

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

# **BENNY C. MARTINEZ POST OFFICE BUILDING**

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 203) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4020 Broadway Street in Houston, Texas, as the "Benny C. Martinez Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 203

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

## **SECTION 1. BENNY C. MARTINEZ POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4020 Broadway Street in Houston, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Benny C. Martinez 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 "Benny C. Martinez Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) 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 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 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. 203, to honor Benny Martinez.

Mr. Martinez was born in Goliad, Texas, in 1934. He attended segregated schools before his father moved the family to Houston so that Mr. Martinez and his siblings would not have to pick cotton for a living.

At the age of 18, Mr. Martinez was inducted into the U.S. Army. He first went to boot camp in El Paso, Texas, and was then sent to supply handling school for the Quartermaster Corps in Fort Lee, Virginia. After completing this training, he was sent to Korea where he was assigned to the 564th Quartermaster Company.

On June 23, 1958, Mr. Martinez was discharged from Active Duty and transferred to the Army Reserves at Fort Hood, Texas, where he served as a medic until his final discharge on September 4, 1962. After his honorable dis-

charge, he returned home to Houston and re-engaged with his local community.

Mr. Martinez went on to graduate from Houston Community College as a licensed vocational nurse in 1967. He later obtained a bachelor of general studies degree from the University of Houston-Downtown College. Mr. Martinez put his education degree to use as an associate teacher at Crockett Elementary.

Mr. Martinez was most known for his collaboration with fellow members of the League of United Latin American Citizens to organize a gala for President John F. Kennedy during the President's trip to Texas. Historians credit this meeting as the very first time a sitting United States President met with a Latino civil rights group.

Mr. Martinez was a member and active participant in many civic engagement organizations including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American GI Forum, The American Legion, LULAC, and the Knights of Columbus. He was also an honorary member of the Goliad Rotary Club and active volunteer for the American Red Cross.

Due to his 35 years of service, Houston and Harris County declared Benny C. Martinez Day on August 27, 1997, and February 17, 1998. Mr. Martinez passed away at the age of 85 on December 29, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring his legacy by naming the Post Office at 4020 Broadway Street in Houston, Texas, as the Benny C. Martinez Post Office Building, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 203, which names a Houston post office for Benny Martinez.

Mr. Martinez was a native Texan and attended segregated schools in his hometown of Goliad before moving to Houston with his family in the pursuit of greater opportunities. He served in the U.S. Army and was deployed during the Korean war.

After he was honorably discharged, Mr. Martinez went back to school at Houston Community College and the University of Houston. He recognized the importance of education and became an associate teacher in the Houston School District and raised money for student scholarships.

Most famously, Mr. Martinez worked with the League of United Latin American Citizens to organize a gala for President Kennedy held the night before his assassination during his trip to Texas in 1963. This was the first time a sitting President met with a Latino civil rights group. Mr. Martinez was a leader in the civil rights movement and is deserving of this honor.

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

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Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to

the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA), the vice chair of the Committee on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman and the ranking member for such kind remarks about a dear friend and colleague back home, Benny Martinez.

They have covered a lot of what was said, but I will repeat some of it because I think it is important, not just for people in my district to hear it, but for people across the district because, with the naming of this Post Office, Mr. Speaker, it will mean the first post office named for a Latino in the Houston area, which, too, is a remarkable achievement.

Mr. Martinez was a community leader, an advocate for Mexican-American civil rights, an Army veteran, a nurse, a Houston, Texas educator, and a friend.

Benny and his family came from humble beginnings in Goliad, Texas, but moved to Houston, like many others, to find more opportunities.

In 1956, at the age of 18, Benny was inducted into the U.S. Army. After completing his training, he was sent to Korea, where he was assigned to the 564th Quartermaster Company.

Benny put his education degree to use and worked as an associate teacher in the Houston School District at Crockett Elementary.

On top of this, Mr. Speaker, he served many organizations. As was mentioned, he was a lifelong member of LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens; the Veterans of Foreign Wars; the Knights of Columbus; and the American GI Forum. He also found time to be an usher at his local church.

The thing that has been mentioned but that I want to underscore, because it was another historical note, is that he is better known for facilitating a historic meeting between a Texas LULAC chapter—again, the League of United Latin American Citizens—and then-President John F. Kennedy in 1963. This event is the first known meeting between a U.S. sitting President and a Hispanic civil rights group—very noteworthy.

After a lifetime of a lot of achievements, Mr. Martinez passed away at 85 in 2019. This bill would name the post office after him. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill in the memory of a history maker and a pioneer in our community.

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I 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. 203, 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. 203.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

## COMPUTERS FOR VETERANS AND STUDENTS ACT OF 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3544) to require the Administrator of General Services to transfer certain surplus computers and technology equipment to nonprofit computer refurbishers for repair, distribution, and return, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3544

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Computers for Veterans and Students Act of 2022” or the “COVS Act”.

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Access to computers and computer technology is indispensable for success in the 21st century. Millions of Americans do not regularly use a computer and research shows that substantial disparities remain in both internet use and the quality of access with the digital divide concentrated among older, less educated, less affluent populations, especially veterans, low-income students, and senior citizens.

(2) The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the gap between those with computer access and those without. Millions of students, their families, and workers from across the economy were unable to do schoolwork, work remotely from home, or connect to loved ones and their communities because of the digital divide.

(3) Any Federal program that distributes surplus Federal computers to a public school, an educational nonprofit, or a nonprofit computer refurbisher for repair and distribution would benefit from a partnership with a nonprofit organization, whose mission is bridging the digital divide.

### SEC. 3. REFURBISHMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.

(a) GSA TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after State agencies for surplus property have been given an opportunity to review surplus computer or technology equipment that has been determined to be repairable, the Administrator shall transfer to participating nonprofit computer refurbishers such equipment with full title to such equipment, for repair and distribution in accordance with subsection (c)(1).

(2) INFORMATION ON EQUIPMENT REFURBISHED.—A nonprofit computer refurbisher that receives surplus computer or technology equipment under this subsection

shall provide the Administrator with any information the Administrator determines to be necessary for required reporting, including information about the distribution of such equipment.

(b) PARTNERSHIP.—The Administrator may establish a partnership with non-governmental entities, at no cost, to—

(1) facilitate the identification of nonprofit computer refurbishers and the distribution of surplus computer or technology equipment under this section; and

(2) facilitate the participation of nonprofit computer refurbishers under this section.

(c) REPAIR AND DISTRIBUTION.—

(1) DISTRIBUTION TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.—A nonprofit computer refurbisher that receives equipment under subsection (a) shall repair and distribute such equipment to an educational institution, a veteran, an individual with a disability, a low-income individual, a student, or a senior in need that is residing or based in the United States.

(2) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Any nonprofit computer refurbisher that receives any equipment under subsection (a) shall offer training programs on the use of computers and technology equipment for any of the following:

- (A) Educational institutions.
- (B) Veterans.
- (C) Individuals with disabilities.
- (D) Low-income individuals.
- (E) Students.
- (F) Seniors.

(d) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter for the next 4 years, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Administrator under this Act.

(e) AGENCY REPORTS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the head of each Federal agency shall make a report available to the public on the number of repairable computers that were sent to recycling, abandoned, or destroyed.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede the requirements of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-480; 15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) DIGITAL DIVIDE.—The term “digital divide” means the gap between those who have an internet-connected computer and the skills to use the computer and those who do not.

(3) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term “educational institution” means—

(A) any public or private child care center, preschool, elementary school, secondary school, accredited institution of vocational or professional education, or institution of higher education;

(B) in the case of an accredited institution of vocational or professional education or an institution of higher education composed of more than one school, college, or department that is administratively a separate unit, each such school, college, or department; and

(C) a home school (whether treated as a home school or a private school for purposes of applicable State law).

(4) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal agency” has the meaning given the term “federal agency” in section 102 of title 40, United States Code.

(5) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

(6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has

the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(7) LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS.—The term “low income individual” has the meaning given such term in section 351 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 689).

(8) NONPROFIT COMPUTER REFURBISHER.—The term “nonprofit computer refurbisher” means a nonprofit organization that primarily works to improve access to information and communication technology in their mission to bridge the digital divide.

(9) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term “nonprofit organization” means an organization that is described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(10) REPAIRABLE.—The term “repairable” means property that is unusable in its current state but can be economically repaired.

(11) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “secondary school” has the meaning given such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

(12) SENIOR.—The term “senior” means an individual who is 65 years of age or older.

(13) SENIOR IN NEED.—The term “senior in need” means a senior who experiences cultural, social, or geographical isolation that—

(A) restricts the ability of the senior to perform normal daily tasks; or

(B) threatens the capacity of the senior to live independently.

(14) STATE AGENCY FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY.—The term “State agency for surplus property” has the meaning given the term “state agency” under section 549 of title 40, United States Code.

(15) STUDENT.—The term “student” means any individual enrolled in an educational institution, but not a public or private child care center.

(16) SURPLUS COMPUTER OR TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.—The term “surplus computer or technology equipment” means computer or technology equipment that is property described under section 549(b)(2) of title 40, United States Code.

(17) TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.—The term “technology equipment” means any physical asset related to a computer or information technology, including any peripheral component, tablet, communication device (such as a router, server, or cell phone), printer, scanner, uninterruptible power source, cable, or connection.

(18) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(h) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator may issue regulations that are necessary and appropriate to implement this section.

### SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.