

"Mom, they would be a man short. Somebody's taking my place, and that's not fair."

□ 1615

This selfless devotion to his comrades and his country exemplifies the character of this tremendous young man.

Forgoing his acceptance to Truman State University, Specialist Navarro enlisted in the Army right after his graduation from Lafayette High School in 2003.

This young man believed in the mission, men, and country he served. Tragically, on December 13, 2005, just 1 month before he was scheduled to end his deployment, Specialist Navarro lost his life while on patrol in Iraq.

Specialist Navarro has been awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star for his service. Specialist Navarro's father, a veteran of the Navy, remembers his strong-willed son with admiration: "He died because he was trying to make a difference, and being a soldier was what was making a difference in this time of life."

Like many young men and women in uniform today serving our country, Specialist Navarro in fact has made the decision to go into harm's way to help another people far away—people he never met, people he knows nothing about, and people who he only knows he's going because our country is there and because we are trying to make a difference.

I join with the majority today and with Congressman AKIN, who could not be here, for passage of his bill, in saying this is the right name in this town for the right individual who gave so completely to the American people, and I urge support.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1217, a bill I introduced to honor the life of Peter J. Navarro by designating the post office in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building." A resident of Wildwood, Missouri, Specialist Peter J. Navarro was part of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. On December 13, 2005 Specialist Navarro was one of four soldiers killed when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee during combat operations in Taji, Iraq.

A graduate of Lafayette High School, Peter declined his acceptance at Truman State University so he could join the Army right after graduation.

When Peter returned home for his younger brother's funeral, he was faced with the undeniable risks of serving his country. However, he returned to Iraq telling friends and family, "They need me there."

Peter was a dedicated soldier, willing to give the ultimate sacrifice to protect his county and the men and women who reside there. As Peter's father, Jose Navarro said, "He cared for the soldiers he worked with. He would do anything for his friends. And he told me he believed in what the mission was."

As the father of two Marines, one of whom has served in Iraq; it is a privilege to stand

here today to honor one of our fallen soldiers. Peter's commitment and dedication to his country is a shining example of how our military men and women are the finest our nation has to offer. His and his family's sacrifice should serve as a reminder to all that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is not free but the result of the tremendous bravery and selfless service of men and women willing put themselves in harms way for freedom's cause.

Our nation will be forever indebted to Specialist Peter Navarro. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Peter.

Vote "yes" on H.R. 1217.

Mr. ISSA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Again, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) for authoring the measure at hand. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1217.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1217.

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. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1284) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1284

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

SECTION 1. MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "Major Ed W. Freeman 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 "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present for consideration H.R. 1284, a bill to designate the United States Postal Facility located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office Building."

Introduced by my friend, Representative GENE TAYLOR, on March 3, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 10, 2009, by voice vote, H.R. 1284 enjoys the support of the entire Mississippi House delegation.

Born in Neely, Mississippi, on November 20, 1927, Major Ed W. Freeman proudly served his country in the United States Army as a fixed and rotary wing aircraft pilot. On July 16, 2001, President George W. Bush presented Major Freeman with the Medal of Honor—the United States military's highest commendation—in recognition of his brave actions during the Vietnam War.

Major Freeman began his distinguished military career at the age of 17, with 2 years of service in the United States Navy during World War II. He subsequently joined the United States Army, serving in Germany for 4 years before being deployed to Korea.

Notably, Major Freeman received his well-familiar nickname of "Too Tall" after being told that he was too tall to serve as an Army pilot. However, he quickly dispelled this notion by becoming one of the Army's finest helicopter pilots.

Major Freeman's bravery, dedication, and flying skills were never more evident than on November 14, 1965, during the battle of Ia Drang, at Landing Zone X-Ray, in Vietnam. As noted in his Medal of Honor citation, Major Freeman "distinguished himself by numerous acts of conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary intrepidity" as a member of Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division.

Specifically, as a flight leader and second-in-command of a 16-helicopter lift unit, then-Captain Freeman supported a heavily engaged American battalion at the Landing Zone in the Ia Drang Valley by "flying his unarmed helicopter through a gauntlet of enemy fire, time after time, delivering critically needed ammunitions, water, and medical supplies to the besieged battalion."

Additionally, Major Freeman flew 14 separate rescue missions which resulted in the lifesaving evacuation of an estimated 30 seriously wounded soldiers. Major Freeman's Medal of Honor citation goes on to note that his "selfless acts of great valor, extraordinary

perseverance, and intrepidity were far above and beyond the call of duty or mission and set a superb example of leadership and courage for all of his peers.”

Major Freeman’s heroic acts in the Ia Drang Valley were subsequently immortalized in the Mel Gibson film *We Were Soldiers*.

While he retired from the military in 1967 and moved to Idaho with his beloved wife, Barbara, and sons, Mike and Doug, Major Freeman did not give up flying—as he went to work for the Department of the Interior’s Office of Aircraft Services. Upon his official retirement in 1991, Major Freeman had logged more than 25,000 hours of flying time.

Regrettably, Major Freeman passed away in August of last year at the age of 80.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor Major Freeman and his service to our country through the passage of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1284, and dedicating the McLain Post Office after this distinguished veteran.

I reserve the balance of our time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1284, to designate the facility of the United States postal service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the “Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office.”

Major Freeman perhaps balances the three initiatives here today—a young soldier; an inspirational young man who died far too young of cancer; and, thirdly, a man who lived a full and complete life but who gave and gave and gave.

Major Freeman was born on November 20, 1927, in Mississippi. Before graduating from high school, as many of his generation, often called America’s finest generation, young Freeman enlisted in the Navy, and served 2 years before returning home to Mississippi, graduating from high school, and deciding to return to the military; this time, to the Army.

During the Korean War, Ed Freeman rose to the rank of master sergeant in an Army engineer unit, and did his battles in many places, including the battle immortalized as Pork Chop Hill, and was then awarded a Battlefield Commission.

As was earlier mentioned, Major Freeman was too tall to be initially allowed to be a pilot. At 6’4”, he was certainly a big target for the infantry, I might say, too. But with his perseverance, he eventually attended flight school until the regulation changed in 1955. But he kept that nickname, “Too Tall” Freeman. He carried it through the rest of his military career.

After winning his wings, Major Freeman began to fly fixed-wing aircraft and later switched to helicopters. In 1965, he was sent to Vietnam and served in Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, of the famous 1st Cavalry Division.

On November 14, 1965, Major Freeman’s helicopters carried a battalion into battle in the Ia Drang Valley, which became the first major confrontation between large U.S. forces and North Vietnamese regulars. For that, he received a number of commendations for his willingness to fly into the face of this heavy combat while dealing with casualties, going in and out and running low on supplies and fuel.

Major Freeman volunteered to fly into the battle area, risking his own life, delivering critically needed ammunition, water, and medical supplies to a battalion on the ground.

In all, Major Freeman carried out 14 separate rescue missions. For these actions, Major Freeman was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on July 16, 2001, by President George W. Bush. A few months later, Major Freeman visited the White House again for the premier of *We Were Soldiers*, a 2002 feature film that depicted his role in the battle that day.

We will miss “Too Tall.” We will miss his generation.

Mr. Freeman died in Boise, Idaho, on August 20, 2008, from complications of Parkinson’s disease, and is survived by his wife of 54 years, Barbara Freeman, and his sons, Mike and Doug.

Mr. Speaker, naming a post office after a man who gave and gave and gave to his country the way Major Freeman did is little enough to do. Today, recognizing his life and contribution, too, is little enough to do for one of the last of America’s finest generations.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 5 minutes to the lead sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR. I want to thank the gentlemen from Massachusetts and California for their very timely consideration of this. I want to thank all the members of the Mississippi House delegation for cosponsoring it.

Gentlemen, there really isn’t anything that remains to be said. I think you all did a phenomenal job of honoring Ed Freeman’s life. The only thing I would ask is that his Medal of Honor citation be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Thank you for the timely consideration.

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION, CAPTAIN ED W. FREEMAN, UNITED STATES ARMY

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Captain Ed W. Freeman, United States Army, distinguished himself by numerous acts of conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary intrepidity on 14 November 1965 while serving with Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). As a flight leader and second in command of a 16-helicopter lift unit, he supported a heavily engaged American infantry battalion at Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley, Republic of Vietnam. The unit

was almost out of ammunition after taking some of the heaviest casualties of the war, fighting off a relentless attack from a highly motivated, heavily armed enemy force. When the infantry commander closed the helicopter landing zone due to intense direct enemy fire, Captain Freeman risked his own life by flying his unarmed helicopter through a gauntlet of enemy fire time after time, delivering critically needed ammunition, water and medical supplies to the besieged battalion. His flights had a direct impact on the battle’s outcome by providing the engaged units with timely supplies of ammunition critical to their survival, without which they would almost surely have gone down, with much greater loss of life. After medical evacuation helicopters refused to fly into the area due to intense enemy fire, Captain Freeman flew 14 separate rescue missions, providing life-saving evacuation of an estimated 30 seriously wounded soldiers—some of whom would not have survived had he not acted. All flights were made into a small emergency landing zone within 100 to 200 meters of the defensive perimeter where heavily committed units were perilously holding off the attacking elements. Captain Freeman’s selfless acts of great valor, extraordinary perseverance and intrepidity were far above and beyond the call of duty or mission and set a superb example of leadership and courage for all of his peers. Captain Freeman’s extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would urge the passage of H.R. 1284, recognizing a Medal of Honor winner, a great American, one who has lived a long life and contributed a great deal to our country. Again, I urge support for H.R. 1284.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, again, I simply want to thank Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi and, again, I want to urge all Members to support H.R. 1284.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1284.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o’clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro