Tucker for his dedication to serving others.

**HONORING DENNIS GOTT'S LIFE
AND INDUCTION TO THE MISSOURI
GROCERS ASSOCIATION
HALL OF FAME**

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dennis Gott of Salem, Missouri for being inducted posthumously into the Missouri Grocers Association Hall of Fame.

Dennis was President and co-owner of Town & Country Supermarkets and co-owner and board member of Town and Country Banks. He is the second Gott family member to be awarded this honor. His father Wayne Gott founded Town & Country Supermarkets in Salem in 1962 and was inducted to the Missouri Grocers Hall of Fame in 2012.

Dennis began working at Town and Country in the 1970s and took over as President and CEO in 1999. Under his leadership, Town and Country expanded to 21 locations in south central Missouri, each one known for friendly customer service and active community involvement.

Dennis loved the grocery store business, and he loved his family and community. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Salem and served on the boards of Harris Baking Company and the Salem Airport Authority. His untimely passing in 2016 shook my hometown of Salem and he is missed dearly.

For his outstanding career and legacy as a loving family man devoted to his community, it is my pleasure to recognize Dennis Gott before the United States House of Representatives.

**RECOGNIZING DELANEY DEVINE,
WILL SHERMAN, HAYDEN SMITH,
AND JORDANNE STOBBS-
VERGARA**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delaney Devine, Will Sherman, Hayden Smith, and Jordanne Stobbs-Vergara for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the summer of the 115th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young professionals has been nothing short of exemplary. During their time in my office, Delaney, Will, Hayden, and Jordanne served as tour guides, interacted

with constituents, conducted legislative research and learned a great deal about the United States Congress. I know they all have especially bright futures ahead of them and I look forward to seeing them build their prospective careers.

All four of these impeccable interns have made plans to continue their educational careers throughout the United States. I am certain they will continue in their great success and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Delaney Devine, Will Sherman, Hayden Smith, and Jordanne Stobbs-Vergara for their service this summer.

**IN RECOGNITION OF 49TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FIRST APOLLO
MOON LANDING, A SMALL STEP
FOR MAN BUT A GIANT LEAP
FOR MANKIND**

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 49th anniversary of the first Apollo Moon landing.

On July 20, 1969, the spaceship was a long way from home.

Blasting off from Cape Kennedy four days prior, Commander Neil Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin had been hurled from the cosmic shores of our orbit at an escape velocity of 24,200 miles per hour.

With them were cameras, scientific instruments, and the now famous three-by-five foot U.S. flag to be planted on the surface of the Moon.

They also carried two other U.S. flags—to be brought back and flown over the houses of Congress—the flags of the 50 States, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, the United Nations flag, as well as those of 136 foreign countries.

But what they carried that fateful day was more than a collection of instruments and national symbols.

They carried the faith of mankind—of going where no human had gone before.

They also carried courage—not only the courage that is the absence of fear, but rather the resolute determination to fulfill the national destiny.

And more than courage they carried hope—that despite the bloodshed and weapons of mass destruction that defined the Cold War, humanity could stand together with bated breath for this new, brave step into the future.

On the afternoon of July 20, at 3:08 PM Eastern, more than 200,000 miles away from Earth, Aldrin and Armstrong fired the lunar module's descent engine for the first time.

While Armstrong flew the landing craft, Aldrin gave him altitude readings: "Seven hundred and fifty feet, coming down at 23 degrees . . . 700 feet, 21 down . . . 400 feet, down at nine . . . Got the shadow out there . . . 75 feet, things looking good . . . Lights on . . . Picking up some dust . . . 30 feet, 2 1/2 down . . . Faint shadow . . . Four forward. Four forward, drifting to the right a little . . . Contact light. Okay, engine stop."

When the 68-inch probes beneath three of the spacecraft's four footpads touched down, Armstrong shut off the ship's engine.

At 4:18 PM, the craft settled down at an angle of no more than four or five degrees on the right side of the Moon as seen from Earth.

From Tranquility Base, Armstrong immediately radioed Mission Control: "Houston, the Eagle has landed."

At 10:56 PM, Armstrong put his left foot to the Moon.

It was the first time in history that man has ever stepped on anything that has not existed on or originated from Earth.

"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind," Armstrong radioed.

Mr. Speaker, we gather here today not only to chronicle the extraordinary voyage of Apollo 11, but also to remember the efforts of thousands of America's brightest who stretched the bounds of human imagination with this accomplishment.

I am tremendously proud to say Houston's very own Johnson Space Center, then named Manned Space Center, was pivotal in guiding the spaceships *Columbia* and *Eagle* to their place in history.

Even after the Gemini and Apollo Missions, Houston has been the international hub of manned space flight ever since.

Johnson Space Center scientists, engineers, astronauts and other staff members have been tasked with controlling flights from Skylab and the Apollo-Soyuz missions through the Shuttle program and beyond.

Johnson Space Center is the training base and home for our nation's astronauts and the site of Mission Control, where a talented cadre of flight controllers monitors the work of our women and men in space.

Mr. Speaker, I remind this body that the American space flight program is not merely a collection of scientific achievements.

I celebrate the legacy of Mary Jackson, NASA's first black female engineer who joined the Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia in 1958.

Her pioneering work not only contributed immensely to the success of the Mercury space program—the predecessor to Gemini and Apollo—but also to influenced the hiring and promotion of women and people of color in NASA's science, engineering, and mathematics careers.

Not only African American women were involved, but also men and women of all races and trades—White, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American engineers, physicists, manufacturers, mathematicians, physicians, divers, sailors, and thousands more.

Armstrong and Aldrin may have walked on the moon, but all of America was with them in spirit.

I celebrate the legacy of President John Kennedy, who in 1961 in my home city of Houston declared to the world that "We choose to go to the moon within the decade and do the other things, not because they are easy but because they are hard."

I invoke the words of astronomer and writer Carl Sagan, who eloquently wrote on the scope and audacity of the President's proclamation:

"The Moon was a metaphor for the unattainable: 'You might as well ask for the Moon,' they used to say. For most of our history, we had no idea what it was.

"We would use rockets not yet designed and alloys not yet conceived, navigation and docking schemes not yet devised, in order to send a man to a world not yet explored—not