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Posted at 4:15 PM ET, 02/22/2011

Height honored with celebration of post office renaming

By Nikita R Stewart

Dorothy Height, the civil rights and women's rights icon who died last year, was honored Tuesday with a celebration marking the renaming of a District post office after her.

The post office, attached to the National Postal Museum and known previously as the National Capital post office, is the first federal building in D.C. to be named for an African American woman, according to officials who spoke at the event.

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) said the legislation to rename the building "passed through both houses in record time."

She also said that the building is not "any old post office." As part of the Smithsonian, millions of visitors pass it or come through its doors annually, she said.

Mayor Vincent C. Gray (D) told a crowd of mostly women -- many of them part of the National Council of Negro Women and members of Delta Sigma Theta sorority -- that discrimination often forced educated African Americans to seek work at the more tolerant Postal Service.

He also said that the location, just a short walk from the Capitol, was fitting. "Dorothy Height is watching you ...," he said, referring to Congress.

By Nikita R Stewart | February 22, 2011; 4:15 PM ET

Categories: Nikita Stewart, Vincent C. Gray, vincent gray | Tags: Dorothy Height, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Mayor Vincent C. Gray, post office

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Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

President Barack Obama signs Bill HR 6118 into law on December 15, 2010, re-naming a Washington, DC, U.S. Postal facility in honor of the late civil rights and women's rights icon Dorothy I. Height. The action marks the first Federal building in the Nation's Capital to be named for an African American Woman.

Public Law 111–310
111th Congress

An Act

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, in Washington, D.C., as the “Dorothy I. Height Post Office”.

Dec. 15, 2010
[H.R. 6118]

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

SECTION 1. DOROTHY I. HEIGHT POST OFFICE.

2 USC 2021 note.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, in Washington, D.C., shall be known and designated as the “Dorothy I. Height 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 “Dorothy I. Height Post Office”.

Approved December 15, 2010.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 6118:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 156 (2010):
Sept. 28, 29, considered and passed House.
Dec. 2, considered and passed Senate.

