

House Calendar No. 147

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4400

[Report No. 112–598]

To designate the Salt Pond Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore as the “Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Visitor Center”, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2012

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. NEAL, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. PELOSI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

JULY 17, 2012

Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To designate the Salt Pond Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore as the “Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Visitor Center”, 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. DESIGNATION.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Thomas Phillip (Tip) O’Neill, Jr., was born
6 on December 9, 1912, in the Irish middle-class area
7 of North Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Thomas
8 Phillip O’Neill, Sr., and Rose Ann (Tolan) O’Neill.

9 (2) Nicknamed “Tip” during his childhood,
10 O’Neill was educated in Roman Catholic schools,
11 graduating from St. John’s High School in 1931,
12 where he was captain of the basketball team.

13 (3) Tip O’Neill then attended Boston College,
14 where he ran for a Cambridge City Council seat dur-
15 ing his senior year—his first attempt at running for
16 office and only electoral defeat.

17 (4) Following his graduation from Boston Col-
18 lege in 1936, Tip O’Neill was elected to the Massa-
19 chusetts House of Representatives that same year as
20 a New Deal Democrat whose political philosophy
21 was shaped by his experience growing up in working-
22 class Boston and his strong Catholic faith, which led
23 him to view government as a means for helping the
24 disadvantaged in society.

1 (5) In 1949, Tip O'Neill became the first
2 Democratic Speaker in the history of the Massachu-
3 setts State Legislature, serving as Speaker until
4 1952, when he ran successfully for the United States
5 House of Representatives to fill the seat vacated by
6 Senator-elect John F. Kennedy.

7 (6) In 1958, inspired by the establishment of
8 the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, a seashore
9 park in North Carolina, Representative Tip O'Neill,
10 along with his close friend and colleague Representa-
11 tive Edward Boland, introduced legislation to protect
12 lands on Cape Cod as a national seashore.

13 (7) In describing this area on Cape Cod, Henry
14 David Thoreau had written that “A man may stand
15 there and put all America behind him”, as the pris-
16 tine sandy beach, marshes, ponds, and uplands sup-
17 porting diverse species represent a unique, cherished
18 jewel of nature.

19 (8) The legislation established a 40-mile na-
20 tional park along Cape Cod's outer beach, from
21 Chatham through Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet,
22 Truro, and Provincetown that includes lighthouses,
23 cultural landscapes, and wild cranberry bogs that
24 offer a glimpse of Cape Cod's past and continuing
25 ways of life.

1 (9) After introduction of the legislation during
2 the 85th Congress, Tip O'Neill continued to advo-
3 cate strongly for establishment of the Cape Cod Na-
4 tional Seashore, co-sponsoring bills in the 86th and
5 87th Congresses, testifying at hearings and working
6 to advance the legislation through Congress.

7 (10) The legislation was intended to preserve
8 one of the great natural marvels of the United
9 States, with its unbroken beach and moors, marshes,
10 forests, and freshwater ponds that are home to
11 many species of birds, fish, animals, and plants.

12 (11) On August 7, 1961, President Kennedy
13 signed into law the legislation authorizing the Cape
14 Cod National Seashore as Public Law 87–126.

15 (12) In 1966, the Cape Cod National Seashore
16 was formally established, and Representative O'Neill
17 attended the May 30, 1966, ceremony inaugurating
18 the Salt Pond Visitor Center.

19 (13) The Cape Cod National Seashore has be-
20 come a national treasure, with millions of Americans
21 and visitors from around the world enjoying its
22 beauty and remarkable biodiversity.

23 (14) Tip O'Neill and his family maintained a
24 home on Cape Cod in Harwich Port, and he was a

1 frequent visitor to the National Seashore during his
2 service in Congress and in his retirement years.

3 (15) While in Congress, Tip O'Neill rose quick-
4 ly through the leadership ranks due to his extraor-
5 dinary political skills, mastery of the legislative proc-
6 ess and sharp wit, serving first as Majority Whip in
7 the House beginning in 1971 and then in 1973 as
8 House Majority Leader.

9 (16) One of O'Neill's greatest accomplishments
10 as Speaker was the crafting of a peace accord be-
11 tween warring factions in Northern Ireland, during
12 which he worked with fellow Irish-American politi-
13 cians including Senator Edward M. Kennedy to de-
14 velop the "St. Patrick's Day declaration" denounc-
15 ing violence in Northern Ireland and culminating
16 with the Irish aid package upon the signing of the
17 Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985.

18 (17) On January 3, 1987, Tip O'Neill retired
19 from Congress, having served in public life for 50
20 years, including 34 years as a Member of Congress
21 and 10 years as Speaker of the House, the longest
22 continuous term of any Speaker since the first Con-
23 gress met in 1789.

24 (18) Tip O'Neill's extraordinary record of pub-
25 lic service and tremendous accomplishments for the

1 nation and unmatched attention to the needs of his
2 constituents led President George H.W. Bush in
3 1991 to present Tip O'Neill with the Presidential
4 Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the
5 United States.

6 (19) It is also altogether fitting to recognize
7 Tip O'Neill's support for the protection of the nat-
8 ural, historic, and cultural resources of the national
9 parks of Massachusetts.

10 (b) DESIGNATION.—The Salt Pond Visitor Center at
11 Cape Cod National Seashore in Eastham, Massachusetts,
12 is designated as the “Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Salt Pond
13 Visitor Center”.

14 (c) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Salt Pond
15 Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore in any law,
16 regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the
17 United States shall be considered to be a reference to the
18 “Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Visitor Center”.

19 (d) SIGNAGE.—The Secretary of the Interior may
20 post an interpretive sign at the visitor center that—

21 (1) includes information on Thomas P. O'Neill,
22 Jr., and his contributions as a member of the U.S.
23 House of Representatives;

24 (2) includes an image of Thomas P. O'Neill,
25 Jr.; and

1 (3) refers to his efforts to aid in the preserva-
2 tion of the national seashore and other national
3 parks in Massachusetts.

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