

## House passes Rep. Richard Hanna's bill to give flags to families of federal civilian workers killed on the job

**By Mark Weiner**  
**The Post-Standard**

**Washington** -- U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna's bill to honor federal civilian employees killed in the line of duty sailed through the House of Representatives on Wednesday by a vote of 425-0.

Hanna's Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011 will allow American flags to be presented to the families of any federal employee killed in the line of duty due to a criminal act, terrorist attack or natural disaster.

The bill gained unanimous bipartisan support after Hanna addressed concerns raised by the American Legion, which wanted to make sure the flag honor would not offend military veterans and their families. Hanna, R-Barneveld, met with American Legion National Commander Fang A. Wong to include language in the legislation that assured that the honor for civilians would differ from those for military service members killed in combat.

Hanna said he decided to write the bill after reading an opinion article in The Post-Standard by Syracuse University political science professor Grant Reeher and Terry Newell, a Syracuse native and a former dean of faculty at the Federal Executive Institute.

Reeher and Newell cited statistics showing 2,085 federal civil servants lost their lives in the line of duty between 1995 and 2007. Hanna said almost 3,000 federal employees were killed on the job since 1992.

"This is a modest but significant benefit to honor federal civilian employees who work within our country and in countless overseas posts," Hanna said in a speech on the House floor before the vote.

The bill now moves to the Senate, where no date has been set for a vote.

To read Weiner's report on [syracuse.com](#) [CLICK HERE](#).

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