

Recently, archeologists uncovered the physical remains of five houses and their associated artifacts that burned in the 1908 riot. Last year, the National Park Service completed a reconnaissance survey of the site and concluded it was likely the site that would meet criteria for inclusion in the National Park System if fully analyzed through a congressionally authorized special resources study.

In August, Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt visited the site of the 1908 riot to declare it part of the recently established African American Civil Rights Network. One goal of this network is to ensure that we accurately tell the complete and often painful story of the struggle for civil rights in our country.

I commend Representative DAVIS on his work to highlight this tragic event in our Nation's history. I urge adoption of the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAKANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 139, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site associated with the 1908 Springfield Race Riot in the State of Illinois."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FREE VETERANS FROM FEES ACT

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1702) to waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans demonstrations and special events at war memorials on Federal land, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1702

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 "Free Veterans from Fees Act".

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FEE FOR VETERANS' SPECIAL EVENTS.

(a) WAIVER.—The application fee for any special use permit solely for a veterans' special event at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs shall be waived.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS.—The term "the District of Columbia and its environs" has the meaning given that

term in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) GOLD STAR FAMILIES.—The term "Gold Star Families" includes any individual described in section 3.2 of Department of Defense Instruction 1348.36.

(3) SPECIAL EVENT.—The term "special events" has the meaning given that term in section 7.96 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) VETERAN.—The term "veteran" has the meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.

(5) VETERANS' SPECIAL EVENT.—The term "veterans' special event" means a special event of which the majority of attendees are veterans or Gold Star Families.

(6) WAR MEMORIAL.—The term "war memorial" means any memorial or monument which has been erected or dedicated to commemorate a military unit, military group, war, conflict, victory, or peace.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to any special use permit application submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF EXISTING LAWS.—Permit applicants remain subject to all other laws, regulations, and policies regarding the application, issuance and execution of special use permits for a veterans' special event at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) and the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all 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 gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1702, the Free Veterans from Fees Act introduced by Representative GREG STEUBE.

This bill seeks to honor the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families by waiving application fees for veterans' special events at war memorials in our Nation's Capital for veterans and Gold Star families.

Although the National Park Service has a longstanding practice of waiving application fees for special use permits for most veterans' events at war memorials, oftentimes, veterans' organizations have to pay administrative fees and processing costs to obtain permits for events such as Honor Buses.

By codifying a version of this routine practice and policy in law, we can help honor the sacrifices made by our veterans and Gold Star families by ensuring that they are not required to pay when visiting national war memorials built to commemorate their bravery and our fallen heroes.

I thank Representative STEUBE for introducing this legislation and urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the significant and unparalleled sacrifices veterans have made for our country, my colleague Mr. STEUBE introduced H.R. 1702 to waive the application fee associated with special use permits for veterans' organizations and our Gold Star families at war memorials on Federal lands.

Special use permits are required by the National Park Service for activities that provide a benefit to an individual group or organization and for activities that require the use of a designated park location for a specific purpose and length of time.

When those who have served our Nation, Mr. Speaker, including Gold Star families, want to hold an event whose primary purpose is to commemorate or honor the service of veterans, they should not be subject to application fees. This bill removes a potential barrier and ensures our veterans are not discouraged from planning, hosting, or organizing events on our public lands.

With this bill, Mr. Speaker, we show in one more way our respect for our Nation's veterans, and we support the special events that honor the men and women of our Armed Forces.

I commend my colleague Congressman STEUBE for his work on behalf of our servicemen and -women.

Mr. Speaker, this bill's sponsor, Congressman STEUBE, was unable to be here today to speak on his bill because of commitments in his district.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure and since I have no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to vote in favor of my bill, H.R. 1702, the Free Veterans from Fees Act of 2019.

To help foster a culture in America in which all veterans are valued for their service to our nation, we need to do our part to assist those who have served in our military. One way we can honor our nation's heroes is to assist them when they visit national war memorials as they remember all those who fought and are not here today.

Throughout the year, several veterans' groups and Gold Star Families visit national war memorials here in Washington, D.C. by honor buses and honor flights through various veterans' organizations. To obtain a permit for their visit, oftentimes veterans' groups must pay administrative fees and other processing costs related to visiting memorials that have been built not only as a testament of their sacrifice, but also to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

This common sense bill would waive the application fee for any special use permits for veterans' demonstration and special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia.

The Free Veterans from Fees Act has bipartisan support and has been endorsed by AMVETS, a veteran organization that represents 250,000 members nationwide.

I thank the House Committee on Natural Resources for holding a hearing on this bill and I am pleased to see it on the legislative calendar. You may also remember this bill was passed through the Committee and through suspension on the House floor last Congress, and we hope that we can get this bill passed under suspension this Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1702, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

B-47 RIDGE DESIGNATION ACT

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 490) to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 490

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 "B-47 Ridge Designation Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF B-47 RIDGE, MONTANA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The unnamed mountain ridge located at 45°14'40.89" N., 110°43'38.75" W. that runs south and west of Emigrant Peak in the Absaroka Range in the State of Montana, which is the approximate site of a crash of a B-47, shall be known and designated as "B-47 Ridge".

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the ridge described in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to "B-47 Ridge".

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR PLAQUE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the installation and maintenance of a plaque on B-47 Ridge that—

(A) memorializes the 1962 crash of the B-47 aircraft at the site; and

(B) may include the names of the victims of the crash.

(2) AUTHORIZED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may include any terms and conditions in the authorization for a plaque under paragraph (1) that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be necessary.

(3) FUNDING.—No Federal funds may be used to design, procure, install, or maintain the plaque authorized under paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) and the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all 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 gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 490 the B-47 Ridge Designation Act.

One of our priorities on the House Natural Resources Committee this Congress has been to enhance public lands access for veterans and servicemembers and that includes allowing our public lands to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

This bill would designate an unnamed mountain range near Emigrant Peak in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge" and allow the installation of a commemorative plaque at the site.

The name and plaque would memorialize the tragic end to a routine training flight on the night of July 23, 1962. Four U.S. Air Force servicemembers lost their lives when their B-47 strategic bomber crashed at 8,500 feet. Debris from the crash can still be seen on the ridge today.

This bill appropriately honors the memory and sacrifice of Captain Faulconer, Lieutenant Lloyd Sawyers, Lieutenant David Sutton, and Lieutenant Hixenbaugh.

I urge its immediate adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 490 designates the mountain ridge where an Air Force B-47 strategic bomber crashed while on a training mission in Montana in 1962 as the "B-47 Ridge."

This bill is the Senate companion to H.R. 1267, which our Congressman GIANFORTE led here in the House. Nearly 60 years have passed since that U.S. Air Force B-47 bomber left Texas and crashed into Montana's Emigrant Peak just north of Yellowstone National Park in the Paradise Valley. Debris remains on the ridge where the plane crashed. S. 490 will rename the area the "B-47 Ridge" to honor the four-man crew who perished in the wreck.

Those brave airmen who died that day on the southwestern slope of Emigrant Peak during a training mission were: Captain Bill Faulconer, Lieutenant Lloyd Sawyers, Lieutenant David Sutton, and Lieutenant Fred Hixenbaugh.

This legislation will also allow for the placement of a memorial plaque

which will be paid for by the crew's families and the local community.

This is a good and important bill honoring the sacrifice of those airmen and I applaud Congressman GIANFORTE and the entire Montana delegation for their efforts to get this lasting tribute signed into law.

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

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 490.

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.

TRIBAL SCHOOL FEDERAL INSURANCE PARITY ACT

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 895) to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 895

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 "Tribal School Federal Insurance Parity Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT.

Section 409 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1647b) is amended by inserting "or the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.)" after "(25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) and the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all 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 gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 895, introduced by Representative DUSTY JOHNSON of South Dakota, authorizes Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations operating Tribally controlled schools the ability to access the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.