

To the office of U.S. Representative Michael R. Turner

Re: HR 8193 (119th Congress), To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 189 East Main Street in Xenia, Ohio, as the "Gil Whitney Post Office Building". • Latest action (2026-09-17): Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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Office of record (Congress.gov): 2183 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC • (202) 225-6465

Honorary Naming of the Gil Whitney Post Office in Xenia, Ohio, With Cost Cap

The measure, as described from the official record: Honor Gilman Gil Whitney by naming the Postal Service facility at 189 East Main Street in Xenia, Ohio, for him.

THE PROPOSAL

Congress has direct power here. Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 grants Congress power to establish post offices, and the Tenth Amendment leaves all other local honors and property decisions to the states and people. That is why this proposal names only one federal building and changes no state or local authority. The strongest objection is that even honorary namings stretch federal power; the answer is that naming a federal facility Congress already funds is core management of federal property, not control of private or state activity.

The official summary states H.R. 8193 would designate the facility at 189 East Main Street in Xenia, Ohio, as the Gilman Gil Whitney Post Office Building, and the record states it was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, so it is pending, not enacted. The VFA proposal would keep that same single-building honor and would add cost and review controls.

The designation would apply to that one building only. It would not change mail service, routes, or staffing. After the effective date, federal records for that facility would use the new name.

The Postal Service would update signs, maps, and directories within 180 days. Work would be paid from existing Postal Service operating funds, capped at \$15,000, with no new funds authorized. If costs rise above the cap, the Postal Service would report the reason to Congress before spending more.

Oversight would stay simple. The Postal Service would carry out the naming and confirm completion to the Senate committee named in the record. The naming authority would remain subject to review after 20 years, so Congress can keep, extend, or retire the name by later law.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS (VFA PROPOSAL)

Effective Date	Upon enactment, with signs and records updated within 180 days
Enforcement Mechanism	Postal Service updates the facility name in records and signs; no civil or criminal penalty is created

Funding Amount	Capped at \$15,000 in existing Postal Service operating funds for signs and records updates
Funding Source	Existing United States Postal Service operating funds, with no new appropriation
Oversight Body	United States Postal Service, with notice of completion to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Sunset Years	20 years

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 7
- Tenth Amendment

WHY BOTH SIDES CAN BACK IT (VFA'S ASSESSMENT)

VFA assesses this draft honors a Democratic priority for public recognition of local civic and broadcast service in Xenia, Ohio, and a Republican priority for low-cost, restrained federal action with a firm cap, no new appropriation, and no new mandate. Both sides gain a simple community honor without expanded spending or federal power.

Strongest objection, and the answer: The strongest objection is that even honorary namings stretch federal power; the answer is that naming a federal facility Congress already funds is core management of federal property, not control of private or state activity.

CHECK BEFORE RELYING ON THIS

Basis: The Congress.gov summary of H.R. 8193 states the bill would designate the Postal Service facility at 189 East Main Street in Xenia, Ohio, as the Gilman Gil Whitney Post Office Building, and the record states it was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

The full bill text, naming eligibility rules, cost estimates, existing Postal Service naming law, and any conflicting designations are not stated in the official summary and should be verified at the Congress.gov bill page before enactment.

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