

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE EXPANSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support of H.R. 1289, the John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act.

This bipartisan legislation will expand the Martinez, California historic site in my district that celebrates the life and legacy of John Muir. Muir was a lifelong conservationist, leading advocate of the National Park Service and a co-founder of the Sierra Club. He worked to establish and protect national parks including Yosemite, Sequoia, the Grand Canyon and Mt. Rainier.

The John Muir National Historic Site, which includes the home where he lived, covers 330 acres of Contra Costa County where Muir championed the revolutionary idea that wild spaces should be set aside for all to enjoy. This bill would add 44 acres of donated land from a non-profit trust, improving access to the park and its scenic trails, including those on Mount Wanda, named for Muir's eldest daughter. The trail systems are accessible for hikers, bikers and equestrians, including critical connections to the 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail and to nearby protected lands along the Franklin Ridge corridor.

As John Muir said, "everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in . . . where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike."

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my predecessor Congressman George Miller who has been a champion of this bill. I appreciate Natural Resource Committee Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, Subcommittee Chairman MCCLINTOCK, and Subcommittee Ranking Member TSONGAS for their leadership in bringing H.R. 1289 to the floor today.

I am grateful for the support of 31 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who co-sponsored this bill and to Senators BOXER and FEINSTEIN for sponsoring this legislation in the U.S. Senate. I would also like to thank the John Muir Land Trust for its hard work and dedication preserving and protecting this valuable parkland and shoreline in Contra Costa County for future generations.

As our Nation prepares to celebrate the Centennial of the National Park Service, this legislation will help preserve the trails and lands that surround the longtime home of the man known as the Father of the National Park Service. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bipartisan legislation—The John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act.

IN HONOR OF JOE CASEY, GENERAL MANAGER OF SEPTA

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe Casey, the general manager of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, who is planning to retire at the end of September after 34 years of service, the last seven as general manager.

Mr. Casey began working for SEPTA in 1982, and his tenure has included various senior management positions before his appointment as general manager in 2008. Under his leadership, SEPTA has seen tremendous improvement in customer service, infrastructure, and financial soundness. Notably, SEPTA has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award for 10 consecutive years under Mr. Casey's authority as Chief Financial Officer and general manager, a testament to Mr. Casey's commitment to fiscal responsibility and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Casey for his dedication to the Southeastern Pennsylvania community. The remarkable accomplishments and improvements SEPTA has achieved in recent years can be attributed to Mr. Casey's exceptional guidance. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best of luck in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas: September 17, 2015, marks the two hundred twenty-eighth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Conventions; and

Whereas: It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

Whereas: Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week;

Now, therefore, I, MIMI WALTERS, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Representative of the 45th Congressional District of the State of California do hereby recognize the week of September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week;

And ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed

to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FIRE AND RESCUE AND EMS PERSONNEL

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire and rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

As first responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Oftentimes, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

In 2012, years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district.

Firefighter/EMT Michael Dunn of the Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue was chosen to receive the Preservation of Life Award

Lt. Don Rossow of the Englewood Area Fire Control District was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award

District Chief/Paramedic Robin Thayer of the Manatee County Emergency Medical Services was chosen to receive the Career Service Award

Lt. Jason Wilkins, Lt. Jamie Mann, Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Jones, Firefighter/EMT Sean Sponable and Firefighter/EMT Clayton Huber were chosen to receive the Unit Citation Award

Deputy Chief Brett Pollok of the West Manatee Fire and Rescue was chosen to receive the Career Service Award

Fire Investigator/Inspector Larry Betts of the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on this date two-hundred and twenty-eight years ago, the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.