

he would bring to a critical U.S. embassy. Therefore, I opposed his nomination.

#### EMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today regarding the Emery County Public Land Management Act, that was included in S. 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. This became Public Law 116-9 on March 12th, 2019.

Throughout 2018 and early 2019, Senator Hatch, Congressman CURTIS, and I engaged with the Emery County Commissioners and Emery County Public Lands Council on this important piece of legislation. After Senator Hatch's retirement, I was honored to help carry the ball across the finish line.

This law is the result of over 25 years of deliberation, and I find it important to highlight some areas of congressional intent to maintain the integrity of the process. While congressional intent should be evident in the legislative text and corresponding map, the historical context of how we arrived at some of these decisions may be of benefit to the Department of the Interior, future members of the Utah delegation, and those in Utah. The residents of Emery County, the Utah delegation, and I look forward to the implementation of this new law.

Fundamental to this process was the effort to avoid any action that would end a current ongoing use. For example, it was important to not close a road, trail, airstrip, or prohibit other existing use in the legislative text or corresponding map with a wilderness designation. Further, to avoid applying more restrictive designations, such as wilderness, to areas it would limit ongoing activity, such as grazing or recreation. Designation boundaries were drawn along geographic and physical features or just outside cherry-stemmed roads to ensure management made sense for the area.

Any designation boundary that does not follow this approach, particularly any designation that puts at risk an existing use due to a poorly drawn boundary, was a clerical error and should be resolved under the authority clearly provided in Sec. 1221. Given the scale of this bill and legislative map, this authority is a vital tool to resolve such errors.

I would also highlight the clear intent within Sec. 1232, section (e), which clearly states that non-wilderness activities or uses that can be seen or heard from areas within wilderness are to be left uninterrupted by this legislation. The clear intention of the bill was to avoid any type of a buffer zone management plan.

On the topic of roads, stakeholders worked closely with BLM to ensure all roads in the 2008 Resource Management Plan were "cherry-stemmed," meaning they were not included in a wilderness designation. Our intent was to main-

tain these roads and for those designated as "open" to stay open. These cherry-stems are of various sizes and were intended to ensure an adequate corridor exists to facilitate necessary maintenance. In the Recreation Area, Sec. 1222 includes language to ensure the necessary maintenance to existing routes may continue and allow rerouting of roads or trails to protect the resources of the Recreation Area.

The driving force for this compromise bill was the desire for county-wide land use certainty and thus preventing the designation of a national monument under the authority granted to the President under the Antiquities Act. As so many know, in my home State of Utah national monument designations under the Antiquities Act have been the source of extreme controversy and deep division in our communities. In my own view, land management is most effective when it is driven by local voices and well-reasoned planning. Sweeping designations via Presidential proclamation are often politically motivated, lead to poor management of the lands they intend to protect, and erode trust between the Federal Government and local residents. With the passage of the Emery County legislation, the need for a national monument is obsolete because a clear plan has been laid out for the long-term management of the San Rafael Swell. To be clear, this is a view that was shared by the many parties, including locally elected officials, conservationists, recreationists, and others that were intimately involved in the forging of this compromise legislation. Any advocacy of a future national monument designation under the Antiquities Act or other large-scale land use designation in Emery County would be a violation of the good-faith agreement that was shared among those that negotiated during this bill's process.

I believe this bill is a victory for all stakeholders, and I look forward to watching this quarter-century journey for Emery County finally come to fruition.

#### NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I call attention to National POW/MIA Recognition Day through Senate statements, such as this, each year to try to help keep national focus on the return of American servicemembers and help their families to know that our country stands with them as work continues to find the answers they more than deserve.

As we observe this National POW/MIA Day on September 20, 2019, a special tribute must be paid to the families and friends of missing servicemembers. Too often, their quiet, ceaseless, and enormous service to our Nation is overlooked. Many have carried on through years and even decades of sorrow and uncertainty. Their ques-

tions must be replaced with answers. Their loss must be softened, if possible, by resolution.

Those working hard through challenging conditions to get needed answers and bring all American servicemembers home also deserve appreciation and steady encouragement. Thank you to those who work for and assist the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and related efforts. So far this month, the agency has reported accounting for more than 20 missing servicemembers, many of whom were lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor and the Korean war. Piecing together the circumstances, whereabouts and lives of those lost cannot be easy, but bringing them home is critical to honoring their service. To help with this effort, I have continually fought for the Bring Our Heroes Home Act that is meant to address obstacles preventing families and caseworkers from accessing the records needed for recovery efforts by putting one entity in charge of prioritizing and facilitating the declassification of records related to missing servicemembers.

Thank you to the members of the POW\*MIA Awareness Rally Corp. of Pocatello, ID, and other similar groups that hold rallies and other events to keep a spotlight on the immense service of our Nation's veterans and the need for an ongoing focus on bringing them all home. Bringing all of the 82,000 Americans the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency reports remain missing home will certainly not fill the losses felt in far too many American families, but those who have served our Nation deserve no less than to rest at home, and we cannot rest until they do.

#### 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGDON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I join with my colleague Senator Whitehouse, the city of Providence, and the State of Rhode Island in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Congdon Street Baptist Church, Rhode Island's oldest Black congregation. For generations, it has been a spiritual home for the community and an unwavering beacon for religious and civil liberties in Rhode Island.

The church's founding members left the First Baptist Church, where they were forced to attend segregated services, and established their own house of worship in 1819. Initially named the African Union Meeting House, the church aimed to provide a place of worship and schooling for Black Americans. This mission positioned the congregation as a focal point of the African-American community and paved the way for its continuing advocacy for meaningful social change.

As one of the earliest African-American churches in the State and the first schoolhouse for African-American children in Providence, the African Union