

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2021

Chairman Gary Peters
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland
Security & Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Rob Portman
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland
Security & Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Portman,

We write to express our full support of H.R. 208, which would designate the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Main Street, Suite 102 in Tupelo, Mississippi, as the "Colonel Carlyle 'Smitty' Harris Post Office." The renaming of this post office would acknowledge the military service of Colonel Carlyle "Smitty" Harris and the sacrifices he made on behalf of Mississippi and our nation.

During the Vietnam War, communist soldiers captured Colonel Harris and brought him to Hỏa Lò Prison, commonly known as the "Hanoi Hotel" — North Vietnam's inhumane holding place for American Prisoners of War (POW). Throughout nearly eight years in brutal captivity, Colonel Harris never wavered in his conduct and set an example for his fellow POWs. In fact, he taught fellow prisoners how to communicate through Morse code, providing hope and a source of group cohesion. After his release, Colonel Harris reunited with his wife and children in Tupelo, Mississippi, where he is active in a wide range of civic efforts.

It is impossible for this gesture to render adequate thanks to Colonel Harris for the years of suffering he endured on behalf of our nation. However, this post office designation would duly recognize him as an American hero worthy of emulation. We urge the swift passage of this bill.

Thank you for closely considering our request.

Sincerely,



ROGER F. WICKER
United States Senator



CINDY HYDE-SMITH
United States Senator