

So it is my delight to rise in support of this particular bill. It is out of ‘‘Respect’’ for my good friend from Michigan, and so we will ‘‘Say a Little Prayer’’ and hope that this goes through.

□ 1615

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), the author of this bill.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I will start by thanking the leadership on the Committee on Oversight and Reform for marking up this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3976, which would rename a post office in my hometown of Detroit after the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin. As was mentioned earlier, she was an 18 Grammy Award winner; a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and the first woman to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

She performed at three inaugural events for Presidents Carter, Clinton, and Barack Obama. She was a woman who was respected on both sides of the aisle where President Bush issued her the Medal of Freedom.

‘‘A Natural Woman’’ singer, she was more than just a music icon. She was a civil rights advocate who used her platform and voice to advocate for racial equality.

I knew her personally and she would talk to me about being a child and having Martin Luther King in her home with her dad discussing policies and what they were going to do to fight together for racial equality.

In 1967, Aretha released ‘‘Respect,’’ which became a rally cry for racial and gender political movements of the time.

Although people remember Aretha Franklin as the ‘‘Queen of Soul’’ she was more than just a vocalist. Aretha used her platform to become a beacon of hope for people during the civil rights movement and her voice served as a perfect guiding light.

In 1967, she toured with Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier to raise money for Dr. Martin Luther King’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The organization was in a dire financial state and would soon become the Poor People’s Campaign.

In 1970, few people knew Aretha Franklin posted bond for Angela Davis, a prominent activist who was jailed on trumped-up charges. In 1970, a Jet magazine article quoted Aretha Franklin: ‘‘Black people will be free. I have been locked up for disturbing the peace in Detroit and I know you got to disturb the peace when you can’t get no peace. Jail is hell to be in. I’m going to see her free if there is any justice in our courts . . . because she’s a Black woman and she wants freedom for Black people.’’

In her 1999 autobiography, ‘‘Aretha: From These Roots’’ described the im-

pact Detroit had on her childhood and career. ‘‘Detroiters realize how deeply I appreciate the city in which I was raised. And it is in Detroit that I continue to cultivate my career; it is to Detroit that I direct most of my charitable activities; and it is from Detroit that I receive much love and support, which I reciprocate.’’

No matter how famous she became worldwide, Aretha always gave back to the city she grew up in. She frequently hosted community events for congregants in her father’s church, and she donated to organizations like Save the Children and Easterseals and supported local food banks across Detroit.

In the year after her passing, an outpouring of support has led to the renaming of Detroit monuments in her honor—and I am so proud and happy to stand here today, personally knowing her, traveling with her on her tours—to include a post office near her home in Detroit to the list of ways to commemorate this amazing woman.

While there is little that can truly demonstrate our appreciation for Aretha Franklin, I hope her family knows how proud and thankful we all are for her lifelong support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to give a little support R-E-S-P-E-C-T, to this legislation.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Madam Chair for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3976, the bill sponsored by my colleague, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and by the members of the Michigan delegation.

This bill honors the ‘‘Queen of Soul,’’ Aretha Franklin, and her innumerable contributions to music. Her faith in Detroit and its people is what I remember as much as her voice. This legislation serves as a fitting tribute to her esteemed legacy.

Aretha Franklin grew up singing at the New Bethel Baptist Church with her father, Reverend C.L. Franklin. Aretha’s father was a good and dear friend to John Dingell, helping him early in his career. The two of them fought side by side in the fifties and the sixties for civil rights legislation.

Aretha’s career includes more than 20 Grammy Awards, the first woman inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

However, it is Aretha’s message through music of respect, love, and faith that will stay with us for generations.

Today, I stand with my Michigan colleagues and urge every Member to honor Aretha Franklin’s legacy. Her contributions to our country are deserving of this recognition, and maybe we need to have her up there, up there with John, ‘‘say a little prayer’’ for us.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I will just cut to the chase. Let’s get this

thing done and get it over with and make sure that we show the ‘‘respect’’ that we should.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3976. I had the opportunity to meet Aretha Franklin several times. She was a great friend of Charlie Rangel and would often perform for his events. She very generously gave her time to raise money for all kinds of civic rights events. She was a remarkable person and a great singer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3976.

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.

MOTHER FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4794) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the ‘‘Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building’’.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4794

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

SECTION 1. MOTHER FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, shall be known and designated as the ‘‘Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini 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 ‘‘Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building’’.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 4794, to designate the facilities of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office.

I want to thank Representative MAX ROSE, a fellow Member, for introducing this bill honoring, literally, a saint. In November of 1880, Mother Cabrini, along with six other women, took religious vows and founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The purpose of the missionary was to care and educate orphans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman LAWRENCE for that kind introduction, and the gentlewoman is an honorary fellow New Yorker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my bill, H.R. 4794, to rename the post office in Dyker Heights, Brooklyn as the Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office. Mother Cabrini was a great New Yorker and a great American who devoted her life to helping the poor and underserved to include immigrants throughout New York City.

Mother Cabrini is famous across the United States for her work providing education in underserved communities. She began her work organizing classes for Italian immigrants and orphans through the city. She helped found Columbus Hospital in New York City's Lower East Side, which is now a part of the world-renowned Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

After her success in New York, she was called upon to open up schools all around the world; not only across the United States, but also in Europe, and Central and South America.

Mother Cabrini is not just a New York icon, although she is that. Her name is affixed to buildings in Chicago, Seattle, New Orleans, Denver, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia.

Cabrini was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in 1909 and canonized as Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini on July 7, 1946 by Pope Pius XII as the patron saint of immigrants.

I am proud to have the support of my colleagues from the New York delegation, both Democrats and Republicans, who have come together in recognition that the time has come to give Mother Cabrini her due recognition.

Mother Cabrini will always be a shining example of our country's commitment to the less fortunate, particularly immigrants in our country. She also serves as a testament for the power of education, the power of education to relieve poverty and empower communities, regardless of their background.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4794. I appreciate Representative Rose's willingness to acknowledge the great work of Mother Cabrini and so much has been said already about her accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4794.

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.

□ 1630

JULIUS L. CHAMBERS CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4981) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the "Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4981

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

SECTION 1. JULIUS L. CHAMBERS CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial 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 "Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LAWRENCE. 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 this matter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 4981

to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office.

I thank Representative ALMA ADAMS for introducing this bill to honor Julius Chambers, a civil rights icon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS).

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman from Michigan for yielding, as well the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4981, which would designate the U.S. Post Office facility at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office.

Julius LeVonne Chambers was born in Mount Gilead, North Carolina, in 1935. When he was young, a White man stole from his father, an auto mechanic, by refusing to pay a substantial bill. When attorneys in Mount Gilead refused to hear his father's case because his father was Black, Julius Chambers vowed to become a lawyer himself.

At North Carolina Central University—then the North Carolina College at Durham—for his undergraduate education, Chambers served as student body president. While attending UNC-Chapel Hill for law school, Julius Chambers was the first African American editor in chief of that school's prestigious law review.

Upon graduating and moving to Charlotte in 1964, Julius Chambers began a prolific legal career that would see him fight for justice and equality. He founded his own law firm and immediately began to litigate key discrimination cases after White firms would not hire him. Mr. Chambers' firm would later become North Carolina's first integrated law firm, Ferguson Chambers & and Sumter, P.A. It is still in operation today.

Notably, in 1970, Chambers argued successfully before the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* that resulted in the desegregation of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system.

As he fought for equality, there were many who fought to stop him. In January 1965, his car was burned. In November 1965, his home was bombed. And in February 1971, his office was firebombed.

According to The New York Times: "His response was defiant; he said he would 'keep fighting.' It was also measured. 'We must accept this type of practice,' he said, 'from those less in control of their faculties...'"

Though he endured hardships, he did not grow weary of his mission. As he grew into one of the Nation's most accomplished civil rights lawyers, Julius Chambers would go on to lead the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund for over 9 years, where he continued to fight for social justice and equality.