

taken care of the boy, Rev. Wade was one of the most influential pastors in Omaha. He stood in some of the great preaching places in America, and he traveled extensively, evangelizing and proclaiming the gospel. Because God had taken care of an orphan boy from Wybark, Dr. Wade held key denominational positions, both locally and nationally.

Yes, God, indeed had taken care of the boy, James Commodore Wade, Sr. Rev. Wade also acknowledged, lest he seem ungrateful, the three years he spent as a member of the Friendship Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri, under the pastorate of the Rev. S. C. Doyle, who was a pastor and friend to him.

Rev. Wade will be greatly missed by ALL who knew him but he leaves to cherish his memories his wife of sixty-three years: Mary Frazier-Wade, Omaha; three daughters and son-in-law: Ruth Murray, Doretha Wade-Wilkerson, Los Angeles, California, Marsha Ann (Rev. Clyde) Nichols, Denver, Colorado; two sons and daughters-in-law: Rev. James C., Jr. (Ella) Wade, East Chicago, Indiana, Rev. Melvin V., Sr. (Jacquie) Wade, Los Angeles; nephew: Gene Bell, Evanston, Illinois; four nieces: Tina Williams, Chicago, Illinois, Marguerite Anderson, Cincinnati, Ohio, Myrtis Twyman, Westchester, Illinois, Wilma Hardiman, Omaha; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Susan and William Cooper, Queen Temple, Agnes Brown, Sam (Grace) Frazier, all of Omaha; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and other relatives.

Madam Speaker, renaming this postal facility in his honor is an attempt to pay tribute to this outstanding citizen and dedicated man of God. The work initiated by Reverend Wade continues to this day in our community, and his impact on our community should be remembered, as it will forever have changed our community.

Among the notable community service achievements, Reverend Wade created the Salem Preschool for Children. In the early fifties, he realized that our youngest children have to go to school ready to learn, so he started the preschool to make sure that when they entered school they were ready; the precursor to what we call the Head Start program today. He started it before anyone in government had ever thought of that concept.

He organized, too, the first adult basic education in Omaha, Nebraska, at the church. He participated, and we have heard deeply in our community through the Mayors' Advisory Council, the Interdenominational Council, which by the way unifies our community from all faiths and geographic areas.

As a leader in the religious community, Reverend Wade served as the President of the New Era Baptist State Convention, the State Vice President to the National Baptist Convention, and director of religious education for the Sunday School and Baptist Training Union of the New Era State Convention.

As a member of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Reverend Wade brought the Baptist National Convention to Omaha three times. During his tenure at Salem Baptist, Reverend Wade grew the congregation from 250 members to nearly 4,000 members.

I was reminded the other day of a fascinating story about this man who took the Salem Baptist Choir to Crookston, Minnesota, for a concert in the late 1960s. This church in Crookston was based in an all-white community. Some of the Crookston members had never associated with African-Americans before, but this choir performed their concert even while their hearts were grieving because of riots that were occurring in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Choir fellowshiped with church members at a picnic following the concert, and later stayed in Crookston members' homes. The event broke down racial barriers and helped develop friendships between the two congregations that last to today. This outreach was a great success, particularly at a time when riots were going on not only in our hometown but throughout the country. It greatly affected the members of both churches.

All these earthly achievements testify to the character of Reverend J.C. Wade, who we seek to honor today by passing H.R. 4615 designating the Reverend J.C. Wade Post Office.

Finally, I would like to honor Reverend Wade's wife of 63 years, an amazing woman, Mary Frazier Wade, and thank her for her assistance and her support in this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) reiterate the concern that Reverend J.C. Wade had for the education of young people. If we were to honor him, I am sure he would want to be honored for his pastoral duties and his efforts, but I am sure he would also want to be honored for looking towards the future so that he could make sure that young children could rise up to be the very best they could be.

When we are talking about establishing the first Head Start center in Omaha, I think that says a lot, because he clearly had a vision of the future. As I often say, he cared about somebody other than himself. He wanted to make sure that those children were able to rise up.

I am sure that as they pass the post office, a lot of those children who benefited from his efforts, they can only stop to salute and say, thank you.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am very moved to hear about the contributions of Reverend J.C. Wade. I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) for so acknowledging and for intro-

ducing this legislation to name a post office building in his name.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4615.

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.

#### HENRY McNEAL TURNER POST OFFICE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3454) to designate the United States post office located at 451 College Street in Macon, Georgia, as the "Henry McNeal Turner Post Office."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3454

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

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States post office located at 451 College Street in Macon, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the "Henry McNeal Turner 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 "Henry McNeal Turner Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the legislation before us, H.R. 3454, was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS). All Members of the House delegation from Georgia have cosponsored this bill.

H.R. 3454 designates the post office located at 451 College Street in Macon, Georgia, as the Henry McNeal Turner Post Office.

There is much to be said about the man honored by this legislation, but I

will speak briefly. Henry McNeal Turner was a well-known missionary, pastor, evangelist, church administrator, Army chaplain, author of religious publications, and postmaster.

Turner faced many obstructions in his youth. However, he taught himself to read, and at the age of 19 became a preacher in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1863, he organized the first regiment of African-American troops, and he became the first African-American Army chaplain, and then became a chaplain of the regular troops.

Mr. Turner was appointed as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1867. He was elected to the Georgia State Legislature in 1868 and in 1870. He was appointed postmaster of Macon in 1869. After a year as postmaster, Mr. Turner returned to the State Legislature and founded the Georgia Equal Rights League. He actively championed equal rights, and led mission trips to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and South Africa.

Madam Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support H.R. 3454, honoring an individual who sought equality for all Americans and for people around the world.

I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) for bringing our focus to this great individual, Henry McNeal Turner.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I join the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) in thanking the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) for sponsoring H.R. 3454.

Henry McNeal Turner was a well-known missionary pastor, evangelist, church administrator, Army chaplain, author of religious publications, and postmaster. He taught himself to read, and at the age of 19 he became a preacher in the African-American Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1863, he organized the first regiment of African-American troops. He became the first African-American Army chaplain, and then became a chaplain of the regular troops. He was elected to the Georgia State legislature in 1868.

I guess it is easy for us to say that today, but when we think about the times back in 1868, for an African-American man to be elected to the State legislature is phenomenal.

In 1869 he was appointed Postmaster of Macon, Georgia. He actively championed equal rights, and led missions to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and South Africa. So we pause here to honor him by naming this post office after him.

I must say that it is so important that we do this, for he is a hero to so many people, and particularly to Afri-

can-American people. Just the thought that this post office will be named after him, and children again will have to say, well, who was he, Henry McNeal Turner, I think somebody can turn around and say that he was a great man and accomplished a lot of great things in a very difficult time.

□ 1530

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I am honored to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the prime sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for their kind comments regarding Henry McNeal Turner and for bringing this bill to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, last year I introduced H.R. 3454 to designate the United States Post Office located at 451 College Street in Macon, Georgia, as the Henry McNeal Turner Post Office. Today we have the opportunity to honor a great man by passing this bill.

Bishop Henry McNeal Turner was one of Georgia's most dynamic African American men in the 1800s. He was a missionary, an evangelist, a theologian and church administrator, an Army chaplain, a postmaster, an author, a politician, and a staunch supporter of equal rights in America.

Bishop Turner was born in South Carolina in 1834. He taught himself to read and, at the age of 19, became a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. As he helped to build the membership of the church, Turner was appointed a deacon, then elder, and eventually bishop of the AME Church.

By 1880, Bishop Turner was responsible for churches from Nova Scotia to Louisiana. Additionally, Turner traveled extensively in Africa as a missionary and established churches in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and South Africa.

In the United States, Turner strove for equality amongst blacks and whites. In 1863, he helped organize the first United States regiment of African American troops and became the first African American Army chaplain appointed by President Abraham Lincoln.

During Reconstruction, he worked to make life in 19th century Georgia a better place for blacks. Turner helped organize the Republican Party in Georgia in 1867 and was first elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1868 as a Republican.

During his political career, Turner introduced bills for higher education for blacks, to protect black people from the Ku Klux Klan, and to give women the right to vote. Turner was an ardent supporter of public schools in

Georgia and championed equal rights by founding the Georgia Equal Rights League.

In 1869, after all the black legislators were expelled from the legislature because of their race, Turner was appointed postmaster in Macon, Georgia. But he was then returned to the Georgia legislature in the following year.

Bishop Henry McNeal Turner is remembered as a man of many accomplishments. His influence spread far and wide, and his power was felt from rural towns in Georgia to churches in Africa. In the United States Army, in the postal service, in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and in government Bishop Turner fought fiercely to improve the lives of the minorities and to defend their rights. Turner College and Turner Theological Seminary in Atlanta are named for him, as are many churches across Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Louisiana.

Bishop Turner stood for freedom, justice, and equality and left an endearing mark on our society. In reference to Bishop Turner, the Reverend Augusta Hall, Jr., senior pastor of the Saint Paul AME Church in Covington, Georgia, stated as follows:

"Georgia stands as your living testament. Churches you have built throughout her realm, ordaining those who would serve the Church of Allen, true servants of God you placed at her helm.

"Bishop Turner, even when your days drew nigh, look upwards you taught us, for inspiration comes from on high. Bishop Turner, may you dwell forever in God's heavenly sky. God bless the name of Henry Turner, may your legacy never die."

Bishop Turner's commitment to education, service, missionary work, the improvement of people, and racial equality deserve our recognition. Naming the post office in Macon, Georgia, of which he was postmaster at one time, is certainly a fitting tribute to this great man.

All 11 members of the Georgia congressional delegation are cosponsors and supporters of this bill to honor Bishop Henry Turner. I would encourage my colleagues to join me in passing this bill to recognize Bishop Turner's contributions to Georgia and America.

I give special thanks to Elder Ben Ridley and current Macon Mayor Jack Ellis for their assistance and cooperation in researching Bishop Turner and for helping to bring this post office naming to a reality.

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

Madam Speaker, in listening to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), I could not help but think about the fact that, when he talked about how Henry McNeal Turner worked hard many, many years ago for equal rights, for African Americans,

and women, it is so interesting, Madam Speaker, that the denomination in which he was a bishop, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, just named one of our neighbors, one of my neighbors in Baltimore, Bishop Vashti McKenzie. I cannot help but think that it was people like Henry McNeal Turner who laid the foundation for such a wonderful opportunity for women and in particular for Bishop Vashti McKenzie.

So today we salute him, and I urge all of our Members to vote in favor of this very, very important piece of legislation.

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I cannot help but be moved by what I hear about Bishop Turner, and I am very pleased that we have before us this naming post office bill for Bishop Turner, a man who was early on demonstrative of great courage, conviction, equality for African Americans, as well as for women, and for helping those who need it most.

So I urge this House to unanimously pass H.R. 3454, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) for introducing it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3454.

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.

#### EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4484) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Washington Street in Rockville, Maryland, as the "Everett Alvarez, Jr. Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4484

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

#### SECTION 1. EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Washington Street in Rockville, Maryland, shall be known and designated as the "Everett Alvarez, Jr. 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 "Everett Alvarez, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4484.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4484, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Washington Street in Rockville, Maryland as the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Post Office Building. It is with great pride that we in the Maryland Congressional Delegation honor a man for whom our entire Nation is eternally grateful.

During his life, Mr. Alvarez has faithfully served as a distinguished military officer and public servant. In 1960, after earning a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Santa Clara and becoming the first in his family to go to college, Mr. Alvarez joined the United States Navy.

After serving in the Navy for 20 years, he retired from his position with program management at the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington, D.C. and accepted an appointment as deputy director of the Peace Corps.

In 1982, President Reagan nominated him, and the Senate confirmed his appointment, as the deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration. After leaving the position of deputy administrator of the VA, Mr. Alvarez joined the Hospital Corporation of America before forming his own consulting company, Conwal, Incorporated.

A dedicated civil servant, Mr. Alvarez is best known to the public as the first American aviator shot down over North Vietnam. In 1964, then LTJG Everett Alvarez, an A-4 Skyhawk pilot, was assigned to Attack Squadron 144 on board the U.S.S. *Constellation*. On August 5, he was shot down and captured on the first raid in North Vietnam.

Commander Alvarez was reported as captured at about 4 p.m. Hanoi time at Hon Gai Bay in the Gulf of Tonkin. He was kept in the local jail cell in Hon Gai with two Vietnamese prisoners for 2 days, then moved to a nearby farm until August 12. On the 12th, he was taken in Hanoi and placed into room 24 in the infamous Hanoi Hilton where he

lived until March of 1965, at which time other American prisoners started to arrive.

Commander Alvarez earned the dubious distinction of not only being the first naval aviator captured by the North Vietnamese, but also the longest confirmed prisoner of war in North Vietnam. On February 12, 1973, Commander Alvarez was finally released after 8½ years of imprisonment.

For his courageous service, Everett Alvarez holds numerous military decorations. He has been honored with the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, with combat "V," two Bronze Stars, with combat "V," the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Purple Heart medals.

In addition, a city park and two housing projects in California and Texas have been named in honor of Mr. Alvarez. In 1987, his hometown of Salinas, California, named a new high school in his honor. In March of 1998, he was awarded with the Daughters of the American Revolution's Medal of Honor.

Today, we have the opportunity to honor him in Rockville, Maryland, where Mr. Alvarez, his wife Thomasine, and his two sons, Mark and Bryan, currently reside. Unfortunately the Alvarez family was not able to be in the gallery this afternoon because Mr. Alvarez continues to serve America and America's future with his position on the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and is currently at their annual board meeting in Colorado.

Commander Alvarez's life stands as a testament to patriotism, to courage, and to perseverance. He, like any of our Nation's veterans, deserves our highest praise for risking his life defending this great Nation.

In the historical publication, *We Came Home*, Commander Alvarez reflects on his prisoner-of-war experience with this statement:

"For years and years, during our long incarceration, we dreamed of the day when we would come home to our families and friends. We never gave up hope that this day might come soon, because we had faith—faith in God, in our country, and in ourselves. It was this faith that maintained that someday our dreams would come true. No one can be prouder than I am for having had the association of some of the bravest men this country has ever seen—my fellow prisoners who were held in North Vietnamese jails."

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege for me to sponsor this legislation endorsed by all of the Maryland delegation to honor one of America's great heroes, Everett Alvarez, Jr.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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