In the words of President John F. Kennedy, when he said, “A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors and the men it remembers”—and I would like to add, and women also—correct President John F. Kennedy.

This bill allows us to show our appreciation for the veterans, the men and women of Converse, Texas, and across the Nation, and make sure that their service and sacrifice to our country is not forgotten.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the 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 Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1208.

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.

SERGEANT JOHN BASILONE POST OFFICE

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2815) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30 East Somerset Street in Raritan, New Jersey, as the “Sergeant John Basilone Post Office”. The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2815

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

SECTION 1. SERGEANT JOHN BASILONE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30 East Somerset Street in Raritan, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the “Sergeant John Basilone 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 “Sergeant John Basilone Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIANFORTE. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was none.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.
Sergeant Basilone would return home for a short time, selling war bonds to continue doing what he could for the country he loved and the work of which he was so proud.

However, staying stateside was not where he wanted to be. He volunteered to go back to the Pacific. Before he left Camp Pendleton and returned to battle, he married Lena Mae Riggi on July 10, 1944.

One of Gunnery Sergeant Basilone’s greatest traits was his tremendous regard for the safety of his fellow warriors. He could not let the narrow escape in Guadalcanal happen again, so he worked diligently to train recruits on proper machine-gun use. His trainees became known as the Basilone Boys.

One of his recruits, William Douglas Lansford, spoke of the pride and confidence Gunnery Sergeant Basilone instilled in him. “We wanted to be just like him.” Lansford was known to have said.

While he could have remained stateside at home with his new wife, he insisted on staying with the Basilone Boys, Gunnery Sergeant Basilone and his men. He was sent to the shores of Iwo Jima with the first wave of marines on February 19, 1945.

The Japanese returned heavy fire. Sergeant Basilone ran toward one of the block houses, the source of Japanese fire, and quickly destroyed it with grenades and demolitions. After this, he scrambled to rescue an American prisoner and a handful of his fellow marines that were then hit by heavy mortar fire. He would be awarded, posthumously, the Navy Cross, the Navy’s highest decoration, for his sacrifice and service on that fatal day, becoming the only marine in the war to receive both the Navy Cross and the Medal of Honor.

In the generations that have followed, Sergeant Basilone has rightfully taken his place as an American hero of the Second World War. By risking his life against the Japanese, he showed us that American men don’t just defend their country, they defend it to the last breath, until they can’t defend it any longer, because that’s the American way.

Sergeant Basilone’s unprecedented heroics in the Pacific theater during World War II have become part of the history of the Marine Corps lore, and for his brave service, we worked together a few years back to immortalize John Basilone with a postage stamp. How fitting, today, we want to name a post office after him.

To the campaign that spread through the Italian-American clubs and veterans halls nationwide, the United States Postal Service’s Distinguished Marines stamp series included John Basilone, beginning in 2005.

He embodied the best we could hope for in a service member and was a true American hero—a guy who always wanted to be on the front lines. After his first tour, the Marine Corps offered to commission him as an officer, but Basilone responded: I ain’t no officer. I ain’t no museum piece. I be long back with my outfit.

He opted to return to the front lines rather than ride out the war helping promote war bonds here at home.

Tragically, Sergeant John Basilone died when he returned to the front lines while fighting at Iwo Jima, 27 years old. He earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, the Purple Heart, and the deep appreciation of a grateful nation.

John Basilone’s story was brought to life to the masses in the 2010 award-winning HBO miniseries “The Pacific.” Montclair State University has a Basilone dormitory, and just last year, the U.S. Navy commissioned a destroyer as the USS Basilone.

I marched in that parade several years ago. I know that the people of Raritan, New Jersey, have never forgotten their favorite son, and they will be honored to have a Basilone Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Italian American Congressional Delegation, I thank my colleague LEONARD LANCE for introducing this legislation. I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to learn about the storied history of Sergeant Basilone.

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the 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 Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3638.

The question was taken.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The question was taken.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RUTLEDGE PEARSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3638) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Kings Road in Jacksonville, Florida, as the “Rutledge Pearson Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3638

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

SECTION 1. RUTLEDGE PEARSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Kings Road in Jacksonville, Florida, shall be known and designated as the “Rutledge Pearson 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 “Rutledge Pearson Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3638, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LAWSON). The bill names the United States Post Office at 1100 Kings Road in Jacksonville, Florida, after Rutledge Pearson.

Rutledge Pearson was an educator and instrumental leader in the civil rights movement. He is remembered for his ability to attract young people to the fight for civil rights. Tragically, he was killed in a car accident in 1967.

Today, we honor his legacy and service to his community in Jacksonville.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 3638, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Post Office located at 1100 Kings Road in Jacksonville, Florida, as the Rutledge Pearson Post Office Building.

Born in 1929, Rutledge Pearson graduated from New Stanton High School in 1947, before attending Tillatson College on a baseball scholarship. Following his graduation, he began playing for the Negro League’s Birmingham Black Barons, but because of his race, the Jacksonville Beach Seabirds refused to allow Mr. Pearson to play on their team, deciding they would rather close the park.

His rejection, however, inspired him, and he went on to become an influential member of Jacksonville’s education system and civil rights movements. He served at every level in the NAACP, and he continued to energize and inspire young people around his community, as he did in the classroom every day.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation to honor Mr. Rutledge Pearson. I urge the passage of H.R. 3638, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LAWSON).

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today as we move to honor the legacy of Rutledge Pearson by naming the Jacksonville Post Office in his honor. He was a tremendous leader. Rutledge Pearson was a civil rights leader, an American history teacher, and a distinguished baseball player. His legacy in Jacksonville, and especially for civil rights, is long lasting, and this is the fitting way to honor his contribution to our community.

As a young man, Rutledge Pearson had a successful baseball career, as we heard from the Congressman, with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro League. His talent granted him the opportunity to play major league baseball in his hometown.

However, as we heard earlier, because of his race, the Jacksonville Beach Seabirds rejected Pearson from joining the team. In fact, park officials, as was stated also earlier, said that they would not close the park than to have this outstanding hero, baseball player, and educator play in his hometown.

This experience prepared Pearson to pursue a career in education, and, like most of us, when you pursue a career in education, you break down a lot of barriers. Rutledge Pearson was elected president of the Jacksonville branch of the NAACP and was later elected to be president of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP.

He was known for his ability to attract young people, which all of us do today, to get young people involved in the NAACP and many community organizations. Pearson was instrumental as a leader in the fight for civil rights. Little did I know that I would be on the floor speaking for this great person whom I learned about many years ago in a history class.

Pearson was instrumental in all of his efforts, especially locally and nationally, helping change Jacksonville’s culture as it is today in its landscape.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for the time, and I urge a “yes” vote to honor Rutledge Pearson for his contribution to the city of Jacksonville and to our nation.

Also, little did I know, in 1970, that I would be sitting in a class in college with Rutledge Pearson’s niece. It is so exciting to have Congress honor this great leader among people throughout the State of Florida.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Speaker. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3638.

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.

BORINQUENEERS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4042) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1415 West Oak Street, in Kissimmee, Florida, as the “Borinqueneers Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4042

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

SECTION 1. BORINQUENEERS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1415 West Oak Street, in Kissimmee, Florida, shall be known and designated as the “Borinqueneers 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