

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which would name a post office in Biloxi, Mississippi for Robert Stanton McKeithen.

After graduating from the University of Mississippi, McKeithen enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Following his military service, he became a police officer in Biloxi. He was one of 13 Biloxi police officers to earn the Medal of Valor for his rescue efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

Sadly, after 24 years of service as a police officer, he was shot and killed in the line of duty on May 5, 2019. He was only months away from retirement. He left behind his wife, a daughter, two stepsons, and one stepdaughter.

As a law enforcement officer, Robert McKeithen served his community with honor, and I support naming a post office in his memory.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO).

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3175 which will designate the post office located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi as the Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building.

Robert McKeithen began his career in service to this great Nation and ended it in service to south Mississippi.

Officer McKeithen graduated from the University of Mississippi and went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force where he earned the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal. He retired from the Air Force as a tech sergeant.

After his service in the Air Force, McKeithen became an officer and worked at the Biloxi Police Department for 24 years. A testament to his selfless nature, Robert was one of 13 officers in the department honored with the Medal of Valor for his rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

I am inspired by his spirit of service and strength of character. A great man and officer was taken too soon, but he will never be forgotten.

Officer Robert McKeithen's end of watch was in Biloxi on May 5, 2019, but this post office renaming will provide for a daily reminder of his dedication and love for his community and our love and respect for law enforcement.

I thank the McKeithen family—to include his wife, Pamela McKeithen; his children, Amy, Levi, Natalie, Logan, Lillian, and Lauren; his grandchildren, Delmas and Kaiden; his sisters, Melissa and Kathryn; and his brother, William—for allowing me the honor and privilege to introduce this piece of legislation in Robert's memory.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3175.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Kansas has no further speakers I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3175, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 3175.

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.

CAPTAIN EMIL J. KAPAUN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2044) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the "Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2044

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

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN EMIL J. KAPAUN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, shall be known and designated as the "Captain Emil J. Kapaun 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 "Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. 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 materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2044 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in

Herington, Kansas, as the Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building.

Captain Kapaun was born in the rural farming community of Pilsen, Kansas, on April 20, 1915.

He first studied classics and philosophy at Conception College in Missouri, and then attended Kenrick Theological Seminary in St. Louis. In 1940 he was ordained a Catholic priest and appointed an auxiliary chaplain in the U.S. Army in 1943.

During his time in the Army Chaplain Corps, he served American troops in the Burma and India theaters until the end of World War II. In 1948 he re-enlisted in the Army Chaplain Corps and was mobilized in support of the Korean conflict in 1950. He was taken captive by Chinese forces on November 2, 1950, during the Battle of Unsan, after repeatedly coming under fire to rescue wounded soldiers.

During his captivity, he rejected multiple opportunities for escape, instead remaining a POW providing physical and spiritual support to other POWs. On May 23, 1951, Chaplain Kapaun died of illness and maltreatment.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II declared Chaplain Kapaun to be a Servant of God, the first step on the path towards canonization in the Catholic Church.

In 2013, President Obama posthumously awarded Chaplain Kapaun the Medal of Honor for his service to our Nation.

Naming a post office for Chaplain Kapaun is one more way we can ensure that his deeds are not forgotten. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which would name a Kansas post office after Captain Emil Kapaun, an Army chaplain during World War II.

Captain Kapaun was an ordained Catholic priest and later served as an auxiliary chaplain in the U.S. Army where he ministered to American troops in the Burma and India theaters during World War II.

In 1950 he was mobilized to support the Korean conflict and was captured by Chinese forces during the Battle of Unsan. As a POW he helped find food, cared for the sick, and led prayers and spiritual services for the other POWs. He died of illness and maltreatment on May 23, 1951.

In 1993 Pope John Paul II declared Captain Kapaun to be a Servant of God, and he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama in 2013.

I want to thank my colleague and fellow Kansan, Congressman TRACEY MANN, for all his work on this project. Naming a post office after Captain Kapaun is a small way we can honor this patriot and son of Kansas for his service to our Nation. I might add that, as a Kansan, I am very proud of this, but as a Catholic, as well. We hope that it is soon Saint Kapaun.

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

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Kansas, for this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Father Emil Kapaun, a man of God who served the Lord and his country in both World War II and the Korean war.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2044 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building.

In March of this year, Father Kapaun's remains were finally identified in Hawaii, and just last month, they were brought back to his hometown of Pilsen, Kansas, which lies in my district, the Big First District of Kansas.

Father Kapaun grew up on a farm, became a priest in 1940 at 24 years old, and became a U.S. military chaplain 4 years later. Father Kapaun received a Bronze Star for valor during the Korean war in 1950 when, in the heat of battle, he rushed to the front lines to retrieve a wounded soldier under heavy machine-gun fire, saving that soldier's life with complete disregard for his own safety.

He also received the Distinguished Service Cross, which was upgraded to the Medal of Honor in 2013 for another heroic effort in battle that same year. Father Kapaun rescued nearly 40 wounded comrades from no-man's-land; disregarded an order to evacuate, choosing to stay with the wounded even though it meant his own capture; and pushed aside an enemy soldier who was about to execute a member of his own battalion.

He was put in a POW camp, where he gave away his own food and dug latrines before dying a year later. He was a great man, a servant of all who followed Jesus who said: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Father Kapaun is on his way to sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church. I have introduced a resolution in his honor and today urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on my bill, which would rename the postal facility in Herington, Kansas, after him.

My prayers are with his family members as they celebrate his life of service, and it is an honor to praise his faithfulness and bravery in this Chamber today.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Kansas has no further speakers, then I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill naming a post office after Captain Emil Kapaun in Herington, Kansas—although he was from Pilsen, a community of less than 100 people which has a beautiful Catholic church but no post office—so a post office in Herington after Captain Emil Kapaun.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 2044, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2044.

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.

JOHN H. LEAHR AND HERBERT M. HEILBRUN POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 960) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the "John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 960

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

SECTION 1. JOHN H. LEAHR AND HERBERT M. HEILBRUN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun 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 "John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 960, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office.

World War II veterans John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun served as pilots in the Army Air Corps. Mr. Leahr served as a Mustang pilot with the Tuskegee Airmen, and Mr. Heilbrun served as a B-17 bomber pilot.

Throughout World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen were tasked with escorting American bomber groups flying over enemy territory. Mr. Heilbrun's group was one of the few who sustained no losses, due to the heroic efforts of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Fifty years after the war, Herb Heilbrun met John Leahr when he attended an annual meeting of the Tuskegee Airmen to express his gratitude for their protection and service to his group during the war. At that meeting, they learned that they had flown some of the same missions in Europe and that they shared numerous other traits as well.

Mr. Leahr and Mr. Heilbrun dedicated their later years to promoting interracial understanding and unity. They were honored for their book, "Black and White Airmen: Their True History," by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. Their work chronicles their history, friendship, and efforts to bring others together to overcome racial differences.

Mr. Leahr passed away on March 27, 2015, at the age of 94. And Mr. Heilbrun passed away at age 100 on December 18, 2020.

Renaming a post office for both of these men jointly is a fitting remembrance of their work to create unity and understanding. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would name an Ohio post office for World War II veterans John Leahr and Herbert Heilbrun.

The Tuskegee Airmen in World War II were tasked with escorting American bomber groups flying over enemy territory. I strongly support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 960, to rename the North Avondale Post Office in Ohio after Herbert Heilbrun and Johnny Leahr, two American heroes whose legacies we should pass down