

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the more than 83,000 Americans still listed as missing in action or prisoners of war. Today is National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

I would like to bring to the attention of my House colleagues the efforts made by the joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to recover and return home to their families our unaccounted for servicemembers.

Also, let us recognize groups such as Rolling Thunder, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the National League of POW/MIA Families, and numerous others who ensure those who remain missing are never forgotten, and that our Nation remembers their sacrifice.

This includes Army Private First Class Ithiel Whatley of Escambia County, Florida, who was last seen on July 12, 1950, in Korea and who is remembered every day of the year by his brother Nat.

We salute our POWs and MIAs who have given to this Nation more than we can ever repay. The United States will not rest until each is home and has received the proper burial on American soil they deserve.

Please offer a prayer for those who remain on the battlefields of the past and of the present, and let us pledge that not one is left behind.

VOTER SUPPRESSION

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, this is Constitution Week, when we celebrate our fundamental rights as Americans. Today, one of the most cherished rights, the right to vote, is under serious attack.

Recent efforts to suppress voter participation are designed to silence the voice of American voters, especially seniors, people of color, the poor, and young adults.

In Florida, new restrictions on voter registration led the League of Women Voters to suspend their efforts until the law was halted by the court. Republican legislatures have passed strict voting requirements, although Pennsylvania could not provide even one example of voter fraud. Even elderly veterans, who risked their lives for our country, may be turned away from the polls because they lack the proper IDs. Five million Americans could be disenfranchised.

Anyone who values our Constitution should encourage voting, not erect barriers based on false claims of voter fraud.

STOP THE WAR ON COAL ACT OF 2012

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3409.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 788 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3409.

Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER) kindly take the chair.

□ 0918

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3409) to limit the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations before December 31, 2013, under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, with Mr. YODER (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, September 20, 2012, amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 112-680 offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) had been disposed of.

□ 0920

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 112-680.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 503 of the committee print.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 788, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, this is an amendment, I believe, that common sense would allow us to work together and pass.

This amendment would simply maintain the current deadline that existed under the previous administration of 90 days under the Clean Air Act by striking section 503 of the bill which artificially limits agency comment periods on water quality permits to 30 days with no possibility of extension. This existed under President Bush's administration.

Why, then, would my friends on the other side of the aisle not join with me to say let's have regular order? Let's ensure that we give everyone a reasonable opportunity for a response on their quality of life.

On the surface, the intent of H.R. 3409 appears to be to prevent the Interior Department from revising a Bush administration midnight regulation that significantly weakened mountaintop protections on the destructive practice of mountaintop removal mining. Let me remind you, they did not alter the comment period. Mountaintop removal mining, as many of us know, is a very challenging, environmentally difficult process. For many, they say, it creates jobs.

What we are trying to do is to ensure that there is a balance between that industry and, as well, the fairness of allowing those to be able to comment. As it's presently drafted, this bill would reach, in fact, it would make it much more difficult, if you will, to deal with the question of rulemaking.

The people in the State of Texas and the city of Houston appreciate the ability to drink cool, fresh water. So does everyone else. The idea of not being able to comment on the impact of this particular process is challenging.

I ask my colleagues to consider the importance of coming together and extending, or going back to, the 90-day comment period to balance, if you will, the timeframe and to ensure that all are heard on any aspects that would impact the environment, impact the environment of this particular procedure.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chairman, I object to the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, may I ask how much time remains.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

Mr. DEUTCH. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the gentlelady's amendment to yet another bill that will never become law, another bill that feeds into the biggest problem we have here.

The 112th Congress has actually set a sad new low for our democracy. We all know that President Harry Truman famously dubbed the 80th Congress in 1948 as the "do-nothing Congress." Yet the do-nothing Congress of 1948 has nothing on this one. That Congress passed over 900 laws, while the 112th Congress has passed just over 100.

Among the countless laws blocked by the Republican majority is the American Jobs Act, which economists say