

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4797

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2002

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 265 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles, California, as the “Nat King Cole Post Office”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Nat King Cole was born Nathaniel Adams
4 Coles in Montgomery, Alabama, during the difficult
5 period of segregation in the United States, and was
6 raised in the ghettos of the south side of Chicago,
7 Illinois, where he endured the harshness of poverty.

8 (2) Nat King Cole was often confronted with
9 racism during his career, including being attacked
10 by members of a white supremacist group while he
11 was on stage in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1956.

12 (3) Nat King Cole allowed neither poverty nor
13 racism to prevent him from sharing his music with
14 people worldwide and from leaving a lasting impres-
15 sion on American culture.

16 (4) Nat King Cole established himself as the
17 best selling African-American recording artist of his
18 generation.

19 (5) Nat King Cole and his family became the
20 first African-American family to integrate the com-
21 munity of Hancock Park in Los Angeles when, de-
22 spite threats and protests from local residents, they
23 purchased their English Tudor mansion in 1948.

24 (6) “The Nat King Cole Show”, primarily
25 broadcast from Burbank, California, aired nationally
26 for more than a year beginning in 1956 and was the

1 first television show to be hosted by an African-
2 American artist.

3 (7) Nat King Cole graced southern California
4 with his music during the formative years of his
5 music career and formed the successful “King Cole
6 Trio” in Los Angeles, California.

7 (8) Nat King Cole’s recording of “Route 66”
8 serenaded generations of eager California immi-
9 grants.

10 (9) Nat King Cole’s recorded rendition of “The
11 Christmas Song” symbolizes the family warmth of
12 the yuletide season.

13 (10) Nat King Cole’s disarming delivery teaches
14 people the meaning of “Unforgettable”.

15 (11) Although Nat King Cole died from lung
16 cancer on February 15, 1965, the music and em-
17 bracing baritone voice of Nat King Cole are lasting
18 legacies that continue to be enjoyed by people world-
19 wide.

20 (12) Nat King Cole exemplifies the American
21 dream by having overcome societal and other bar-
22 riers to become one of the great American enter-
23 tainers.

24 (13) Members of the community surrounding
25 the Oakwood Station Post Office in Los Angeles,

1 California, have advocated for the renaming of the
2 post office in honor of Nat King Cole, a former resi-
3 dent of the area.

4 **SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION AND REFERENCES.**

5 (a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United
6 States Postal Service located at 265 South Western Ave-
7 nue, Los Angeles, California, and known as the Oakwood
8 Station Post Office, shall be known and designated as the
9 “Nat King Cole Post Office”.

10 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
11 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
12 States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall
13 be deemed to be a reference to the “Nat King Cole Post
14 Office”.

Passed the House of Representatives September 9,
2002.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.