

SUPPORTING ALTHEA MARGARET DAILY MILLS POST OFFICE BUILDING

(Mr. SOTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our bill, H.R. 2969, which passed the House today.

This bill names the Florence Villa United States Post Office located at 1401 1st Street North in Winter Haven, Florida, as the Althea Margaret Daily Mills Post Office Building.

Ms. Althea Margaret Daily Mills is an unsung hero in the fight for desegregation in Florida.

Ms. Mills began her education in Pughsville, Winter Haven's first Black community. When she was 13, she moved to Pennsylvania to live with an aunt. There, she was able to attend integrated schools.

In 1963, Mills filed a lawsuit against Polk County Board of Public Instruction to end the dual school system and allow her son to attend the then-all-White Winter Haven High School. This lawsuit eventually led to integration of all Polk County public schools.

When asked about her motivation to challenge the system, Mills would later say: "Our instructors were just as good, but some of my son's textbooks would go to page 3 and then skip to page 35. You can't learn like that."

Ms. Mills was also the first Black career employee of the United States Postal Service in Winter Haven and eventually became a manager of the Florence Villa Post Office, which will bear her name.

Mr. Speaker, although she passed in 2008, her legacy lives on, and I thank my colleagues for the support of this bill.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC TIMELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, we are here today with the GOP Doctors Caucus for the next hour to discuss the COVID epidemic.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to be down here with my colleagues for the first time in some time since the House has not been in session for quite a few weeks.

Collectively on the floor tonight, there are over 200 years of clinical experience with the GOP Doctors Caucus. I myself practiced 37 years before I retired and ran for Congress in 2008.

Tonight, I want to go over the timeline just briefly of the pandemic that we currently are experiencing.

Remember, about 8½ months ago, we knew that there was a virus that had spread from China, from Wuhan, China, to the U.S.

In that timeline, on January 9, the World Health Organization announced

that there was a pneumonia in Wuhan, China.

By January 20, three cities in the U.S. had already begun to limit flights and to check passengers from flights that landed in Los Angeles at LAX, at San Francisco, and at JFK International.

On January 21, the first confirmed case was a person who lived in Wuhan but came back to the U.S.

By January 31 of this year, the President had stopped all flights from China to the U.S. and then subsequently, as we all know, from Europe to the U.S.

So, literally, from not knowing what this virus was in the first month, what RNA sequence it was, we had limited the travel of this virus.

Through the month of February, I became involved with the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship. It turned out I had a very good friend on that ship. It was docked with 3,500 people onboard. The average age of the passengers on that ship was 75 years of age.

My friend is a physician. I talked to him on the phone.

I must give a shout-out to HHS, who really led the evacuation of that ship, bringing all Americans back home, quarantining them. Not a single American died, and I think we can take some pride in that.

I am a former U.S. Army officer. I served in the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea. We were trained, and it was beaten in our heads, you do not leave anyone behind.

I think a number that is left out is our U.S. State Department has repatriated over 90,000 U.S. American citizens from overseas back home to the U.S., where they can receive the care that they need.

We have recognized that we got the RNA sequence of the virus and literally, within 6 weeks, began to approve treatments for this virus we didn't know a lot about.

I want to say, in my 37 years—this December, I would have graduated from medical school 50 years ago—I don't ever remember a time in my life where we found a disease, an infectious disease, where within 8 months we had cut the mortality rate by over 40 percent. That is literally unheard of.

It is a huge shout-out to the men and women who get up every day and go into our hospitals—we all know them at home—and put their lives on the line to treat us as patients and to take care of us. When given the proper equipment, they are doing a phenomenal job on the front lines.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friends and colleagues who are still in practice every day for that.

We had an opportunity in May. Once we had realized that this had ramped up and a lot of Americans had been affected by this, the White House started something called Operation Warp Speed.

Literally, in the history of this country, I don't remember a time—typically, when we have a vaccine, a treat-

ment for a disease, there is usually anywhere from 3 or 4 years to 10 or 15 years to get that vaccine approved and get it to market.

What we want is a safe, effective vaccine like you would for polio.

As a child, I remember as a little boy when the polio vaccine came out. Literally overnight in this country, we eliminated polio as a risk. Many of my friends developed polio. They got it before the vaccine was available. I was very fortunate and did not, as were many children. We have essentially eliminated that from the Earth today.

We began Operation Warp Speed, which was to develop a vaccine. Well, how is that going to happen? We kept hearing it would be done in about a year. How can you safely do that in a year?

What usually happens in vaccine development is you sequence the RNA. The virus, you sequence it. After that virus is sequenced, you send your information over to the FDA, and they approve that you can begin clinical phase 1 trials. Phase 1 trials are typically 45 or 50 patients.

You then get the information from the phase 1 trials back to the FDA, the approval boards, and they give you permission to go to phase 2 and then to phase 3 trials.

If all of that is successful, then you begin to manufacture the vaccine and then deliver the vaccine to health departments, to doctors' offices, to hospitals and pharmacies and so forth to use the vaccine, just like we do for the flu.

What has happened this time is that all of these things have occurred simultaneously. So the phase 1 trials, the FDA gets the information. Phase 2 trials, they get the information. If it looks good, they can go ahead with phase 3 trials. That is why right now we have three trials in phase 3 trials in 8 months, which is unheard of, I can tell you. These are tens of thousands of patients who are enrolled in these trials.

Hopefully, by the end of this year, we will have a vaccine that is both safe and effective to treat our people in this country, our ones at most risk.

I am going to stop now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS). The first person I would like to recognize tonight is my good friend, Dr. MIKE BURGESS, a fellow OB/GYN doctor representing Texas' District 26.

He is a senior member of our GOP Doctors Caucus and has been active in the caucus since it began. Dr. BURGESS serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee as a senior member.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Dr. ROE, for yielding and for convening this hour.

I think it is so important that the people hear directly from us, the doctors who are serving in the United States House of Representatives.

When Dr. ROE was delivering his remarks, I was reminded of how the information about this illness came to us