

man who always had a joke to tell, had a smile on his face. Matthew decided to join the military in order to follow his older brother into the country's service with the hope of helping those who could not help themselves. Matthew's then girlfriend, Erin, calls Lance Corporal Pathenos her hero and wishes that she might one day "possess a fraction of his bravery and discipline."

As a father of two marines, one of whom has served in Iraq, it's a privilege to stand here today to honor one of our fallen soldiers. Matthew's commitment and dedication to his country is a shining example of how our military men and women are the finest the Nation has to offer. He and his family's sacrifice should serve as a reminder to all that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is not free but it is the result of the tremendous bravery and self sacrifice of men and women willing to put themselves in harm's way for the cause of freedom.

Throughout the many, many years of our Nation's existence, America has been unique at one particular regard and in many particular regards. America is the only Nation that has a political and religious motto, a code that we go by. It's expressed and it was expressed as the reason why we fought our war to gain our independence in that great sentence. It says that we believe that there are certain inalienable rights that come from God. Among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The sentence goes on to say that governments are instituted among men to protect those basic God-given rights. That has been the reason why we have gone to war, to protect our God-given rights down through the ages, in the War of Independence and other wars as well, and this war is no different.

Matthew Pathenos understood in his heart and in his gut the basic idea that he was defending his family and his homeland.

□ 1445

And so he joins the ranks of those who are still on patrol, whose names we will regard. He joins the ranks of the people who made the ultimate sacrifice; that you and I and future generations of Americans may go free. And in that regard, we honor him by naming this post office after Matthew Pathenos. Please join me by voting "yes" on H.R. 6208.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. My colleague, Representative AKIN, has made very eloquent remarks on this bill. I will submit my comments for the RECORD, but I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6208.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, MO, as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building."

Marine LCpl Matthew P. Pathenos was more than a selfless patriot. He was a loving son, brother, and friend.

As one of his comrades in arms reflected, "The best thing about Matt was his ability to wake up every day with a smile and hold it all day long." Even in the hardships of war, Matt strove to bring joy to his friends.

A native of Ballwin, MO, Matt was an avid golfer and accomplished pilot, earning his license at the age of 14. After graduating high school in 2003, Matt followed in the footsteps of his older brother and mentor, Marine Sgt Christopher Pathenos who enlisted in the wake of September 11.

In the words of one relative, "For Matty, the motivation was more about Christopher, seeing how the Corps treated him."

A member of the 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, Matthew was one of 80 members of his unit that attached to a sister unit, the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, for deployment to Iraq in September of 2006.

Tragically, on February 6, 2007, Lance Corporal Pathenos lost his life near Fallujah when his Humvee was stuck by an improvised explosive device.

His family will always remember him as the smiling young man who "sang as though no one could hear him and danced as though no one was watching him."

In a release shortly after his tragic loss, the family captured the sentiments of a grateful nation. "Like his brother, Christopher, Matthew was proud to be a Marine and volunteered to serve his country. Matthew paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and the future generations of this country. He loved his country and family, and we will miss him terribly."

I urge my colleagues to support this bill honoring a courageous young man that embodied the deepest ideals of this great Nation. He lost his life in defense of freedom and this sacrifice shall not be forgotten.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6208.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CORPORAL ALFRED MAC WILSON POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6437) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North Texas Avenue in Odessa, Texas, as the "Corporal Alfred Mac Wilson Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6437

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

SECTION 1. CORPORAL ALFRED MAC WILSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North Texas Avenue in Odessa, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Corporal Alfred Mac Wilson 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 "Corporal Alfred Mac Wilson Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois?

There was no objection.

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 Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 6437, which names the postal facility in Odessa, Texas, after a fallen hero, Corporal Alfred "Mac" Wilson.

Our colleague, Representative MIKE CONAWAY of Texas's 11th Congressional District, introduced H.R. 6437 on July 8. The bill is cosponsored by the entire Texas congressional delegation. H.R. 6437 was reported from the Oversight Committee on July 16, 2008, by a voice vote.

Born in 1948 in Olney, Illinois, Alfred "Mac" Wilson moved to Odessa, Texas, with his family in 1950. After graduating from Odessa Senior High School in 1967, he enlisted with the United States Marine Corps Reserve. In 1968, Mr. WILSON joined the regular Marine Corps, where he went through recruit training and obtained the rank of Private First Class. After his training was completed, he was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam in July, 1968, and his assigned duty was a rifleman.

On March 3, 1969, while serving with M Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, Private First Class Wilson heroically and unhesitatingly threw himself onto an enemy grenade, absorbing the full force of the explosion and saving his fellow marines. It was for this conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty that Alfred "Mac" Wilson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on April 20, 1970.

Corporal Wilson was extraordinarily dedicated to this Nation, earning numerous other accolades, including the

Purple Heart with a Gold Star, the Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon, and the Presidential Unit Citation. In honor of his noble sacrifice, Mr. Speaker, let us pay tribute to the life of Corporal Wilson and pass H.R. 6437, which designates the North Texas Avenue post office in Odessa, Texas, after this outstanding American soldier.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague and my classmate from the State of Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Thank you, Ms. FOXX, for the ability to speak on behalf of Corporal Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today again to ask the Members of this body to honor the life and memory of one of America's fallen heroes. Marine Corporal Alfred "Mac" Wilson of Odessa, Texas, served during the Vietnam War and gave his life so that his brothers might live.

For his extraordinary and selfless acts of bravery, Mac, as his friends and family called him, was posthumously awarded our Nation's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor. Mac died on May 3, 1969, but his legacy endures to this day. His fellow Odessans have asked that we commemorate his sacrifice by designating a post office in his honor. In this way, Mac and his story will always remain a part of the community that he loved. As a fellow Odessan, it is my great honor to play a small part in these efforts.

Mac was born in Olney, Illinois, on January 13, 1948, to Edna and Fred Wilson. The family moved to Odessa, Texas, where Mac attended Odessa High School, where he ran track and played football before he graduated in 1967.

Mac enlisted in the Marine Corps in Abilene, Texas, in the fall of 1967, on the "buddy plan" with his high school friends Johnny Wright, Tom Chapman, and Jimmy Whisenhunt. After completing recruit training at San Diego, and Camp Pendleton, California, then Private First Class Wilson deployed to Vietnam on July 21, 1968, as an infantry rifleman with Company M, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division.

I imagine that March 3, 1969, unfolded like most every other day in Vietnam. There were posts to stand, missions to undertake, supplies to deliver, and jungles to march through. For Mac, I am certain that earning the Medal of Honor was the furthest thought from his mind as his platoon embarked on that day's reconnaissance mission. Yet, his heroics turned the rout of his platoon by North Vietnamese forces into a victory. His uncommon valor saved the life of his fellow marines; and for those men, March 3, 1969, turned out to be a dramatically different day than it otherwise could have been.

Mac's Medal of Honor citation details his dramatic and selfless actions, and

I'd like to read those into the RECORD. On March 3, 1969, while returning from a reconnaissance-in-force mission in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Cunningham in Quang Tri Province, the 1st Platoon of Company M came under intense automatic weapons fire and grenade attack from a well-concealed North Vietnamese force, pinning down the entire center column of the platoon.

Rapidly assessing the situation, Private First Class Wilson, acting as Squad Leader, skillfully maneuvered his squad to form a base of fire and act as a blocking point while the point squad moved to outflank the enemy. During the ensuing fire fight, both his machine gunner and assistant machine gunner were seriously wounded and unable to operate their weapon.

Realizing the importance of recovering the M-60 machine gun and maintaining a heavy volume of fire against the hostile force, Private First Class Wilson, with complete disregard for his own safety, followed by another marine, fearlessly dashed across the fire-swept terrain to recover the weapon.

As they reached the machine gun, a North Vietnamese soldier threw a grenade at the marines. Reacting instantly, Private First Class Wilson fired a burst from his M-16 rifle, killing the enemy soldier. Observing the grenade fall between himself and the other marine, First Class Wilson, fully realizing the inevitable result of his actions, shouted to his companion and unhesitatingly threw himself on the grenade, absorbing the full force of the explosion with his own body.

His heroic actions inspired his platoon members to maximum effort as they aggressively attacked and defeated the enemy. Private First Class Wilson's indomitable courage, inspiring valor, and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Mac was escorted home by Sergeant Jerry Pruitt, United States Marine Corps, of Odessa, Texas. He is buried in Sunset Memorial Gardens in Odessa, Texas, not far from another Medal of Honor recipient, Army Staff Sergeant Marvin "Rex" Young.

The Medal of Honor was presented to his family by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew on April 20, 1970, at the White House. Mac is survived by his sister, Sue Wilson, and by her children, Lloyd Whitehead, Vickie Whitehead, Debbie Frasier, Angie Aleman, Robert Wilson Aleman; and Mac's aunt and uncle, Warren Kininmonth and Kay Kininmonth. Mac's mom, Edna O'Neal Wilson, died 3 months after his death, and his father, Fred Wilson, died in 1969.

Soon after his death, Mac was posthumously promoted to the rank of Corporal to recognize the exceptional potential that he possessed. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Mac earned numerous other awards and decorations:

a Purple Heart with Gold Star, the Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon, a Presidential Unit Citation, an Army Presidential Unit Citation, a Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Merit Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and the Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation ribbon bar, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and a Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

The great British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli once said that, "The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example." With this legislation, the people of Odessa will always remember the legacy of Alfred Mac Wilson and his noble and heroic efforts without hesitation to serve his country and defend the lives of the men he served with.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. DAVIS, my colleagues, have spoken very eloquently about the bravery and sacrifice of Corporal Wilson, so I will submit my remarks for the RECORD, but I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 6437.

Mr. Speaker, today I am here to recognize the bravery of Corporal Alfred "Mac" Wilson for his heroism in Vietnam by naming the Post Office located at 200 North Texas Avenue in Odessa, Texas in his honor.

Shortly after Corporal Wilson's birth on January 13, 1948, he and his family moved from Olney, Illinois to Odessa, Texas. At Odessa Senior High, he was very involved in athletics and was on the football and track teams. A well rounded young man, he also enjoyed shooting, hunting, fishing, and tennis.

After graduating from high school and demonstrating a sense of patriotism and duty to country, Corporal Wilson first joined the Marine Corps Reserve and subsequently, enlisted in the Regular Marine Corps. Upon acceptance into the Corps, Corporal Wilson reported to duty in Abilene, Texas with three friends under the Buddy Plan, which placed friends in the same training platoon. Corporal Wilson and his buddies then underwent their recruit training in California. On July 21, 1968, he was deployed as a Private First Class to Vietnam.

In Vietnam, while returning from a reconnaissance mission on March 3, 1969, he and his squad were attacked by a concealed enemy force. While facing fire to retrieve a machine gun from an injured gunner, an enemy grenade was thrown between Corporal Wilson and a fellow Marine. At that moment, Corporal Wilson signaled a warning to his comrade and bravely proceeded to throw himself on the grenade, thus sacrificing his own life. His sacrifice ultimately enabled his unit to continue the fight and successfully defeat the enemy.

Corporal Wilson's courage under fire was recognized posthumously when he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in addition to his posthumous promotion to Corporal. Corporal Wilson's devastated family proudly accepted the Medal of Honor presented by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew on April 20, 1970 at a White House ceremony.

We can never show adequate appreciation in honoring the brave men and women who give their lives in service to our country. However, naming the post office in his honor is a fitting and meaningful tribute to a proud Marine who served selflessly on behalf of his town and nation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6437.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1500

APOLOGIZING FOR THE ENSLAVEMENT AND RACIAL SEGREGATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 194) apologizing for the enslavement and racial segregation of African-Americans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 194

Whereas millions of Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the 13 American colonies from 1619 through 1865;

Whereas slavery in America resembled no other form of involuntary servitude known in history, as Africans were captured and sold at auction like inanimate objects or animals;

Whereas Africans forced into slavery were brutalized, humiliated, dehumanized, and subjected to the indignity of being stripped of their names and heritage;

Whereas enslaved families were torn apart after having been sold separately from one another;

Whereas the system of slavery and the visceral racism against persons of African descent upon which it depended became entrenched in the Nation's social fabric;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the passage of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1865 after the end of the Civil War;

Whereas after emancipation from 246 years of slavery, African-Americans soon saw the fleeting political, social, and economic gains they made during Reconstruction eviscerated by virulent racism, lynchings, disenfranchisement, Black Codes, and racial segregation laws that imposed a rigid system of officially sanctioned racial segregation in virtually all areas of life;

Whereas the system of de jure racial segregation known as "Jim Crow," which arose

in certain parts of the Nation following the Civil War to create separate and unequal societies for whites and African-Americans, was a direct result of the racism against persons of African descent engendered by slavery;

Whereas a century after the official end of slavery in America, Federal action was required during the 1960s to eliminate the de jure and defacto system of Jim Crow throughout parts of the Nation, though its vestiges still linger to this day;

Whereas African-Americans continue to suffer from the complex interplay between slavery and Jim Crow—long after both systems were formally abolished—through enormous damage and loss, both tangible and intangible, including the loss of human dignity, the frustration of careers and professional lives, and the long-term loss of income and opportunity;

Whereas the story of the enslavement and de jure segregation of African-Americans and the dehumanizing atrocities committed against them should not be purged from or minimized in the telling of American history;

Whereas on July 8, 2003, during a trip to Goree Island, Senegal, a former slave port, President George W. Bush acknowledged slavery's continuing legacy in American life and the need to confront that legacy when he stated that slavery "was . . . one of the greatest crimes of history . . . The racial bigotry fed by slavery did not end with slavery or with segregation. And many of the issues that still trouble America have roots in the bitter experience of other times. But however long the journey, our destiny is set: liberty and justice for all.";

Whereas President Bill Clinton also acknowledged the deep-seated problems caused by the continuing legacy of racism against African-Americans that began with slavery when he initiated a national dialogue about race;

Whereas a genuine apology is an important and necessary first step in the process of racial reconciliation;

Whereas an apology for centuries of brutal dehumanization and injustices cannot erase the past, but confession of the wrongs committed can speed racial healing and reconciliation and help Americans confront the ghosts of their past;

Whereas the legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia has recently taken the lead in adopting a resolution officially expressing appropriate remorse for slavery and other State legislatures have adopted or are considering similar resolutions; and

Whereas it is important for this country, which legally recognized slavery through its Constitution and its laws, to make a formal apology for slavery and for its successor, Jim Crow, so that it can move forward and seek reconciliation, justice, and harmony for all of its citizens: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) acknowledges that slavery is incompatible with the basic founding principles recognized in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal;

(2) acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery and Jim Crow;

(3) apologizes to African Americans on behalf of the people of the United States, for the wrongs committed against them and their ancestors who suffered under slavery and Jim Crow; and

(4) expresses its commitment to rectify the lingering consequences of the misdeeds committed against African Americans under slavery and Jim Crow and to stop the occurrence of human rights violations in the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 194, which is bipartisan legislation apologizing for the enslavement and the continued racial segregation of African Americans. For numerous Congresses past, similar resolutions have been introduced, but none have made it to the floor for consideration by the full House. So I salute my colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee, a member of the Judiciary Committee, the Honorable STEVE COHEN, for his leadership and indefatigable energy in bringing us to this point in support of this resolution which he has created.

While much progress has been made since the civil rights era, the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow is still at the root of many critical issues facing the African American community today; educational opportunities, health care access, business capital, they are still victimized by crime, and many other socioeconomic considerations.

Our friend the former President, Bill Clinton, expressed his regrets over the Nation's role in the slave trade. The current President, George W. Bush, described it as "one of the greatest crimes of history." A number of States, Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey, have made moving apologies in their own ways. Now, with an official United States Government apology before us, this measure will take us another step forward toward the national healing, atonement and continued progress that must be made along these lines.

The discussion of race is a sensitive, difficult issue even today in our society. And, of course, the apology is not the end of the story, but it does reaffirm our national commitment to understanding and addressing, in the words of the resolution, how to rectify the lingering consequences of the misdeeds committed against African Americans under slavery and Jim Crow and to stop the occurrence of human rights violations in the future.

So I am proud to join the many Members on both sides of the aisle that have helped us bring this suspension forward today.

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