

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

Education Act of 1965 with respect to the qualifications of foreign schools.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 570

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

SECTION 1. FOREIGN SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(a)(2)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of qualifying as an institution under paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall establish criteria by regulation for the approval of institutions outside the United States and for the determination that such institutions are comparable to an institution of higher education as defined in section 101 (except that a graduate medical school, or a veterinary school, located outside the United States shall not be required to meet the requirements of section 101(a)(4)). Such criteria shall include a requirement that a student attending such school outside the United States is ineligible for loans made, insured, or guaranteed under part B of title IV unless—

“(i) in the case of a graduate medical school located outside the United States—

“(I)(aa) at least 60 percent of those enrolled in, and at least 60 percent of the graduates of, the graduate medical school outside the United States were not persons described in section 484(a)(5) in the year preceding the year for which a student is seeking a loan under part B of title IV; and

“(bb) at least 60 percent of the individuals who were students or graduates of the graduate medical school outside the United States or Canada (both nationals of the United States and others) taking the examinations administered by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates received a passing score in the year preceding the year for which a student is seeking a loan under part B of title IV; or

“(II) the institution has a clinical training program that was approved by a State as of January 1, 1992; or

“(ii) in the case of a veterinary school located outside the United States that does not meet the requirements of section 101(a)(4), the institution’s students complete their clinical training at an approved veterinary school located in the United States.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be effective as if enacted on October 1, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 570.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today I rise in support of the bill, S. 570. The legislation is very simple in its purpose. It will correct a drafting error made years ago during the 1998 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

When drafting the legislation in 1998, an amendment intended to extend eligibility to a for-profit veterinary school inadvertently removed the eligibility of not-for-profit and public foreign veterinary schools from participation in the Title IV Federal Family Education Loan Program. S. 570 corrects the problem by clarifying that the in-State clinical training requirement, intended only for for-profit institutions, does not apply to not-for-profit or public foreign institutions. These institutions still must meet all other statutory and regulatory requirements to be eligible for participation. S. 570 simply makes clear that not-for-profit and public foreign veterinary institutions need not have their approved clinical training take place in the United States.

□ 1600

The legislation is noncontroversial. It is bipartisan, and this error should be corrected immediately. Students are now feeling the effects of this glitch, and it is unfairly hindering students seeking to complete their education. As they return to school, they should not have studies thwarted by a legislative drafting error. The effects of this problem are being felt by several of my constituents, one specifically being Ms. Beverly Breeden, a resident of Celina, Ohio, and a veterinary student at the Royal Veterinary College in London. She is extremely concerned that she may not be able to complete her studies should this legislation not pass. She has worked hard, and I want to ensure that she is able to return to school in October and finish her studies.

So I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” today on S. 570 and allow students to complete their education and training without unintended interruptions.

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

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

I thank the chairman of the committee for bringing this bipartisan legislation to the floor of the House, and I am pleased to support this amendment to the Higher Education Act which corrects the mistake that, as the chairman said, was made as part of the 1998 Higher Education Act reauthorization. We heard the story about the chairman’s constituent. Many others studying abroad now find themselves in a similar predicament and unable to pay for college. Many more find themselves cut off after years of investment, both financial and personal, and face the prospect of having to abandon their dream of becoming a veterinarian.

Currently, there are only 27 schools of veterinary medicine in the United States offering approximately 2,300 slots to first-year students. In the year 2000, more than 6,700 students applied for one of these limited slots. Many highly qualified applicants were denied admission to school in the United

States and had to look elsewhere to complete their training. At the same time, the demand for veterinarians across our Nation is very high. In 2001, the typical recent graduate averaged almost three job offers upon graduation.

Clearly, reputable foreign veterinarian medical colleges are key to supplying the growing demand for highly qualified veterinarians. S. 570 would correct the error we made in 1998 and restore the ability of students studying at foreign veterinary medical colleges to apply for and, if eligible, receive Pell grants, student loans, and other Federal aid.

Today, more than 150,000 U.S. citizens studying at foreign institutions of higher learning receive \$250 million in Federal student aid. American students attending foreign veterinary schools should also have access to Federal grants and student loans.

This legislation will correct the misstep we made in 1998 and allow hundreds of students to complete their degrees and realize their dreams. It has bipartisan support; and like the chairman of the committee, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and ensure the fair treatment of all students.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 570, an Act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 with respect to qualifications of foreign schools. This amendment revises the requirements of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow students studying in nonprofit public veterinary schools abroad to participate in the Family Education Loan Program.

The higher education act of 1965 was signed into law on November 8, 1965 “to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for student in post secondary and higher education.” We must maintain the integrity of this important program. This amendment ensures that those students who choose to attend veterinary schools located outside the United States can still benefit from the all-important financial assistance provided by the Higher Education Act.

A substantial number of students studying abroad have been medical, dental, or veterinary students. These students are able to broaden their understanding of the medical practice and return home with an enlightened perspective that benefits those of us who will be treated here in the United States by these practitioners.

Traditionally, many medical students have hesitated to study abroad fearing that they would endanger their professional prospects. We now know that the experience gained by medical students who successfully study abroad considerably enhances their ability to move into their professional careers.

The Higher Education Act was and still is a response to the concern President Johnson expressed in 1965 about the need for more higher education opportunities for lower and middle-income families, program assistance for small and less developed colleges, additional improved library resources at higher education institution, and utilization of college

and university resources to help deal with national problems like poverty and community development.

S. 570 allows veterinary students studying abroad in nonprofit public veterinary schools to participate in the Higher Education Act's Federal Family Education Loan Program. We must maintain the purpose of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and provide financial resources to those students who qualify whether they are at home or abroad.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back balance of my time.

Mr. BOEHNER. 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 gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 570.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHNNY CASH

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 282) honoring the life of Johnny Cash, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 282

Whereas Johnny Cash was one of the most influential and recognized voices of American music throughout the world, whose influence spanned generations and musical genres;

Whereas Johnny Cash was born on February 26, 1932, in Kingsland, Arkansas, and moved with his family at the age of 3 to Dyess, Arkansas, where the family farmed 20 acres of cotton and other seasonal crops;

Whereas those early years in the life of Johnny Cash inspired songs such as "Look at Them Beans" and "Five Feet High and Rising";

Whereas Johnny Cash eventually released more than 70 albums of original material in his lifetime, beginning with his first recording in 1955 with the Tennessee Two;

Whereas Johnny Cash was a devoted husband to June Carter Cash, a father of 5 children, and a grandfather;

Whereas Johnny Cash received extensive recognition for his contributions to the musical heritage of the Nation, including membership in the Grand Ole Opry; induction into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and his receipt of numerous awards, including Kennedy Center Honors, 11 Grammy Awards, and the 2001 National Medal of Arts;

Whereas Johnny Cash embodied the creativity, innovation, and social conscience that define American music;

Whereas Johnny Cash was a vocal champion of the downtrodden, the working man, and Native Americans; and

Whereas the Nation has lost one of its most prolific and influential musicians with the death of Johnny Cash on September 12, 2003, in Nashville, Tennessee: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) honors the life and accomplishments of Johnny Cash;

(2) recognizes and honors Johnny Cash for his invaluable contributions to the Nation, Tennessee, and our musical heritage; and

(3) extends condolences to the Cash family on the death of a remarkable man.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 282.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 282, offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER). House Concurrent Resolution 282 honors the life and musical legacy of Johnny Cash, a man who was a poet, a scholar, and a world famous music icon, as well as a loving husband and father.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) for introducing this important legislation. I would also like to thank Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER for introducing the Senate version, which was passed by that body on September 18, 2003.

It was no wonder that September 12 was a dark and dreary day in Nashville. It was the day we lost the Man in Black. Johnny Cash died early that morning at Baptist Hospital in Nashville from diabetes complications. He was an outlaw, he was a songwriter, he was a born-again Christian; and for 5 decades Johnny Cash entertained millions, millions of people around the world with songs of love and death and good times and bad. All of his career, Johnny Cash wrote songs for the common man. From his upbringing in rural northeastern Arkansas to the height of his stardom in the 1960s, Johnny Cash always connected with the common man.

Johnny's career began in Memphis alongside Elvis Presley. There, with legendary recording great Sam Phillips of Sun Records, he recorded "Cry! Cry! Cry!" and that put him on the map. By 1956 he was recognized as one of country music's rising stars when he joined the Louisiana Hayride and the Grand Ole Opry. Although he struggled through drug abuse, Johnny Cash found a soul mate in June Carter Cash. It was with her loving support that he was able to make it through those tough times. In 1968 he married this daughter

of acoustic guitar great Mother Maybelle Carter, a member of "the first family of country music."

Johnny Cash's deep sense of reality pours out in that gravelly voice that we all loved with songs like "Folsom Prison Blues" and the legendary "Ring of Fire" co-written with June Carter Cash. He garnered 11 Grammys and at age 71 was in no way slowing down creatively. Just a few weeks ago, he was posthumously named the top honoree at the Americana Music Awards in Nashville.

His legacy is his music, and it will surely go on with hits like "I Walk the Line"; "Big River"; and the hit he co-wrote with fellow outlaw Kris Kristofferson, "Sunday Morning Coming Down." Kris Kristofferson was right when he said Johnny Cash represented what was great about America. His profound faith, resiliency, and unwillingness to be labeled by the music industry will certainly shape the legacy of one of the greatest American artists. This American icon will be missed, but he will be remembered through his music.

I commend the gentleman from Tennessee for his leadership in offering this concurrent resolution to honor the life of Johnny Cash, and encourage my colleagues to adopt the measure.

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

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

I rise in support of this concurrent resolution to honor the life and contributions of Johnny Cash. Johnny Cash, as we all know, had a long and distinguished music career, becoming one of the most imposing and influential figures in post-World War II country music. He is one of the only artists to be enshrined in the Rock and Roll and Country Music Hall of Fame.

Cash did not sound like Nashville, nor did he sound like honky-tonk or rock and roll. He created his own unique sound, his own type and blend of music, revolutionizing the world of country music. In creating that sound, he released over 70 albums. In addition, he was one of the most successful country artists of the 1950s and 1960s, scoring well over 100 hit singles. These are amazing feats that few musicians have accomplished and even fewer are likely to repeat.

Cash's career coincided with the birth of rock and roll. Johnny Cash was not just another musician, however. Rather, his later albums would show his deep sense of history. He illustrated his understanding with a series of historical albums. These albums were focused on the downtrodden, the common man, and also the plight of Native Americans in our country.

Johnny Cash has made an indelible mark on American society. While we have lost one of our great musical artists of the last 50 years, his songs will continue to impact generations to come.