

thank Members of the House of Representatives for participating and allowing this fine gentleman to be recognized. I wish him so many more honors because he is certainly deserving.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2075, a bill to name the Riviera Beach U.S. Post Office in honor of Judge Edward Rodgers.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Edward Rodgers moved to West Palm Beach, Florida in 1950 after he met and married Palm Beach County native Gwendolyn Baker.

Although he studied political science as an undergraduate student, he became a teacher, schooling soldiers at segregated Roosevelt High School before being promoted to assistant principal. Disturbed by the bureaucratic tyranny of teaching in the segregated South, Rodgers set his sight on becoming an attorney.

He attended Florida A&M University Law School and along with myself, was one in a six-person class to graduate in 1963. Within 2 short years, Rodgers was appointed the first black county prosecutor in Palm Beach county, then the first black judge, and he would serve in civil, criminal, and probate courts before retiring in 1995 after 22 remarkable years on the bench.

His accomplishments are many. However, some of his career highlights include helping former Governor of Florida Lawton Chiles investigate allegations that the Palm Beach County's Judicial Nominating Commission made back-room judicial appointments. Establishing a Saturday drug court in Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, and Delray Beach to champion the rights of the mentally ill and drug addicted. Establishing the Gwen Baker Rodgers Memorial Fund to honor his late wife. Serving as Assistant State Attorney. And working as a mediator and a court-appointed special master in arbitration cases.

When he retired in 1995, Judge Edward Rodgers pledged to continue to work to restore his town. In fact on his first run for office in 1999, Rodgers won a seat on the Riviera Beach city council, where he presently serves as council chairman.

Mr. Speaker Judge Rodgers is a man that is known for his compassion, fairness, and strength. He is a man that is respected and loved by his peers and within his community. I am honored to recognize a humanitarian, activist, former colleague, but most importantly a great friend through naming the Riviera Beach post office in his honor. I urge the adoption of the bill.

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2075.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for having the House consider his bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2075.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ARTHUR "PAPPY" KENNEDY POST OFFICE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1882) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando, Florida, as the "Arthur 'Pappy' Kennedy Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1882

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

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Arthur 'Pappy' Kennedy Post Office".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy Post Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1882.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1882, introduced by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN), designates this postal facility in Orlando, Florida, as the Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy Post Office Building. All of the Members of the Florida delegation have signed on as cosponsors of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is taking up this legislation that honors Pappy Kennedy. He became the first black city commissioner in the city of Orlando's history when he was first elected in 1972. He was truly a devoted public servant, just the kind of person who ought to be honored by this House. Pappy Kennedy sadly passed away earlier this year on March 28. With passage of this legislation, this Congress can appropriately name a

post office in Pappy's hometown that will forever celebrate his loyal service.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again recognize the thoughtful work on this legislation by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN), and I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1882, which honors Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy, and I urge all Members to support its passage.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1882 designates the facility of the United States Post Office located at 440 South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando, Florida, as the Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy Post Office.

I am pleased to join with our colleagues in the consideration of this bill that will name the post office after Pappy Kennedy. The bill was sponsored by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) on April 30, 2003. The bill has met the Committee on Government Reform policies, and has been cosponsored by the entire Florida delegation.

Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy was born in River Junction, Florida, in 1913. Ten years later, Mr. Kennedy moved to Orlando. He attended high school and college in the Florida area, and returned to Orlando to work at the Orange Court Hotel.

□ 1545

A lifetime member of the NAACP, Mr. Kennedy volunteered with many organizations: Meals on Wheels, United Negro College Fund, among others. He served as a deacon in his church, Shiloh Baptist, and spent time working with young people.

In 1972, Mr. Kennedy was elected Orlando's first African-American City Commissioner and had the distinction of being elected by the largest percentage between contestants in the 101-year history of the city.

A tireless public servant and advocate, Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy passed away on March 28, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the late Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy in this manner, and I urge the adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the original sponsor of the bill has arrived, I would like to yield this time to her if she is ready, and then I will speak, time permitting, after her.

With that in mind, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), my good friend, and the good friend of the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for his support in helping to get this bill to the floor and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), in fact, the entire Florida delegation.

I am delighted to introduce this bill which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located 440 South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando as the Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy Post Office.

Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy was Orlando's first African-American City Commissioner. He was elected to the Orlando City Council in 1972, reelected in 1976, and served until 1980. Born in River Junction, Florida, in 1913, his family moved to Orlando where he attended the Johnson Academy and Jones High School. Upon graduation, he attended Bethune-Cookman College, a Historically Black College in my district in Daytona Beach.

There was no stronger advocate of higher education than Pappy Kennedy. A man always involved in the community, he was the organizer of the Orlando Negro Chamber of Commerce, president of the Jones High School Parent-Teacher Association, and instrumental in organizing of the Orange County Parent-Teacher Council. He also worked with many, many organizations including the Meals on Wheels, the United Negro College Fund, and the NAACP.

Yet, for all of his accomplishments, Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy is best known for being Orlando's first African-American City Commissioner.

And when elected, he had the distinction, according to the Orlando City Clerk's Office, of being elected by the largest percentage among contestants in the 101-year history of the city.

I am honored to recognize one of Florida's stellar native Floridians with this Post Office designation.

In closing, it is my understanding that the Kennedy family is in the Washington area, and I would like to welcome them and thank all of them for their inspiration and support in the life of this heroic civil rights leader, Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy.

I urge all of the Members to support the naming of this post office.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I want to again congratulate my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN), for her work on this meaningful legislation.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tremendous support of H.R. 1882, a bill to name an Orlando, Florida, Post Office after Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy.

I am especially pleased because the bill recognizes the accomplishments of a political trailblazer for all of us in Florida, and, especially for African Americans. I am further pleased by virtue of the fact that among the great things that Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy produced, children of his that are friends of mine, including one of them, his son, who is named Arthur as well, is

my chief of staff in my office here, where I am privileged to serve in the United States Congress.

While Pappy may not be with us today to see this honor bestowed upon him, I know that his son and daughter and six grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren, and I note that some of them are with us today, share in the joy and excitement of this historic day.

As previously mentioned, Pappy was born in River Junction, Florida. I know where River Junction is; most Floridians do not. The reason I know about little towns is I am from Altamont Springs, Florida, which is 10 miles north of where Pappy made most of his career. At the young age of 10, he moved to Orlando where he would attend high school and become a pioneer in breaking down racial barriers. Throughout his life, Pappy Kennedy spoke up for those who could not speak for themselves, motivated others to improve their lives and was a tireless advocate for the poor and oppressed.

In 1976, as previously mentioned, he became the first African American to be elected to the Orlando city council. His popularity amongst the voters was obvious by virtue of the strength of the vote that he pulled in his election and then in his reelection, the largest victory to date of any Orlando commissioner. His election to the city council ended a string of unsuccessful attempts by African Americans to gain representation in Orlando's political arena. His election also paved the way for many women to successfully run for political office in Orange County. While serving on the council, he led the fight for single-member districts in Orlando. That change in election procedure resulted in the number of African Americans serving on the city council to double and others to go on to serve on the county commission and school board and the State legislature.

Interestingly, the change in election procedure that he so tirelessly fought for actually placed his political future in jeopardy. Yet despite the risk, Pappy's popularity prevailed, and he served on the city council for a total of 7 years. In addition to politics, he was a civic activist in the truest sense. He helped organize the former Orlando Negro Chamber of Commerce and was an active volunteer for the United Negro College Fund, the NAACP, Meals on Wheels and the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kennedy also served as president or chairman of the Jones High School Parent-Teacher Association, the Orange County United Appeal, the Orange County Heart Fund and the Orange County Easter Seal campaign.

It has been said that the true success of a leader must not only be measured by what he or she accomplishes while they are in a position to lead, but also in the size of the footprint that they leave behind. The footprint Pappy Kennedy left remains visible today in Orlando and throughout the State of Florida. The walls broken down by

Pappy Kennedy in 1976 helped open the doors of public service for African Americans throughout Florida. As someone who worked to break down the walls of racial injustice with Pappy Kennedy, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN), Carrie Meek and others, it is an honor and privilege to speak on the floor of the House of Representatives today in support of this bill.

His life was one filled with political, religious and civic activism of the highest level. He inspired many, including myself, and the bill that this body is considering today is an appropriate tribute to a true American hero. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1882.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN).

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) a question. While we are all in the Third Congressional District very excited about the naming of the post office, I have gotten many comments about the status of this particular post office. I have contacted U.S. Postal personnel. I would like for the gentleman and other Members to work to get it upgraded so it can be the quality that we all want representing Pappy Kennedy.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. If the gentlewoman will yield, I can assure her that I will work tirelessly in that effort and the previous naming of a post office is of a post office in a very similar condition in Riviera. I rather suspect that they should be brought to the quality of all of the postal services, and the gentlewoman, myself and other members of the Florida delegation I am sure will do everything we can, especially for the one for Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I thank the gentleman.

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

I will work with my colleagues to see that the upgrading of this post office happens.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1882.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AMENDING HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 WITH RESPECT TO QUALIFICATIONS OF FOREIGN SCHOOLS

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 570) to amend the Higher