

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5131, the Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025. This is a bipartisan, commonsense measure that ensures our Armed Forces retain access to some of the most essential training lands in the United States.

For decades, public lands in Alaska, New Mexico, and California have been withdrawn from military use under statute. These withdrawals are not permanent, they must be renewed by Congress, and several of them are now scheduled to expire.

If Congress fails to act, then critical training areas at Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely in Alaska, the McGregor Range in New Mexico, and Fort Irwin in California would lose their legal status for military use.

H.R. 5131 solves that problem by extending these withdrawals for 25 more years and making necessary technical corrections to land descriptions to ensure accuracy and proper management.

In Alaska alone, this bill protects more than 850,000 acres of world-class training terrain used by the 11th Airborne Division, the Army's only Arctic-designated division. These soldiers must train in extreme cold, remote, and challenging environments in order to be prepared for real-world missions in the high north. There is simply no substitute for the terrain and conditions Alaska provides.

This legislation does not expand the military footprint or limit public access beyond what is already established. Importantly, this bill does not bypass environmental review. In fact, the military has engaged in robust consultation with Tribes, local communities, conservation groups, and stakeholders across Alaska, New Mexico, and California.

What this bill does is straightforward. It preserves readiness, strengthens national security, and upholds responsible stewardship of public lands, all while ensuring the continuity of training operations that our servicemembers rely on to stay prepared and to stay safe.

At a time when global threats are ever-present, particularly in the Arctic, Congress must ensure our military can train as they fight. H.R. 5131 accomplishes exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support, and I urge all Members to join me in voting "yes" on this important legislation.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Representative BEGICH for his leadership on the Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025. This bill ensures that our military's capabilities and readiness will remain strong as we move into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5131, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5131, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

OFFICER ANTHONY MAZURKIEWICZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 323) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Prospect Street in Avon, New York, as the "Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 323

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

SECTION 1. OFFICER ANTHONY MAZURKIEWICZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Prospect Street in Avon, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz 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 "Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz Memorial Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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 gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Avon, New York, for Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz.

Officer Mazurkiewicz served with the Rochester Police Department for 29 years. Officer Mazurkiewicz was also an active member of the Rochester Police Locust Club for his entire career.

Officer Mazurkiewicz was tragically shot and killed while on duty while conducting surveillance duty. He is survived by his loving wife of 28 years, Lynn, four children, and three grandchildren.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 323. Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz was born in 1967 and was a 29-year veteran of the Rochester Police Department. He received the Rochester Police Department Life Saving Award, Officer of the Month Award, 17 Excellent Police Service Awards, and 7 Unit Commendation Awards.

Officer Mazurkiewicz and his partner were shot while undercover investigating a double homicide. His sacrifice while serving in the line of duty deserves to be honored.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Officer Mazurkiewicz by naming a post office in Avon, New York, after him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative GILL for yielding. I rise in strong support of my bill today, H.R. 323, to rename the post office in Avon, New York, as the Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz Memorial Post Office Building.

It is appropriate to name this post office after Anthony Mazurkiewicz. A grateful community should always find ways to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in its service.

Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz, also known as Tony, was born on November 7, 1967, in Amsterdam, New York. Officer Mazurkiewicz was a graduate of Avon High School and SUNY Brockport.

Officer Mazurkiewicz then began his law enforcement career in 1988 as a jail deputy with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department in Rochester, New York. In 1993, he joined the Rochester Police Department as a patrol officer, serving both Clinton and Goodman sections until he transferred to the tactical unit in 2002.

During his distinguished career as an officer with the Rochester Police Department, Officer Mazurkiewicz was the recipient of the Rochester Police Department Life Saving Award, Officer of the Month Award, 17 Excellent Police Service Awards, 7 Unit Commendation Awards, 32 Chief's Letters of Commendation, and the Good Conduct Award for 29 years of service without a sustained complaint.

Beyond his duties as an officer with the Rochester Police Department, Officer Mazurkiewicz was also an active member of the Rochester Police Locust Club, a very distinguished club, for his entire 29-year career. This included

-serving as the tactical unit representative to the executive board for over 20 years and as a member of the contract negotiations team, the scholarship committee, and the house committee.

Officer Mazurkiewicz devoted 29 years to serving and protecting the Rochester community and was looking forward to a well-earned retirement to spend fishing, traveling, relaxing, and spending a lot of time with his wife, Lynn, and their family.

On July 21, 2022, Officer Mazurkiewicz was tragically shot and killed while on duty while conducting surveillance duty. As part of a murder investigation, Officer Mazurkiewicz and another officer were in an unmarked police vehicle when the subject walked up from behind and fired 17 rounds.

Officer Mazurkiewicz is survived by his wife of 28 years, Lynn; four children; three grandchildren; his parents, Francis and Rose Mazurkiewicz; his brother, Frank; his sister, Lisa; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins; Anthony's very large and extended law enforcement family; and everyone in the community who knew him.

Officer Mazurkiewicz was an American hero who dedicated 35 years of his life to upholding justice and the rule of law until he was ruthlessly killed in the line of duty while serving our community.

Renaming the Avon post office in his honor will not fill the profound hole left in our community and in the hearts of his beloved family, but it will serve as a lasting tribute to his honorable service and very distinguished legacy.

This tribute to Officer Mazurkiewicz will inspire future generations and ensure that his courage, patriotism, and commitment to our community are never forgotten.

I am grateful to my New York congressional colleagues for cosponsoring this bill and am especially thankful to Congressman JOE MORELLE for co-leading this bill with me. I also thank Chairman JIM COMER, the Ranking Member Emeritus Gerry Connolly, and Ranking Member ROBERT GARCIA for their support in the Oversight Committee. Finally, I thank Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE, and Minority Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES for their help in getting this bill to the floor.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill to honor the life and service of Anthony Mazurkiewicz and show our enduring support for all of our fallen law enforcement officers.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill naming a post office for Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz, who gave his life in the line of duty.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 323.

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.

SHERIFF ADRIAN "BUTCH" ANDERSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1008) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 298 Route 292 in Holmes, New York, as the "Sheriff Adrian 'Butch' Anderson Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1008

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

SECTION 1. SHERIFF ADRIAN "BUTCH" ANDERSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 298 Route 292 in Holmes, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Sheriff Adrian 'Butch' Anderson 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 "Sheriff Adrian 'Butch' Anderson Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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 gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Holmes, New York, for Sheriff Adrian "Butch" Anderson.

Sheriff Anderson served Dutchess County for over 50 years, as mayor of Pawling for 8 years and sheriff for 47 years.

His numerous philanthropic efforts include his role as a board member of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Hudson Valley. He was also chairman of numerous organizations, including the American Heart Association, the March of Dimes, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Sheriff Anderson is survived by his wife, Danielle, and children.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1008. Sheriff Adrian Anderson was a 47-year veteran of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office. In 1983, he was elected mayor of Pawling and served as the village's mayor for 8 years. He received five Combat Crosses, which are awarded to officers who perform acts of heroism in their communities.

Sheriff Anderson was an active member of many local organizations, as my colleague shared, serving as a board member of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Hudson Valley and chairman of the March of Dimes.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sheriff Anderson by naming a post office in Holmes, New York, after him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1710

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of legislation honoring a man whose life was defined by service, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to his community.

Sheriff Adrian "Butch" Anderson dedicated more than five decades to public safety and public service in Dutchess County, New York.

Sheriff Anderson's law enforcement career began in 1970, when he was appointed a deputy sheriff in the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office. He served in the uniform patrol division and was promoted to detective in 1974.

In 1983, he was elected mayor of the village of Pawling and served for 8 years.

Sheriff Anderson was elected Dutchess County Sheriff in 1999 and served with honor until his untimely passing on September 29, 2021, during his sixth term.

He also served as a member of the Dutchess County GOP Executive Committee, took on pivotal roles in New York State Sheriffs' Association, and chaired President Trump's New York campaign in 2016.

Butch's commitment extended beyond law enforcement. He was actively involved with community organizations, including the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Hudson Valley, and the McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation.

Sheriff Anderson lived a life marked by courage, integrity, and a genuine concern for the people he served. He believed in leading from the front, treating others with respect, and showing up for his community every single day.

A close friend of longtime Pawling resident James Earl Jones, Sheriff Anderson's voice was a mixture of Darth Vader and John Wayne. He had a distinctive voice and presence, and he was a humble and gentle man.