

California, Representative HAHN, the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. HAHN. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak today about a friend and predecessor who served some of the same communities that I now represent.

Today, we are voting on a piece of legislation that will recognize the life and legacy of the late Congresswoman, Juanita Millender-McDonald, by designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 101 East Market Street, in Long Beach, as the Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office.

Many of my colleagues in the House had the opportunity to serve alongside Congresswoman Millender-McDonald. They remember her forceful personality and her unyielding advocacy on behalf of her constituents. However, Juanita, who left us so suddenly and too early, was a remarkable woman who broke barriers and who had many impressive achievements even before entering Congress.

□ 1545

By age 26, Juanita Millender-McDonald was a mother of five. She was already in her forties when, after raising her children, Valerie, Angela, Sherryl, Michael, and R. Keith, she went back to school and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees with the support of her loving husband, James.

She became a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District and later became the manuscript editor for Images, a textbook aimed at promoting the self-esteem of young women, and the director of gender equality programs for the school district.

She broke down barriers for women and minorities and made history by becoming the first African American woman elected to the Carson City Council and, in 2007, became the first African American woman to chair a congressional committee, the Committee on House Administration.

While serving for more than a decade in the House of Representatives, she also served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Small Business Committee, the committees on which I now currently serve, and she was an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

From her days in the California Assembly to serving here in the House, Juanita Millender-McDonald dedicated her career to advocating for the Los Angeles public school system, job training, women's equality, women's health, and combating the drug epidemic that was tearing apart her community. Her advocacy on behalf of the victims of genocide and human trafficking serves as a lasting testament to her dedication to creating a better world.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald worked tirelessly for her constituents, taking only a week of leave before she succumbed to cancer.

By designating a United States Postal Service facility in my district as the Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office, we honor an exemplary woman with an incredible public service record.

It is my hope that honoring her now will allow her life and accomplishments to inspire further residents, not only of Long Beach but Americans across the land.

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Today we are voting on a piece of legislation that will recognize the life and legacy of the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, by designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 101 E. Market Street in Long Beach, as the Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office.

Many of my colleagues in the House had the opportunity to serve alongside Congresswoman Millender-McDonald and remember her forceful personality and her unyielding advocacy on behalf of her constituents.

However, Juanita, who left us so suddenly and too early, was a remarkable woman who broke barriers and had many impressive achievements even before entering Congress.

By age 26, Juanita Millender-McDonald was a mother of five. She was already in her forties, when, after raising her children, she went back to school and subsequently earned bachelor's and master's degrees and did additional studies towards a PhD.

She became a teacher in L.A. USD and later the manuscript editor for Images, a textbook aimed at promoting the self-esteem of young women, and the director of gender equity programs for the school district.

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By designating a United States Postal Service facility in my district as the Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office, we honor an exemplary woman with an incredible public service record.

I know her family, including her husband James McDonald, Jr.; children, Valerie, Angela, Sherryl, Michael and R. Keith; and grandchildren, Ayanna, Myles, Ramia, Blair and Diamond, are so proud of her great legacy.

It is my hope that honoring her now will allow her life and accomplishments to inspire further residents not only of Long Beach but Americans across the land.

Mr. MEADOWS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), my good friend who is the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation naming this facility after Ms. Juanita Millender-McDonald, a wonderful lady. She served this institution well up until her final moments. Most of us were not aware of the terminal illness she had. She served with grace, dignity, and honor, and our respect. She will be missed.

Mr. WELCH. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5687.

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.

R. JESS BROWN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 579) to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse."

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 579

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed

to be a reference to the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. 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 H.R. 579.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 579 designates the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

Mr. Brown was a civil rights lawyer who worked against racial discrimination and was credited in the 1950s with filing the first civil rights lawsuit in the State of Mississippi.

A native of Oklahoma, Mr. Brown attended Illinois State University, Indiana University, and the Texas Southern University Law School. In the 1960s, he was one of only four African American lawyers in the State of Mississippi and one of three who took civil rights cases.

In 1962, he worked on behalf of James Meredith, whose successful lawsuit allowed him to be the first African American student to enroll at Ole Miss. Later, Mr. Brown worked to fight against discrimination in transportation and other public accommodations.

Given his dedication to the law and his work in civil rights, it is appropriate to name this courthouse after him.

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by yielding such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of this bill, H.R. 579, a bill to designate the United States courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Jess Brown was born on September 12, 1912, in Coffeyville, Kansas. His parents, Ernestine and Joe Brown, were jazz musicians and performed in and managed a local theater.

R. Jess Brown received a bachelor's of science in industrial arts from Illinois State Normal University and a master's of science in industrial education from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

After teaching at Alcorn State University, R. Jess Brown moved to Jack-

son, Mississippi, where he taught industrial arts at Lanier High School, the only Black high school in the city at the time. While teaching at Lanier, R. Jess Brown became an intervening plaintiff in a lawsuit that sought equal pay for Black teachers in Jackson.

After teaching in Jackson, Jess attended Texas Southern University law school. Jess left the law school before receiving his juris doctorate but was able to return to Mississippi and pass the Mississippi Bar in 1953.

Beginning his career in Vicksburg, Mississippi, R. Jess Brown confined his practice to cases involving divorces, deeds, land titles, and other practices that did not agitate White members of the bar. However, after the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka ruling in 1954, Jess felt compelled to defend the civil rights of African Americans.

In the fall of 1955, the conditions and hardships endured by Black lawyers in the courts led Mr. Brown and seven other Black attorneys to establish the Magnolia Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, R. Jess Brown is credited with filing the first civil suit on behalf of African Americans in the State of Mississippi. That lawsuit, on behalf of a Jefferson County minister, challenged laws that prevented Blacks from voting.

Mr. Speaker, Jess Brown has an extensive record as a civil rights lawyer. His list of clients included Clyde Kennard, who was charged with and convicted of a fictitious crime while attempting to desegregate the University of Southern Mississippi; James H. Meredith, whose litigation ultimately led to the integration of the University of Mississippi; Dr. Gilbert Mason, who led the effort to end racial segregation on the beaches of Biloxi, Mississippi; and civil rights icons Medgar Wiley Evers and Dr. Aaron Henry.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Brown was admitted to practice law before all Mississippi court systems, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit Court, and the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Brown also served on the executive board of the National Bar Association for approximately 15 years.

On December 3, 1989, R. Jess Brown died of cancer in Jackson, Mississippi, at the age of 77.

Mr. Speaker, R. Jess Brown is well deserving of this honor, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 579.

Mr. PETRI. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I too rise in support of H.R. 579, to designate the United States courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

R. Jess Brown was a towering figure in the history of the civil rights move-

ment in the South and especially in the State of Mississippi. He was a native son of Kansas, born in Coffeyville, Kansas, and raised in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He attended law school at Texas Southern University and practiced law in Mississippi, starting in 1953 and continuing throughout the latter civil rights era.

As associate counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP, Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Mr. Brown filed the first civil rights suit in Mississippi in the 1950s. The suit, filed in Jefferson Davis County, sought the enforcement of the right of Black citizens to become registered voters.

In 1961, Brown represented James Meredith in his suit to be allowed to enter the University of Mississippi. His victory in this case opened the doors of that university to all of Mississippi's citizens. While working with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Brown played a major role in fighting discrimination in the areas of transportation and other public accommodations.

During his lifetime, he received numerous awards and honors, including the NAACP's Lawyer of the Year Award; the National Bar Association C. Francis Stradford Award, which is the Bar Association's highest award; and the Mississippi Teachers Association's award for extraordinary service to education in Mississippi.

R. Jess Brown will be remembered as more than a brilliant attorney and civil rights leader; he will also be remembered as a great American. As such, it is fitting that the United States courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, be designated the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

I support this legislation and urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 579.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 579.

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.

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JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4926) to designate the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway" and the "James L. Oberstar National Scenic Byway" in the State of Minnesota, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows: