

Most recently, Ms. Gnacek was involved in the independent verification and validation testing of the Ground Based Midcourse Defense System's Battle Management Command and Control and In-flight Interceptor Communications systems, and development of simulation training aid for the soldiers who will operate the system.

Ms. Gnacek also led a team of engineers that developed real time simulations of mission experiments and activities to train astronauts for NASA's SPACELAB 1 and 2 shuttle missions.

Mr. Speaker, this month, Ms. Gnacek will retire after 50 years of exceptional service. Throughout her career, she has devoted herself towards improving our Nation's space and missile development programs and has diligently worked to enhance these vital systems to meet the ever-changing needs of our country.

I rise today to join her colleagues, family, and friends in congratulating her on a job well done. I wish her and her family the very best for the future.

THOMAS J. MANTON POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in supporting H.R. 6033 which would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39–25 61st Street in Woodside, New York, as the “Thomas J. Manton Post Office Building”.

As you know, we lost our dear friend Tom just a few short months ago, and I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to one of the most distinguished Members who ever served in this great House, than to see this renaming become a reality.

The character of Tom Manton's life might be summed up in a few words: he was a man of great commitment, hard-working, an inspiring leader, and he was dearly passionate about the causes he believed in and the work he did on behalf of his constituency.

Manton was a man of great intellect. During seven terms in Congress, from 1985 to 1998, he was an important figure on reauthorization of the Superfund program, which provides for

the cleanup of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites. However, most of his legislative initiatives were focused on various local issues: stopping the Long Island Rail Road from building a waste-transfer station in western Queens, barring the creation of composting plants for sewage sludge in New York City, and using amendments to the Clean Air Act to aid local businesses. As well, he also sponsored a law that made benefits to permanently injured police officers, on par with payments to officers killed in the line of duty.

This loving husband and devoted father was also a very dear friend and colleague to me through all the years we worked together here in the Congress.

It was my privilege to know him and to work with him on matters involving not only our Nation, but the great State of New York. He combined with his charm, an unlimited energy and the highest integrity and work ethic.

Tom Manton was indeed a well respected and revered Member of this institution who gave of himself diligently, and was ever zealous to carry through to its ultimate conclusion, the cause of those who would benefit from his direction. No one is likely to forget neither the courage of his faith nor the warmth of his friendship.

In Tom's memory, let us move this bill forward.