

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4695

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan in Alabama as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2002

Mr. CALLAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan in Alabama as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) Fort Morgan was constructed from 1819
6 through 1834, by French military engineer Simon
7 Bernard as part of the eastern defenses of Mobile
8 Bay.

1 (2) Fort Morgan figured prominently in the
2 naval campaigns of the Civil War. During one en-
3 gagement, Union Admiral D. G. Farragut, leading a
4 fleet into Mobile Bay against Confederate forces, ut-
5 tered the now famous words “Damn the torpedoes!
6 Full speed ahead!”.

7 (3) On the morning of August 13, 1864, Con-
8 federate forces surrendered Fort Morgan, giving
9 control of the last remaining southern port in the
10 Gulf of Mexico to the Union.

11 (4) Fort Morgan continued as a coastal artillery
12 post until after World War II.

13 (5) Fort Gaines, which is located on Dauphin
14 Island, 2 miles west of Fort Morgan, was con-
15 structed in 1850 and guarded the western side of
16 Mobile Bay with 26 guns.

17 (6) In 1853, Congress named the fortification
18 for General Edmund Pendleton Gaines, who won
19 lasting fame for his tenacious defense of Fort Erie,
20 as well as his capture of former Vice President
21 Aaron Burr.

22 (7) On August 8, 1864, Union gunboats opened
23 a bombardment of Fort Gaines. The fort was sur-
24 rendered the next day.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT REGARDING FORT GAINES**
2 **AND FORT MORGAN, ALABAMA.**

3 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall com-
4 plete a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of
5 designating Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan in Alabama as
6 units of the National Park System.

7 (b) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Section
8 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)) shall
9 apply to the conduct and completion of the study required
10 by this section.

11 (c) SUBMISSION OF STUDY RESULTS.—Not later
12 than 30 days after completion of the study required under
13 subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
14 mittee on Resources of the House of Representatives and
15 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
16 Senate a report describing the results the study.

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