

D.C. Post Office named after Dorothy Height

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President Barack Obama recently signed a bill that names the United States Postal Service office in Washington D.C. after civil rights pioneer Dorothy Height.

On Dec. 15, Obama signed into order H.R. 6118, which renames the United States Postal Service facility located on Massachusetts Avenue in northeast D.C. as the Dorothy I. Height Post Office. The bill passed the House last September and passed the Senate earlier this month.

"This bill, marking it the first time a federal building in the nation's capital has been named for an African American woman, is cause for celebration," D.C. Non-Voting Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) said in a statement. "Dorothy Height was an icon for social justice who lived here, and the Congress has recognized that she deserves a visible place of honor and distinction in the nation's capital. Renaming the post office next to Union Station will remind D.C. and the nation alike of the achievements of one of America's great women."

In addition to being a celebrated civil rights leader, Height also served as the Chair Emerita of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). While working with the NCNW, she devoted much of her energy to attempting to improve quality of life issues for Black women and their families, impacting education, health, and economic empowerment.

In 1994 President Bill Clinton awarded her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Height died at Howard University Hospital of natural causes on April 20, 2010. She was 98.