



Congressman Pedro R. Pierluisi
Floor Statement As Prepared For Delivery
Statement in Support of H.R. 2422 (Rep. Grimm), To Designate the Facility of the United States
Postal Service in Staten Island, NY as the “Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office”
November 14, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Speaker:

I want to commend my friend and colleague, Congressman Grimm, for introducing this bill to name a post office in his Staten Island district after Sergeant Angel Mendez, who at age 20 in Vietnam laid down his life for his fellow marines, earning the Navy Cross for his actions. Sergeant Mendez died far too young, but his short life was filled with greatness. With this legislation, Congressman Grimm—a Devil Dog himself—honors Sergeant Mendez and his family, the Marine Corps, and this country.

The bond between New York City and Puerto Rico is deep and strong. Sergeant Mendez’s parents were born in Puerto Rico and, like so many Island residents of their generation, moved to New York in search of a better life for themselves and their children. Ultimately, the Mendez family struggled to care for Angel and his siblings, and Angel was raised in an orphanage in Staten Island.

How Sergeant Mendez came to possess such character and courage will never be known. But on that March day in 1967 when he was mortally wounded on a battlefield thousands of miles from

Staten Island or San Juan, this New York son of Puerto Rican heritage became an American hero. Today, thanks to Congressman Grimm, we pay tribute to his strength and his sacrifice, and engrave his name in stone.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.