

by this low-key and entirely voluntary effort.

While the authority to sell these popular stamps has expired, the stockpile of 49 million stamps still exists. Mr. CLAY accepted amendments to allow the stockpile to be depleted before new stamps are printed that prevents waste and protects taxpayers.

International conservation of these important species is a shared goal of both Democrats and Republicans, and this bill is a very good example of that seemingly rare opportunity for all of us to come together for the benefit of wildlife, their habitat, and, of course, the American people who enjoy both for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). It is good to have bipartisan support for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1446, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HOMESTEAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1472) to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1472

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. HOMESTEAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first section of the Act of March 19, 1936 (16 U.S.C. 450u), is amended by striking “designated” and all that follows through the end and inserting “designated the ‘Homestead National Historical Park’”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the unit of the National Park System known as “The Homestead National Monument of America” shall be considered to be a reference to the “Homestead National Historical Park”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have

5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1472, introduced by my friend Representative SMITH from Nebraska, would rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, to the Homestead National Historical Park.

In 1862, President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act, and this enabled citizens to own a portion of the vast public lands across the Western United States.

To commemorate the first claim under the Homestead Act, Congress established the Homestead National Monument of America in 1936; serving as a lasting memorial to the over 1.6 million claims that built the American West.

Today, the Homestead National Monument of America consists of the first site successfully claimed under the Homestead Act, the Freeman School, a heritage museum, hiking trails, and 100 acres of restored tall grass prairie. Redesignating this important monument as a national historical park would provide a more accurate and appropriate description of the scope and complexity of the site’s resources and would conform the park’s designation to Park Service standards.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my colleague Representative SMITH for introducing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1472. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1472, offered by our colleague, Congressman SMITH of Nebraska, would redesignate the Homestead National Monument of America to simply the Homestead National Historical Park.

Congress authorized this commemoration in 1936 after acquiring the site of the Daniel Freeman homestead. It was set aside as a lasting memorial to the settlers who built the American West as a result of the Homestead Act of 1862 and its successors.

In total, 207 million, or 10 percent, of all land in the United States was settled under the Homestead Act. The name of the monument with the redundant qualifier “of America” has made it an anomaly within the National Park system. This bill simply removes that redundancy and conforms more clearly with the naming customs of the National Park Service.

Redesignating the unit as a national historical park will further clarify the unit’s characteristics in keeping with the modern designations that the Park Service maintains.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), the author of the measure who brings it to the floor today.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate my colleagues and their support of our effort to change the name from Homestead National Monument of America to the Homestead National Historical Park. Obviously, some of the reasons have been outlined.

I appreciate the chairman and ranking member for bringing this legislation to the floor. It is supported by the entire Nebraska delegation, and even more importantly, by local stakeholders.

And as was mentioned, the Homestead Act of 1862 was signed by President Lincoln, and it absolutely helped shaped the American West. It allowed U.S. citizens to earn ownership of a portion of the vast public lands owned by the Federal Government across the Western U.S.

Ultimately, the Federal Government granted title to 10 percent of the land in the U.S. through this program. It gave millions a chance to build a new life for themselves, their families and for future generations.

In order to claim a 160-acre parcel of land under the Homestead Act, a homesteader was required to be at least 21 years of age or the head of a household, build a home on the land, improve and farm the land for 5 years, and pay an \$18 filing fee.

□ 1515

The Homestead Act remained in place through 1976, with provisions allowing for homesteading in Alaska through 1986.

President Ronald Reagan said the Homestead Act “ensured that the great western prairies of America would be the realm of independent, property-owning citizens—a mightier guarantee of freedom is difficult to imagine.”

We are very proud that the very first claim under the Homestead Act was made by a man named Daniel Freeman, near Beatrice, Nebraska, in Nebraska’s Third District. To memorialize this milestone, as well as the 1.6 million other claims which built the American West, the Homestead National Monument of America was established, also near Beatrice.

Unfortunately, referring to this site as a monument brings images of a single, static monument, such as a statue, an obelisk, or even a natural feature like the Scotts Bluff National Monument near my hometown of Gering, Nebraska, not of an extensive park that celebrates the pioneering homesteaders of many years ago.

Homestead National Monument consists of a heritage museum, the Freeman School mentioned earlier, as well

as the tallgrass prairie, hiking trails, a forest, farming demonstrations, and much more.

Referring to this site as a historical park instead of a monument would far more clearly describe the opportunities to take in this living-history site. In fact, according to the Friends of Homestead, 89 percent of first-time visitors to the facility were confused by the name.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska and, particularly, the citizens of Beatrice and Gage County, Nebraska, I appreciate this opportunity to advocate in support of this proposal today.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the other gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank two of my good friends, Ranking Member MCCLINTOCK and Chairman HUFFMAN, for the cordial and elevated discussion today about something that might appear small in the big scheme of things, particularly with what is going on in Congress, but, nonetheless, is a good, working part of functioning government on this House floor.

This is important to us in Nebraska, and it is important to the rest of America. I am pleased that my good friend, Congressman ADRIAN SMITH, has been working on this effort to rename the Homestead National Monument of America to the Homestead National Historical Park to clear up some confusion. This small but important change will more accurately reflect the nature and mission of this unique National Park Service unit.

The Homestead Act of 1862, as we have heard, really did forever change the direction of our Nation. Let me take us through a few facts that have already been mentioned but I think worthwhile emphasizing.

In exchange for the \$18 filing fee and just a commitment to improve the land, any U.S. citizen could farm 160 acres and own it outright after 5 years. Almost inconceivable to us today, but that is how this began.

The National Park Service unit dedicated to telling the extraordinary story of these incredible pioneers is located in Beatrice, Nebraska.

And I thank Chairman HUFFMAN for clarifying how it is appropriately pronounced: Beatrice, Nebraska.

Before redistricting earlier, I used to represent this area. It is only about 50 minutes from my home in Lincoln, so it is a part of the broad neighborhood of the First and Third Congressional Districts.

Homestead is located on the site of one of the first homestead claims in the United States, and it commemorates the lives and accomplishments of these early homesteaders. It also celebrates those hardy individuals who, through harsh storms, brutal drought, wind, snow, and isolation, actually helped grow this country.

This minor name change will clear up any confusion about this important site because the word "monument" generally applies to a single individual or a unique topographical feature. Homestead is so much more. It is a unique piece of open prairie, as we have heard. It houses the historical records of so many settlers, and many visitors come looking to learn a little bit more about their ancestors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to particularly recognize one individual, Mr. Mark Engler, who is Homestead's superintendent and a friend of the Nebraska delegation who sees us quite a lot, along with everyone else in the Beatrice community who have helped to maintain Homestead as a gem of the Midwest and a treasure for all Americans.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. The community of Beatrice—I just had to say it one more time because I like that pronunciation—is fortunate to be home to what will hopefully soon be America's newest historical park, the Homestead National Historical Park, and is also fortunate to have been represented over the years by these two fine gentlemen from Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1472.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT STUDY ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1487) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1487

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act".

#### SEC. 2. RESOURCE STUDY OF THE LOS ANGELES COASTAL AREA, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means the coastline and adjacent areas to the Santa Monica Bay from Will Rogers State Beach to Torrance Beach, including the areas in and around Ballona Creek and the Baldwin Hills and the San Pedro section of the City of Los Angeles, excluding the Port of Los Angeles north of Crescent Avenue.

(b) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(B) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;

(C) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(D) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(E) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(3) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(A) the results of the study; and

(B) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. 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 materials on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1487, introduced by my colleague TED LIEU from California, would direct the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating a new national recreation area along the Santa Monica Bay coastline or incorporating the area into the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Expanding the National Park Service to include this area would significantly enhance recreational and public lands access in one of our Nation's most congested, polluted, and park-poor regions, Los Angeles County.