I thank my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the eight American heroes from

Louisville, Kentucky, who were taken from us in the prime of their

lives these last 5 years.

While they did not serve together, they all shared a special bond of

selfless dedication, love of country, and

immeasurable courage. Those noble qualities did not originate when they

volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces, but their time serving

greatly enhanced and magnified those attributes. In his service, each

man proved the valor time and time again, readily meeting every

challenge that confronted him with loyalty and devotion. Tragically,

and long before we were ready to say good-bye, these brave souls made

the ultimate sacrifice while fighting for the United States of America,

seven in Operation Iraqi Freedom and one in Afghanistan in Operation

Enduring Freedom.

Still, for all they shared, these men were also characterized by a

wonderful individuality: an incredible athlete and officer, a great dad

who would have been a great coach, a third generation warrior called to

heaven before he could answer another call to preach the Word of God, a

peacekeeper in Bosnia who wanted to come home to Louisville and

continue to keep the peace in his hometown, an EMS worker known for

empathy, an unflappable National Guardsman, a decorated military

officer, and a poet and performer who could light up the stage and

brighten your day.

Some of these men were known for their sense of humor, others by a

sense of purpose, and with each of them, their fellow service members

knew they could be depended upon in the most dire circumstances. The

men we honor today saved lives, and every one of them is an American

hero.

Some of them spent a short time in the military; others spent half

their lives in the service. And all gave their lives for this country,

for our history, for our citizens, and most of all, for our future.

We are, each one of us, poorer for their loss but infinitely richer

for the time they spent on this planet and the contributions that they

made to our community and this Nation.

For the families who lost a son, a husband, a father, and for the

many who lost a good friend, this is a wound that time can never fully

heal. The grief we all share for their loss is not fleeting and demands

a memorial of equal permanence. In recognition of these great heroes, I

am proposing legislation to rename the Hikes Point Post Office the Iraq

and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post

Office in my congressional district, the Third District of Kentucky.

As our friends, neighbors, and I conduct our daily business in our

community, this building will stand in testament for the tremendous

sacrifice made by eight brave Louisvillians. When their families see

the memorial, I hope they are reminded they are not alone in their

grief, not alone in their appreciation for the deeds of these men, and

not alone in the celebration of the lives of eight extraordinary

individuals who gave us everything they had in their short time on

Earth.

Sergeant Michael Acklin II, Captain Clayton Lee Adamkavicius, Lance

Corporal Robert Lynch, Sergeant Darrin K. Potter, Sergeant First Class

Christopher Phelps, Staff Sergeant George S. Rentschler, Petty Officer

Third Class Jeffrey L. Wiener, and Sergeant David Neil Wimberg.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in offering these

men this honor which will have the same permanence as their positive

impact on our country, by renaming the Hikes Point Post Office the Iraq

and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post

Office.