



For Immediate Release  
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## **Alexander, Vitter Applaud Passage of Bill to Rename Alexandria Post Office in Honor of Late Postal Employee**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander and U.S. Sen. David Vitter today applauded the House of Representative’s passage of legislation to rename the United States Postal Service facility in Alexandria, La., currently known as the Southpark Station, to the John “Marty” Thiels Southpark Station in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007.

Last year, both Alexander and Vitter introduced legislation to honor Thiels. Vitter’s bill, S. 2272, previously passed the Senate November 16, 2007. Today’s vote in the House was on the Senate-passed version. President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law soon.

**“All of Louisiana was shocked and heartbroken over the tragic events in Alexandria last fall,”** Alexander said. **“It is my hope that honoring Marty Thiel’s memory in this way demonstrates to his family and friends just how much our state cares for them and how we have shared in their grief.”**

**“I am very pleased that we were able to pay tribute to Mr. Thiels in this way,”** said Vitter. **“The designation of this post office in his name is a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to serving the people of our state. I extend my thoughts to his family and friends and join them in honoring his memory today.”**

Laurie Thiels, wife of the late Marty Thiels, released the following statement:

**“It is with bittersweet emotions that we celebrate the life of my late husband, John Martin "Marty" Thiels by renaming the Southpark Post Office. This is a huge honor and lifelong legacy for our family and children. Although Marty’s death was a tragic event in our lives, this will be a silver lining to our dark cloud of events. For those individuals that were lucky enough to have known Marty, they will remember that he always delivered the mail for almost 30 years with a smile on his face and a song in his heart. He touched the lives of so many people and never met a stranger. I consider myself extremely lucky to have been a part of his life.”**

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