

FLETCHER, for this legislation to honor a dedicated public servant and trailblazer for the rights of religious minorities.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5317 which would name a post office in my home State of Texas after Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal.

Dhaliwal joined the Harris County Sheriff's Office out of a sense of duty and a desire to build a bridge between the department and the Houston area Sikh community. He was also one of the first observant Sikhs in Texas to receive a policy accommodation allowing him to wear the turban and beard associated with the Sikh religion during his service as a police officer.

After being promoted to the rank of patrol deputy, he was assigned to northwest Harris County.

In September of 2019, Dhaliwal was shot and killed from behind during a routine traffic stop leaving behind a wife and three daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation honoring a local law enforcement hero, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER). I congratulate my friend on this bill.

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman MALONEY for all of her efforts to bring this important bill to the floor of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal. He was my constituent, and he was killed in the line of duty nearly a year ago today on September 27, 2019.

As we reach this sad anniversary for our community, I am grateful that this bill to pay tribute to Deputy Dhaliwal's lasting impact on our community is on the floor of the House today. This legislation will designate the postal facility on Addicks Howell Road in Texas' Seventh Congressional District as the Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office Building.

Deputy Dhaliwal was widely regarded as a role model for Americans of all faiths wishing to serve their communities. He was the first observant Sikh to serve in the Harris County Sheriff's Office, and he was also one of the first officers in Texas to receive a policy accommodation to practice his religion while serving as a police officer.

As my colleagues have noted, he was born in Punjab, India, but his parents soon decided to emigrate to Houston where Mr. Dhaliwal grew deep roots.

He did have a successful business, but seeking to build a bridge between law enforcement and the Sikh community and the greater Houston community, he joined the Harris County Sheriff's Office, first as a detention officer in

2009 and one year later he was deputized and graduated to the rank of patrol deputy.

He was assigned to district 5 which covers much of northwest Harris County, an area he would patrol for the rest of his career. Through his years of service, he improved law enforcement's cultural understanding of Sikhs and was an outstanding example of the tireless contributions that religious minorities and marginalized communities make to our country.

Deputy Dhaliwal was also known to have a giving heart, coordinating relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey and traveling to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria to help a colleague's relatives.

He volunteered countless hours for Sikh communities across the Nation serving as the director of homeland security for United Sikhs, helping to advise Sikh communities on dealing with potential hate crime threats, and advocating for their religious rights.

Deputy Dhaliwal is survived by his wife and three young children. He represented the very best of our community. He worked for equality, connection, and community through his life of service to others. The senseless slaying of Deputy Dhaliwal is a solemn reminder of the risks assumed by police officers daily in serving and protecting our communities.

Renaming this post office facility in his honor will serve as a permanent reminder of Deputy Dhaliwal's commitment to and sacrifice for the community that he lived in and served. It will show that we stand in solidarity with the people of Houston, of Harris County, and the Sikh community across the country as they celebrate the life and mourn of loss of this remarkable and selfless hero.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman MALONEY for her support of this important bill, I thank my colleagues in Texas for joining me unanimously in bringing it forward as cosponsors, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" in favor of the bill.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to 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. 5317, 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. 5317.

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.

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS (SEAL)
MATTHEW G. AXELSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend

the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4672) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 21701 Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino, California, as the "Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4672

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

SECTION 1. PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS (SEAL) MATTHEW G. AXELSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 21701 Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino, California, shall be known and designated as the "Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson 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 "Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) 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 may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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 am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 4672 to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 21701 Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino, California, as the Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson Post Office Building.

Petty Officer Axelson was born June 25, 1976, in Cupertino, California. He was raised locally and graduated from Monta Vista High School in 1994.

Petty Officer Axelson attended California State University at Chico and graduated with a degree in political science. He joined the Navy in 2000 and went on to earn a position as a member of its elite special warfare team, the SEALs.

Only a few short months after he was deployed to Afghanistan, Petty Officer Axelson and two other members of his unit were ambushed and killed by enemy forces in June of 2005. The surviving member of his team would go on to write the book "Lone Survivor" that depicts the courageous actions of the four SEALs on that day.

Petty Officer Axelson was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, the

second highest military award for valor in the United States. Naming a post office in his honor will serve as a tribute to a true American hero taken from us far too soon.

I would like to thank Representative KHANNA, a distinguished member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for this legislation to honor this American hero.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4672 which would name a Cupertino, California, post office after Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Axelson, a Navy SEAL.

Petty Officer Axelson was born and raised in Cupertino. After graduating from college, he joined the U.S. Navy, eventually earning a spot as an elite Navy SEAL serving on SEAL Team 10.

He was deployed to Afghanistan in 2005 and served as part of a four-man special reconnaissance element that participated in Operation Red Wings, a mission to counter fundamentalist forces in the Kunar province of Afghanistan.

On June 28, 2005, Petty Officer Axelson's unit was assigned to kill or capture Ahmad Shah, a high-ranking Taliban leader in the Hindu Kush mountains. He and two other team members were killed in action as part of an ambush by enemy forces, but not until after the four-man group fought ferociously back against a significantly larger force. Axelson continued to fight alongside his teammates after being wounded in the head and chest, but he ultimately succumbed to his wounds. Axelson was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest military award for valor.

The sole remaining survivor of the team wrote a book about the courageous actions of these men called "Lone Survivor" which was later turned into a movie of the same name.

Mr. Speaker, Petty Officer Axelson's actions are a profile in courage. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I now close urging passage of H.R. 4672.

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. 4672.

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.

CLARA LUPER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5597) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 305 Northwest 5th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the "Clara Luper Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5597

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

SECTION 1. CLARA LUPER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 305 Northwest 5th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, shall be known and designated as the "Clara Luper 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 "Clara Luper Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) 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 may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the 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 am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 5597 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 305 Northwest 5th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the Clara Luper Post Office Building.

Clara Luper made her mark in a time when people of color could not even walk through the front door of Oklahoma City businesses. She had a vision for equality, a heart for service, and a commitment to justice. She knew that Oklahoma and this country could be a place where everyone is treated with respect, dignity, and humanity.

In August of 1958, Ms. Luper and 14 of her NAACP youth council students organized one of America's first sit-ins when they entered Katz Drug Store in Oklahoma City to order a hamburger and a Coke. They were denied service but refused to leave. Though they were verbally and physically assaulted, they persisted.

Within days of the sit-in, Katz Drug Stores integrated their lunch counters not just in Oklahoma City, but in three other States as well.

Her initiative helped inspire the 1961 Greensboro, North Carolina, sit-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter, which fueled momentum within the civil rights movement.

Ms. Luper continued her fight for freedom. She was arrested 26 times, integrated the history department at the University of Oklahoma by becoming its first African-American graduate of the master's program and worked tirelessly across the State in pursuit of her vision for justice. We should commemorate this heroine of the civil rights movement by naming a post office in her honor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the honorable gentlewoman and my very good friend from Oklahoma, Representative HORN, for this legislation to honor a heroine of the civil rights movement.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5597, which would name a post office in Oklahoma after Clara Luper.

Luper believed that Oklahoma and the United States should be a place where everyone is treated equally with respect.

In 1958, she and 14 of her NAACP youth council students organized one of the first U.S. sit-ins at a Katz Drug Store in Oklahoma. They tried to order a hamburger and soda knowing that they would be refused solely because of the color of their skin.

Though they were assaulted, they stayed with their cause. And within days, Katz Drug Stores integrated their lunch counters in Oklahoma and three other States.

This sit-in helped inspire the 1961 sit-ins at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, which was a critical moment during the civil rights movement.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the great State of Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN).

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman MALONEY for taking up this important bill to honor Clara Luper and her sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to urge passage of H.R. 5597, a bill to rename the downtown Oklahoma City Post Office in honor of Clara Luper.

Clara Luper, known as the mother of Oklahoma's civil rights movement was a teacher, a publisher, and so much more. On August 19, 1958, Luper and 13 NAACP youth council students led the Nation's first lunch counter sit-in at Katz Drug Store in downtown Oklahoma City.

These sit-ins inspired similar action across the south during the civil rights movement, including the Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in in Greensboro, North Carolina.