

CFSA has languished in receivership for 5 years. Even under direction of its second court-appointed receiver, CFSA has continued to demonstrate extreme deficiencies in the delivery of expected service. In fact, one child, Brianna Blackmond, died when she was returned to her neglectful mother. This was a tragic death which may have been avoided if CFSA had provided the court with all of the relevant information regarding Brianna's home environment.

As a result, this year the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia held two hearings regarding this receivership. We heard promises about CFSA's court appointed reform efforts, which are required so that the agency can function efficiently and return to the District of Columbia Government.

Unfortunately, the operational breakdowns at CFSA have continued and the receivership has not delivered on their promises.

At our second hearing, in September, the subcommittee called on all parties involved in this situation: CFSA, the plaintiffs, the court system, and the District Government to come together to create and implement an emergency plan to reform CFSA and the receivership. The City's legislation will accomplish just that.

The Child in Need of Protection Amendment Act of 2000 will reorganize CFSA as a separate and distinct agency with personnel authority. The legislation ends the bifurcation of the abuse and neglect system to provide better care and protection for the children. It also includes provisions to limit the amount of time that a child is required to spend in foster care, to provide financial support for neighborhood-based family support services to at-risk families, to amend the confidentiality provisions to allow foster and adoptive parents greater access to information about the needs of a child, streamline the court process, and provide more placement options for children who cannot return home.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip, for his involvement and assistance with the Child and Family Services Agency crisis in the District. As a foster parent himself, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) has a strong personal interest in helping and protecting abused and neglected children in the child welfare system. His leadership has helped the City obtain the necessary resources to make informed decisions about the organizational reforms needed at CFSA in order to comply with the court orders and return the agency to the District Government.

I also want to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), for her leadership and support as we have examined the progress of this agency as well as the other D.C. agencies under receivership.

With the District's most vulnerable and underrepresented voices in dire

need of our assistance, we must let them know that help is on the way by working together to institute the best course of action needed to correct CFSA's systematic inadequacies. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 5537.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5537, a bill to waive the period of congressional review of the Child in Need of Protection Amendment Act of 2000. This noncontroversial legislation is necessary to ensure the District of Columbia's swift compliance with the consent order to return the Child and Family Services Agency now in receivership to the District Government.

The District of Columbia Home Rule Act requires that all civil legislation passed by the Council and signed by the Mayor undergo congressional review for 30 legislative days before taking effect. H.R. 5537 merely waives this requirement for legislation that will be passed shortly by the D.C. City Council to restructure the District's Child and Family Services Agency.

Earlier this year an infant, Brianna Blackmond, was found dead after being returned to her mother's care. The decision to return Brianna to her mother was criticized because her mother had previously been found in neglect of Brianna and her seven siblings.

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The tragic death of baby Brianna prompted the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia to hold two hearings examining the District's Child and Family Services Agency and to pass legislation, now on its way to the President for his signature, requiring receiverships to adhere to best practices and cost controls. H.R. 5537 is a continuation of congressional efforts to assist the District government in its efforts to reform the District's foster care system.

The Child and Family Services Agency has been under court receivership since 1995 because of serious failings in the delivery of child welfare services. However, despite court control, fiscal and management problems persist in the agency, necessitating a return of the agency to the control of the District government. The recent consent order returning the agency to the District requires the city to pass legislation that restructures its processes for delivery of child welfare services. H.R. 5537 will ensure that the District's legislation will take effect upon passage without any congressional delay.

H.R. 5537 has the support of the city's elected representation to this Congress, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), and the District of Columbia government. I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5537.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMESTOWN 400TH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION ACT OF 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4907) to establish the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4907

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the founding of the colony at Jamestown, Virginia in 1607, the first permanent English colony in the New World, and the capital of Virginia for 92 years, has major significance in the history of the United States;

(2) the settlement brought people from throughout the Atlantic Basin together to form a multicultural society, including English, other Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans;

(3) the economic, political, religious, and social institutions that developed during the first 9 decades of the existence of Jamestown continue to have profound effects on the United States, particularly in English common law and language, cross cultural relationships, and economic structure and status;

(4) the National Park Service, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation of the Commonwealth of Virginia collectively own and operate significant resources related to the early history of Jamestown; and

(5) in 1996—

(A) the Commonwealth of Virginia designated the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation as the State agency responsible for planning and implementing the Commonwealth's portion of the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown settlement;

(B) the Foundation created the Celebration 2007 Steering Committee, known as the Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee; and

(C) planning for the commemoration began.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission to—

(1) ensure a suitable national observance of the Jamestown 2007 anniversary by complementing the programs and activities of the State of Virginia;

(2) cooperate with and assist the programs and activities of the State in observance of the Jamestown 2007 anniversary;

(3) assist in ensuring that Jamestown 2007 observances provide an excellent visitor experience and beneficial interaction between visitors and the natural and cultural resources of the Jamestown sites;

(4) assist in ensuring that the Jamestown 2007 observances are inclusive and appropriately recognize the experiences of all people present in 17th century Jamestown;

(5) provide assistance to the development of Jamestown-related programs and activities;

(6) facilitate international involvement in the Jamestown 2007 observances;

(7) support and facilitate marketing efforts for a commemorative coin, stamp, and related activities for the Jamestown 2007 observances; and

(8) assist in the appropriate development of heritage tourism and economic benefits to the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **COMMEMORATION.**—The term “commemoration” means the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown settlement.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission established by section 4(a).

(3) **GOVERNOR.**—The term “Governor” means the Governor of the State.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) **STATE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “State” means the State of Virginia.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “State” includes agencies and entities of the State.

SEC. 4. JAMESTOWN 400TH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established a commission to be known as the “Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission”.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall be composed of 16 members, of whom—

(A) 4 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Chairperson of the Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee;

(B) 4 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Governor;

(C) 2 members shall be employees of the National Park Service, of which—

(i) 1 shall be the Director of the National Park Service (or a designee); and

(ii) 1 shall be an employee of the National Park Service having experience relevant to the commemoration, to be appointed by the Secretary; and

(D) 5 members shall be individuals that have an interest in, support for, and expertise appropriate to, the commemoration, to be appointed by the Secretary.

(2) **TERM; VACANCIES.**—

(A) **TERM.**—A member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) **VACANCIES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(ii) **PARTIAL TERM.**—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of the member was appointed.

(3) **MEETINGS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall meet—

(i) at least twice each year; or

(ii) at the call of the Chairperson or the majority of the members of the Commission.

(B) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of

the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(4) **VOTING.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Commission.

(B) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

(5) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Secretary shall appoint a Chairperson of the Commission, taking into consideration any recommendations of the Governor.

(c) **DUTIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall—

(A) plan, develop, and execute programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown;

(B) generally facilitate Jamestown-related activities throughout the United States;

(C) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the founding and early history of Jamestown;

(D) coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on, publication about, and interpretation of, Jamestown; and

(E) ensure that the 400th anniversary of Jamestown provides a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit by assisting in the development of appropriate programs and facilities.

(2) **PLANS; REPORTS.**—

(A) **STRATEGIC PLAN; ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS.**—In accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-62; 107 Stat. 285), the Commission shall prepare a strategic plan and annual performance plans for the activities of the Commission carried out under this Act.

(B) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than September 30, 2008, the Commission shall complete a final report that contains—

(i) a summary of the activities of the Commission;

(ii) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission; and

(iii) the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

(d) **POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**—The Commission may—

(1) accept donations and make dispersions of money, personal services, and real and personal property related to Jamestown and of the significance of Jamestown in the history of the United States;

(2) appoint such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out this Act;

(3) authorize any member or employee of the Commission to take any action that the Commission is authorized to take by this Act;

(4) procure supplies, services, and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases or other legal agreements, to carry out this Act (except that any contracts, leases or other legal agreements made or entered into by the Commission shall not extend beyond the date of termination of the Commission);

(5) use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal agencies;

(6) subject to approval by the Commission, make grants in amounts not to exceed \$10,000 to communities and nonprofit organizations to develop programs to assist in the commemoration;

(7) make grants to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the early history of Jamestown; and

(8) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration.

(e) **COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**—

(1) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(B) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(C) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) **STAFF.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(B) **CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(3) **COMPENSATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) **MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.**—The rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—

(A) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—On the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(ii) **CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.**—The detail of an employee under clause (i) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(B) **STATE EMPLOYEES.**—The Commission may—

(i) accept the services of personnel detailed from States (including subdivisions of States); and

(ii) reimburse States for services of detailed personnel.

(5) **VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(6) **SUPPORT SERVICES.**—The Director of the National Park Service shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(f) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the

daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(g) FACA NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(h) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section supersedes the authority of the State, the National Park Service, or the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, concerning the commemoration.

(i) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2008.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4907, the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission Act of 2000. 2007 marks the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America. This legislation will establish a Federal commission to complement Virginia's preparations for the upcoming anniversary and help make this a truly national event.

The late Herb Bateman originally introduced H.R. 4907, the House companion bill, with enthusiastic support from the Virginia congressional delegation. The bill was of particular importance to Mr. Bateman because Jamestown is located in Virginia's First Congressional District which he represented or, as he preferred to call it, "America's First District." Passing H.R. 4907 is a final opportunity for us to honor the memory of Herb Bateman.

In 1607, Jamestown started as a struggling settlement but eventually became the first capital of Virginia and the birthplace of representative democracy. Its settlers left a legacy of language, customs and common law which remain with us to this day. Native Americans, Europeans, predominantly English, and Africans all played vital roles in forming this early settlement.

Since at least 1807, Jamestown's founding has been celebrated every 50 years. The Federal commission that would be created by H.R. 4907 is modeled after the commissions established for past Jamestown anniversary festivities. The 15-member commission will be appointed by the Secretary of

the Interior and will terminate in 2008. The proposed commission will play a similar role to help coordinate events, activities, fund-raising, and capital improvements by partners on the Federal, State, and local levels, and in the private sector. It will bring national and international attention to this pivotal event in our Nation's history, and it will promote scholarly research and publications. The commission will help ensure that all people who were living in 17th century Jamestown are represented in the celebration.

The 400th anniversary celebration will include reconstructions of the Jamestown fort, a Native American village, and the English settlers' three ships which have been rebuilt to reflect current research. The 2007 commemoration will include also exhibitions highlighting exciting new archaeological, historical and scientific findings made by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and the National Park Service, including the original 1607 fort. These organizations are now jointly planning a revitalization of Jamestown Island to provide a more engaging experience for visitors and an increased appreciation for their irreplaceable museum collections.

The upcoming 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement is an event of historic importance that deserves national attention and commemoration. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and honoring the memory of our late colleague, Herb Bateman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in June 1606, King James I granted a charter to a group of London entrepreneurs, the Virginia Company, to establish a satellite English settlement in the Chesapeake region of North America. By December, 108 settlers sailed from London instructed to settle in Virginia, find gold and a water route to the Orient.

On May 14, 1607, the Virginia Company explorers landed on Jamestown Island, founding the first permanent English settlement in America. The first representative assembly in the new world convened in the Jamestown church on July 30, 1619. The general assembly met in response to orders from the Virginia Company to, quote, "establish one equal and uniform government over all Virginia."

The other crucial event that would play a role in the development of America was the arrival of Africans to Jamestown. A Dutch slave trader exchanged his cargo of Africans for food in 1619 and thus began the presence of Africans in Jamestown. The celebration in 2007 of the 400th anniversary of the landing at Jamestown will involve coordination between many partners on the Federal, State and local level and with the private sector. In 1996, the Commonwealth of Virginia designated the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

as the State agency responsible for planning and implementing the Commonwealth's portion of the commemoration.

H.R. 4907 establishes a Federal commission to assist in the coordination of the 400th anniversary commemoration of the landing of Jamestown. The purpose of the commission is to bring national and international attention to the significance of the landing of Jamestown and heightened interest in the early history of our Nation. The commission would help coordinate events, activities, fund-raising, and capital improvements related to the Jamestown 2007 anniversary. The commission will ensure that Jamestown 2007 observances are inclusive and, in addition to the English settlers, recognize the invaluable contributions of Native Americans and Africans to the development of Jamestown and this country.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

Mr. BLILEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the measure sponsored by our departed friend and colleague, Herb Bateman, to establish a Federal commission to join the Commonwealth of Virginia in preparing for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown in Virginia.

Nearly 400 years ago, the English established the first permanent settlement in the present-day United States at Jamestown. The upcoming 400th anniversary in May 2007 affords all American citizens the opportunity to appreciate the adventurous spirit that led the early English settlers on a voyage to a new world in the hopes of finding mountains of gold. While the settlers failed to realize their dreams of gold, their struggles and sacrifices paved the way for the formation of a nation rich in racial and ethnic diversity and democratic ideals. In fact, Jamestown is commonly referred to as the birthplace of our Nation.

Clearly, Jamestown is significant not just in the history of the Commonwealth but to the Nation as a whole. Initially a fledgling settlement, Jamestown became the capital of Virginia and held the first representative legislative assembly in the Americas, known as the House of Burgesses. These early meetings of the House of Burgesses fostered the ideas of self-government and representative government which serve as the cornerstone of the United States Constitution. The legacy of Jamestown, however, is not limited to these democratic principles that we cherish. The legacy can also be viewed in terms of the common language and customs that remain with us today.

For that reason, a national commission is appropriate and necessary to complement the commemorative programs and activities undertaken by the Commonwealth of Virginia's Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. The national commission will assist in the development of Jamestown-related programs and activities, support scholarly research and publications, facilitate marketing and fund-raising efforts, and further encourage heritage tourism. These activities will expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the founding and early history of Jamestown. It will also perpetuate the memory of the first permanent English-speaking settlers of Virginia and the United States.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4907, legislation to establish the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission. Mr. Speaker, this bill was introduced by our late colleague, Herb Bateman, who represented Jamestown. Jamestown is located in the First Congressional District of Virginia, and since we are talking about Jamestown, I think it is appropriate to note that Herb always called his district America's first district.

This bill authorizes the Jamestown Commemoration Commission that will head up the preparations for the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, which will be celebrated in 2007. Jamestown was not only the first permanent English colony but it also became the first capital of Virginia. The first legislative assembly was held in Jamestown; and it was there that the idea of common law, common customs, and common language began and continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, planning for the 400th anniversary has been under way for several years and establishment of a national commission will complement the ongoing State efforts as well as extend national and international significance to this historic anniversary. The State has been conducting roundtables throughout Virginia to get citizen input to design a statewide commemoration. Efforts are also being taken to continue the rebuilding of ships which brought the 1607 colonists and which were originally reconstructed for the 350th anniversary, as well as rebuilding the Jamestown fort and the Native American village.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this measure will ensure that the 400th anniversary of Jamestown is recognized at a national level for its historic significance and contributions to the founding of our country. It is also a fitting manner in which to honor our late colleague, Herb Bateman. Before yielding back the balance of my time, I want to commend the Members of the staff of Vir-

ginia's First Congressional District for their tireless efforts in making sure this bill moved forward. The constituents of the First Congressional District have been well represented by the staff since the untimely loss of Herb Bateman, and it is in large part because of their efforts that this bill is before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this measure.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize the work of particularly Dan Scandling, Herb Bateman's chief of staff, and Julie Newell, whom I know helped put this together, and the other staff members who put this together. This is a fitting legacy for Congressman Bateman who started this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this measure.

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my late friend and colleague, Herb Bateman, to speak in support of legislation that was near and dear to his heart, H.R. 4907, legislation to establish a Federal commission to coordinate activities related to the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the colony at Jamestown.

Someone once said that a land without ruins is a land without memories, and a land without memories is a nation without history. Thanks to the National Park Service and the foresight of the people of Virginia, the memory and history of Jamestown are alive and well.

Jamestown is to the United States what the historical centers of Rome and Athens are to the people of Italy and Greece.

The Jamestown visitors center, the replicas of the ships that brought the colonists to the new world, and the Jamestown fort and native American village are more than just tourist destinations, they are symbols of our democracy and values.

Consider that Jamestown was Virginia's first capital and held the first legislative assembly, leaving a legacy of common law, customs and language that we rely on today.

This 400th anniversary commemoration, to take place in 2007, is probably as historically important to our Nation as the bicentennial celebration of 1976. The progress made in planning events for 2007, are due in no small measure to the people of Virginia.

They've held roundtables throughout the State to solicit input from every corner of the commonwealth, and they've worked in conjunction with the National Park Service to conduct archaeological, historical and scientific research.

Creating a national commission is the last piece of the puzzle which will ensure that the Jamestown commemoration becomes a truly national celebration.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4907.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROSLEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE IN THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, today President Clinton is expected to sign the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2001. This will help promote a first-class military, and it is a great victory for our military retirees because it takes a giant step in correcting an injustice suffered by our military retirees and their families. The defense bill provides pharmacy benefits and extends TRICARE to retirees beyond age 65 as a supplement to Medicare, and fulfills the promise of lifetime health care to America's eldest military retirees.

Retirees joined the service with a promise of lifetime health care; but right now TRICARE, the military health care plan, ends at age 65. Unlike all other Federal retirees, military retirees get Medicare but nothing else if they cannot afford supplemental insurance; and many retirees under age 65 are not covered due to serious flaws in the TRICARE program.