

H.R. 1844

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

SECTION 1. CORPORAL ALEX MARTINEZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the “Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial 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 Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 1844, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY).

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA).

Madam Speaker, I would like to rise in support of my own legislation, H.R. 1844, to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building.

Corporal Alex Martinez, a lifelong Elgin resident, wanted to join the Marine Corps since he was a little boy. From a young age, he yearned to follow in the footsteps of his father, Enrique Martinez, who was a longtime Navy reservist, and an aunt who served in the Army.

As a senior in high school, with his whole life ahead of him, he decided to follow his dreams. He surprised his friends and family by attending summer school to graduate early, enlist in the Marine Corps, and marry his high school sweetheart, Juliana Martinez, at the age of 18.

After graduation from basic training, Corporal Martinez was assigned to the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, One Marine Expeditionary Force, where he excelled as a combat engineer. In this role, he had the dangerous but crucial responsi-

bility to guide ground forces away from life-threatening obstacles, such as lethal improvised explosive devices.

In his second deployment on April 5, 2012, a unit that Corporal Martinez was guiding began receiving enemy fire. Despite facing an immediate threat to his own life, he continued to calmly and systematically clear lanes for marines to maneuver against the enemy.

Tragically, Corporal Martinez was killed after an explosive device detonated in Helmand province. In that moment, Alex Martinez became the first and only Elgin native to fall in combat since the terror attacks on September 11.

While in Afghanistan, Corporal Martinez would tell his loved ones his plans to start a family and to continue his selfless service by becoming a fireman or a police officer. But as a consequence of his sacrifices to this great Nation and the people who inhabit it, he never could pursue those dreams.

Madam Speaker, you and I and the many Members of this Chamber are fortunate to live in a diverse nation with innumerable freedoms, but we can only enjoy these freedoms and the peace and prosperity that accompany them because of the sacrifices made by Corporal Martinez and the millions of men and women who dedicate their lives to defend our democracy.

To honor Corporal Martinez's honorable sacrifices to this country, to recognize the sacrifice of his loved ones, and to express solidarity with all servicemembers and veterans in the United States, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1844.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1844, introduced by Representative KRISHNAMOORTHY. This bill names the post office located in Elgin, Illinois, in honor of Marine Corporal Alex Martinez.

Alex Martinez knew he was destined for public service since he was a little boy. He had a two-phased plan. First, he would join the military, following in his father's footsteps. Then, upon retirement, he would continue in public service as a police officer or firefighter.

Shortly after high school, Alex joined the United States Marine Corps, filling step one of his boyhood dream. After boot camp, he was assigned to the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

Corporal Martinez was deployed twice to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On April 5, 2012, Corporal Martinez was conducting combat operations in the Helmand province of Afghanistan and was killed after an explosive device detonated.

While Corporal Martinez's life of service was tragically cut short, his sacrifice and bravery will not be forgotten. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1844.

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.

RYAN KEITH COX POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3305) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2509 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach, Virginia, as the “Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3305

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

SECTION 1. RYAN KEITH COX POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2509 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the “Ryan Keith Cox 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 “Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROUDA. Madam 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 3305, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2509 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach, Virginia, as the Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA) to further explain her bill.

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and heroic actions of Ryan Keith Cox.

On May 31, the year's largest mass shooting in America struck in our Virginia Beach community. Keith was

amongst the 12 wonderful people who lost their lives in the tragedy. In his final moments, Keith showed extraordinary bravery.

Keith was an active and irreplaceable member of our community. He regularly attended his father's church, New Hope Baptist Church, where he sang in the choir with his renowned golden voice. He had hoped to follow his calling and his father's footsteps and become more active in the ministry.

For 12 years, Keith served the city of Virginia Beach as a public utilities employee. His coworkers described him as someone who was always nice to others and treated colleagues to lunch. One colleague called Keith a "teddy bear" who always knew what to say to make an upset colleague smile.

Those who knew him said Keith embodied leadership. Keith's friends and family agreed that he made his impact by putting the needs of others before his own. Keith's last day on Earth was no different.

During the shooting, Keith led several of his coworkers to safety. Keith then refused to take refuge, stating: "I've got to see if anybody else needs help."

Keith stood watch and checked on his colleagues, voluntarily exposing himself to a deadly line of fire. One of Keith's colleagues summed it up: "If it wasn't for him, there would have been several more people who perished."

In our community's darkest hour, Keith prioritized the safety of his colleagues over his own. He was a true servant leader who made the ultimate sacrifice.

This is our chance to tell Keith's story, to showcase his heroism to our community, our Commonwealth, and our Nation. I was proud to introduce this bill to name a local post office after Keith. When we walk by that post office and see Keith's name, we will think of the sacrifice and of the lives that he saved.

I thank the Virginia delegation for supporting this bipartisan legislation to honor Keith's legacy and impact on our Virginia Beach community.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this bill.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3305, introduced by Representative LURIA. The bill names a post office located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in honor of Ryan Keith Cox.

Ryan Keith Cox served the city of Virginia Beach for 12 years. He worked in the Public Works Department as an account clerk until he was murdered, saving the lives of his friends and coworkers earlier this year.

On the morning of May 31, 2019, a city employee resigned from his job at the municipal building where Cox work. That afternoon, the former employee returned with evil intentions.

When a coworker ran into the office with news that there was an active

shooter, Keith remained calm and thought only of how to keep other coworkers safe. He led them to the safety of a small room and directed them to barricade the door.

Then, despite the danger, he continued to look for more of his colleagues. By the time the shooting stopped, Keith was among the 12 innocent victims who were killed. His surviving colleagues remember him as a kind, soft-spoken, and big teddy bear.

Madam Speaker, Keith's heroics will not be forgotten. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3305, Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2509 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach, Virginia as the "Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building." I appreciate my colleague, the gentlelady from Virginia, Mrs. LURIA, for introducing this bill.

Ryan Keith Cox is a Virginia Beach hero, a distinguished public servant and one whose legacy will live on forever. We will remember Ryan for his heroic actions during the Virginia Beach massacre on May 31, 2019. He saved dozens of lives by helping his colleagues find a safe space to hide during the mass shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center. He was killed protecting two of his coworkers guarding a cubicle door while his coworkers huddled on the floor beneath two desks.

The Virginia Beach community will remember Ryan as a cherished friend and one who always put others before himself. He was soft spoken, encouraging, positive and considered by all to be "a good man".

He was active in his Church and participated in Anointed Voices, Men of Hope, the Male Chorus and the Men's Ministry at New Hope Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, the designation of this post office in Ryan Keith Cox's honor will forever remind us of his valor and his 12-year long career with the City of Virginia Beach. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3305.

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.

65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2325) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2325

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

SECTION 1. 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, shall be known and designated as the "65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in 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 "65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROUDA. Madam 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 2325, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the 65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building.

In 1899, a year after the Spanish-American War, Congress authorized the creation of a unit of volunteer soldiers in the new territory of Puerto Rico. Redesignated in 1920 as the 65th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army, this unit served admirably in World War II and the Korean war.

In World War II, the 65th Infantry Regiment suffered casualties defending against enemy attacks, with regiment members earning one Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, and 90 Purple Hearts.

In the Korean war, when General MacArthur ordered the evacuation of the Hungnam enclave, the 65th Infantry Regiment played a crucial role, and ultimately, under the Regiment's protection, 105,000 troops and 100,000 refugees were evacuated.

These brave Americans protected the very foundation of this great country. Naming a post office to honor the 65th Infantry Regiment who served and sacrificed for us is but a small price of what these brave men and women deserve from the country to whom they have given so much.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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