

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I have been touched as well by all of the comments about Mary Ann Collura. Sometimes an incident happens like that in a State and in the Nation that touches everybody and, certainly, naming this Post Office after this fantastic American is an appropriate thing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of the Members to support the passage of H.R. 3939.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3939.

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.

DR. MIGUEL A. NEVAREZ POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4299) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 South Jackson Road in Edinburg, Texas, as the "Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4299

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF DR. MIGUEL A. NEVAREZ POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 South Jackson Road in Edinburg, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez 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 "Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise

in support of H.R. 4299 that designates a post office in Edinburg, Texas as the "Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez Post Office Building." All of the members of the Texas State delegation have cosponsored this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Miguel Nevarez has been president of the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg for the last 23 years. In 1981, Dr. Nevarez inherited a small university of only 8,000 students. But today, UT-Pan American boasts more than 15,000 students and 600 faculty members. Dr. Nevarez's 23 years of service makes him the longest-serving Hispanic university or college president in the entire Nation.

A distinguished educator, Dr. Nevarez is a vice-chair of the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors, and he is a member of the American Council of Education and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Nevarez retires this Friday, May 14. President Nevarez led his final spring commencement exercises just last weekend, as over 1,200 students from UT-Pan American received their degrees. House passage of this legislation will provide Dr. Nevarez and his family with a timely honor for his contributions to all past, current, and future students of UT-Pan American.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 4299.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 4299, legislation naming a postal facility in Edinburg, Texas after Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez.

This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) on May 6, 2004 enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the Texas delegation.

Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez has served as President of the University of Texas-Pan American for 23 years. The University of Texas-Pan American is the leading institution serving underserved and underrepresented students in the south Texas community. The university is home to a high concentration of Hispanic students. Currently Hispanic enrollment is 87 percent of the student body.

Throughout his tenure as president of the university, Dr. Nevarez has made a difference in his community and profession by providing and improving higher educational opportunities to south Texas residents. For his efforts, Dr. Nevarez has received numerous accolades. He was named Outstanding Educator by President Reagan in 1985, and has worked closely with many United States Presidents on education reform and Hispanic education initiatives.

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Dr. Nevarez has testified in Congress on the contributions of America's Hispanic-serving institutions. He has been named one of the 100 Influential Hispanics by Hispanic Business Magazine and has been credited with creating a Hispanic middle class in south Texas.

Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez is retiring this year. By way of recognizing his many years of dedicated service, the university is hosting a special dinner on May 14, 2004, in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), in honoring the enormous educational and professional contributions of Dr. Nevarez. Designating the post office in Edinburg, Texas, is an excellent way to pay tribute to Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez.

I urge swift passage of this bill.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers at this moment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), the sponsor of this bill, from the 15th Congressional District of Texas.

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4299, a bill that will rename the post office in Edinburg, Texas, home of the University of Texas Pan American, in honor of Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Ranking Member WAXMAN) for their assistance in bringing this legislation to the floor so quickly.

I want to congratulate and thank one of the great modern heroes of south Texas, Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez, my good friend, who is retiring this year from the presidency of the University of Texas Pan American.

Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez has presided over a sea change in south Texas. His leadership of the University of Texas Pan American has transformed the region. In fact, he laid the infrastructure that will transform south Texas.

Dr. Nevarez has guided this institution from the days when this was still a position called Associate Dean of Men and only 8,000 students, many in remedial education, to today when UTPA is a full-fledged research institution, offering 56 undergraduate programs, 42 master's programs and three doctoral programs. Today, in 2004, UTPA enrolls over 15,000 students.

The growth and development of south Texas are inextricably linked to the growth and development of UTPA. Dr. Nevarez has risen to the challenge and has made south Texas and its south Texans proud. He has mentored faculties, students, and administrators.

He has built the capacity of the institution both physically and intellectually. UTPA is one of the most beautiful and well-equipped campuses in the State of Texas, and it is on the cutting edge in new research and technologies.

As UTPA has matured, so has south Texas. This is a dynamic region with dramatic growth in population and jobs in all areas of economic activity; and UTPA, with Dr. Nevarez as the university president, is at the center of it all. This is his legacy.

Furthermore, Dr. Nevarez has been the longest-serving Hispanic president of a college or university. He was one of the pioneers that paved the way for Federal support for Hispanic-serving institutions. His leadership and advocacy on behalf of HSIs helped create a specific designation in the 1998 higher education reauthorization. This designation has resulted in increased Federal funding by all Federal agencies for HSIs nationwide. These colleges and universities open the doors of higher education to half of the Latinos attending college in the country.

Dr. Nevarez's leadership has laid the foundation for the educational advancement of the fastest-growing, largest minority group in the country, Hispanic Americans. Raising the level of educational attainment for the Hispanic community is of paramount importance to our future security and prosperity.

I want to also acknowledge and recognize Dr. Nevarez's family. First, his beautiful wife Blanca Medina Nevarez who has been a very loving and strong supporter of her husband. Second, I have seen his three children, Miguel III, Annette and Marc, who have had to share their father with so many people. His duties and responsibilities may have kept him from participating in some important family gatherings, but rest assured that his family's sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. I thank them for supporting Miguel's efforts.

I am happy for my friend. He has earned his retirement. He has given so much of himself to the great State of Texas, to the Hispanic community, and to our great Nation. His efforts and his accomplishments will long be remembered. The post office in Edinburg, Texas, an all-American city, shall bear the name of Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez. He is ready to pass the mantle of leadership for UTPA and south Texas as we move into the 21st century; and thanks to him, we are ready.

Que Dios le bendiga! May God bless you.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a representative from the 10th Congressional District of Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Though we honor the life's work of Dr. Miguel Nevarez by designating a post office with his name, his real leg-

acy is reflected in the lives and the careers of the students that he has helped for over a quarter of a century with his leadership and service, mostly as president of UT Pan American.

Dr. Nevarez is the first Hispanic president of UT Pan Am and the longest seated Hispanic president of any four-year institution of higher learning. He has a total of over 30 years of service to UT Pan Am, including his tenure as a professor in the education department, associate dean of men, vice president for student and university affairs and, of course, as president and leader of the university.

Dr. Nevarez has repeatedly been recognized for his leadership, including being named one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics in America" and as one of the "50 Most Influential Hispanics in Business Technology." His commitment to education has fundamentally and forever changed not only the Rio Grande Valley but elsewhere across our Nation as UT Pan Am graduates have assumed positions of leadership.

It is not surprising to any of us who have worked with Dr. Nevarez that, after a much-deserved sabbatical, he will be returning to work with Dr. Velma Menchaca and the outstanding faculty of the Department of Educational Leadership. There, he will return to teaching, and he will be working primarily with the doctoral and master's programs involving higher education, organizational behavior and organizational management, programs that came into being through his leadership as the president at UT Pan American.

Just as the commencements that we are celebrating across America represent both an end and a beginning, so does this announcement by Dr. Nevarez. The opportunity is there for us to step up to the challenge of giving students all the education for which each is willing to work. We can honor this legacy of Dr. Nevarez not only by the quite appropriate naming of a post office down the street in his honor, but by giving our public institutions of higher learning the financial support that they need to do the job to which he has dedicated his life, and particularly, in preparing our students for quality jobs upon graduation, by giving them the financial assistance that they deserve.

With the overwhelming majority of students at UT Pan American qualifying for student financial assistance, but with too many unable to receive the assistance that they need at current funding levels, it would be particularly appropriate to honor Dr. Nevarez with the further tribute of extending and expanding that financial assistance. I believe that we must double the maximum amount of Pell Grants in order to achieve that objective.

Dr. Nevarez already has the grateful thanks of a community that he has served for decades. Today, as we des-

ignate this post office with his name, this body, the United States Congress, affirms our gratitude for his life's work in service, not just to the Rio Grande Valley but to our entire Nation in developing the leaders who will guide our country in the future.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity also to rise on behalf of the Texas delegation and congratulate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) on these efforts.

Let me share with my colleagues that H.R. 4299, which designates the facility of the United States Post Office that will be located at 410 South Jackson Road in Edinburg, Texas, as the Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez Post Office Building, is fitting and proper.

Let me just say that I had the opportunity to serve in the Texas House for 11 years in the higher education committee; and during that period of time, I had the opportunity to work with the doctor there, and there is no doubt that his tenacity, his perseverance, and his dedication were displayed.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate him on the efforts not only at Pan Am but in higher education throughout Texas. During that period of time, we have found ourselves in Texas in the crossroads of lacking a lot of resources, and one way was to start capping enrollment and was to begin to expand the opportunities for south Texas; and I know Dr. Nevarez was there for us as a whole, making sure that those opportunities were there.

When we started to sue the State of Texas during that time, he was there to make sure that we followed through; and the results of those efforts resulted in a piece of legislation that allowed opportunities for the expansion not only at Texas Pan Am but also the 4-year institution at Brownsfield, the 4-year institution at Downtown San Antonio, the 4-year institution at Corpus Christi, the 4-year institution at Laredo, the expansion at A&I in Kingsville and others.

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And he played a significant role in those efforts.

So I rise today in support of the naming of the United States Post Office for Dr. Miguel Nevarez and to congratulate his service.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to advise my colleague that I have no further requests for time. I would simply congratulate the gentleman for his introduction of the bill and urge its passage.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4299. I also understand that Dr. Nevarez will actually be an honoree at a dinner reception on Friday night in McAllen, Texas. And certainly on behalf of all the Members of this body, I want to thank and wish Dr. Nevarez the very best in his retirement, and I specifically want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for introducing this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4299.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 622) supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 622

Whereas the well-being of all people of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 957,500 law enforcement personnel, the highest amount ever in the United States, serve their fellow citizens as guardians of peace;

Whereas peace officers are on the front line in preserving the right of the children of the United States to receive an education in a crime-free environment, a right that is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools;

Whereas 145 peace officers across the Nation were killed in the line of duty during 2003, well below the decade-long average of 166 deaths annually, and a major drop from 2001 when 230 officers were killed, including 72 officers in the September 11th terrorist attacks;

Whereas every year, 1 out of every 9 peace officers is assaulted, 1 out of every 25 peace officers is injured, and 1 out of every 4,400 peace officers is killed in the line of duty;

Whereas section 136 of title 36, United States Code, requests that the President issue each year a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of Federal, State, and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

Whereas on May 15, 2004, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, D.C. to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all others who went before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 622, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 622 supports the goals and the ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day. This Saturday, May 15, is Peace Officers Memorial Day, a day that serves as an important remembrance of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials who were killed or disabled in the line of duty during the past year.

According to the text of the resolution, 145 peace officers were killed during 2003. Mr. Speaker, remarkably, nearly 1 million Americans serve their country in some law enforcement capacity today. Their daily professions remain inherently dangerous, therefore all Americans must recognize and cherish their contributions to our liberty and to our security.

Mr. Speaker, this week is National Police Week, which occurs each year during the calendar week in which Peace Officers Memorial Day falls. Thousands of law enforcement personnel and their families will attend several events in the Washington, D.C. area during this week, culminating with the 23rd annual National Peace Officers Memorial Day services at noon on Saturday, May 15, at the west front of this revered building, the United States Capitol building.

We all owe our Nation's peace officers a tremendous debt of gratitude for their commitment to the safety of every citizen. Therefore, today, I am pleased the House is considering House Resolution 622 during this meaningful and somber week for those who defend our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I highly commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for shepherding House Resolution 622 to the floor today. Primarily, I wish to thank him for his work to recognize the sacrifices of the men and women of American law enforcement.

This is a solemn piece of legislation, and I encourage every Member of the House to support it.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, each day, police officers nobly protect our families, friends, and neighbors from crime. While it is impossible to suitably thank these brave Americans for the tremendous sacrifices they make, we pause to salute them for their courage, dedication, and service, and to pay our respects to those who have fallen in the line of duty. Peace officers work to improve the quality of life for all of us. For that, they deserve our sincere appreciation and our respect.

Every year, one out of every nine peace officers is assaulted, one out of every 25 is injured, and one out of every 4,400 is killed. In the last year alone, 145 police officers were killed in the line of duty. And while this number reflects a decrease in officers killed, each death is a tragedy and a loss to the community, and especially to the families.

Sergeant Philip J. O'Reilly of Chicago was killed in an automobile accident while on patrol at 5 a.m. Sunday, March 16, 2003. Sergeant O'Reilly was assigned to the Foster Avenue Police District and had been with the Chicago Police Department for 16 years. He is survived by his wife, six children, and seven siblings.

Sergeant O'Reilly's fellow officers remember him as a devoted officer, a tremendous father, and a great man. It is our duty as Americans to honor the service of men and women like Sergeant O'Reilly who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may all sleep a little easier at night knowing that our community and our world is a safer place.

On Saturday, May 20, Sergeant O'Reilly's name will be among the 362 fallen officers who will be officially added to a memorial at a candlelight vigil. I support the goals and ideals of Police Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. And I call upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

You can never give more than your life, and these men and women give the very best of what they have.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for pushing this through in time for the actual memorial.