

legal firearms. With more than 92 percent of the delays approved, this would be a severe restriction for those law-abiding citizens who want to exercise their Second Amendment Rights. Under current law, in a majority of cases, if the purchaser of the firearm is later to be found in violation of state or federal law, the police were able to recover the firearm with little difficulty.

I strongly believe that we should support every effort to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens and punish those who ignore the law—particularly those who use a firearm and injure or kill their victim. This Amendment increases the penalty for criminals who use a banned assault weapon in conjunction with a crime.

A 72-hour check is a back door effort to stop otherwise legal gun sales. We can do it instantly with today's technology. If you want to ban gun sales then say so. If you want reasonable safety check, then a 24-hour delay is enough. I urge adoption of the Dingell Amendment.

LEGISLATION TO PROTECT SENSITIVE CALIFORNIA LANDS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give notice to my colleagues that I am introducing three pieces of legislation to help protect sensitive California lands. The first bill is the California Coastal Rocks and Islands Wilderness Act of 1999. I am pleased to be able to offer this bill with bipartisan support and want to thank my colleagues, Messrs. GALLEGLY, WAXMAN, CAMPBELL, STARK, BILBRAY, Ms. ESHOO and Mrs. CAPPS for joining me in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to recognize the ecological significance of the tens of thousands of small rocks, islands and pinnacles off the California coast, by designating them as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. These small islands and rocks provide important resting sites for California sea lions, Steller's sea lions, elephant seals and harbor seals, as well as providing a narrow flight lane in the Pacific Flyway.

An estimated 200,000 breeding seabirds of 13 different species use these rocks and islands for feeding, perching, nesting and shelter. Birds that use these areas include three threatened and endangered species: the brown pelican, the least tern and the peregrine falcon.

The Wilderness designation afforded by this act would apply to all rocks, islands and pinnacles off the California coast from the Oregon border to the U.S. Mexico border, which are currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This includes nearly all of the federally-owned lands above the mean high tide and within three geographical miles off the coast.

The designation would afford the highest protected status and highlight the ecological importance of all of the small rocks, islands and pinnacles off the California coast, which together comprise approximately 7,000 square acres. Adding these areas would also further the Wilderness Act's goal of including unique,

ecologically representative areas to the System.

Rocks and islands which are already patented or reserved for marine navigational aids, National Monuments, or state parks will not be affected by the legislation.

I am pleased to be able to introduce this bill and look forward to its swift passage, so that these unique areas of California's ecosystem can be preserved and protected for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, the second piece of legislation that I am introducing today is the "Pinnacles National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 1999". This legislation transfers land that is currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service at the Pinnacles National Monument in California.

This "no cost" land exchange will also designate the additional land acquired by the National Park Service as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System. I would like to point out that this will not change the current management practices that have been conducted by the Bureau of Land Management.

Finally, this legislation authorizes the Secretary to acquire additional lands depicted on the map through purchase, donation, or a combination thereof.

Mr. Speaker, the third piece of legislation that I am introducing will require the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study regarding options for the protection and expanded visitor enjoyment of nationally significant natural and cultural resources at Fort Hunter Liggett, California.

Under BRAC several historic buildings are now being transferred to the National Park Service from the United States Army. In addition, other cultural sites, cultural landscapes, buildings, and the natural resources of the entire 165,000 acre fort area merit evaluation for future protection and visitor enjoyment, either in concern with military activities or in the event of future military downsizing.

Fort Hunter Liggett and the surrounding areas have a deep and storied history. Serving as hunting grounds, for more than 10,000 years, archaeologists have found artifacts throughout the San Antonio Valley and the Santa Lucia Mountains. In 1771, construction began on Mission San Antonio, the third mission established in California which is a working inhaling that can still be visited.

To quote Wendell Berry "To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival," Mr. Speaker, I urge you and our colleagues to join me in supporting these three pieces of legislation that will help to protect our coasts, lands and history. If we lose this opportunity we will not get another chance once damage has occurred.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORIC ANDERSON COTTAGE—SUMMER WHITE HOUSE TO THREE PRESIDENTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on the grounds of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home

(USSAH) in Northwest Washington, D.C., sits one of our country's most historic buildings, the Anderson Cottage. Rarely visited and virtually unknown, it was the summer White House of three U.S. presidents: Chester Arthur, Rutherford B. Hayes, and, most notably, Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln spent a quarter of his presidency living at the Soldiers' Home and it was in Anderson Cottage where he wrote the last draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The building is in need of restoration, and the USSAH has been working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to find funding to restore the building and open it up as an historic site. Anderson Cottage also is listed as one of the First Lady's "Save America's Treasures" sites. The following article illustrates the importance of this home, as well as the equally historic Soldiers' and Airmen's Home on which it sits.

[From the Washington Times, March 18, 1999]

LIVING LINK TO LINCOLN HIDDEN IN PLAIN
SIGHT

(By Catherine Watson)

I went to Washington recently to look for links to one of the country's heroes. I wanted to explore the city that Abraham Lincoln knew, the Washington of the Civil War.

Because I had only a few days, I thought I should choose the big names. But the highlight was a place I had never heard of—one of the least-visited of Lincoln sites and arguably the most important: Anderson Cottage. (See? I didn't think you had heard of it.)

The cottage lies off North Capitol Street, on the grounds of what Lincoln knew as the Soldiers' Home, now the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, a handsome, 320-acre campus on high ground in the Northwest quadrant of the city. About 1,100 retired enlisted personnel live there, veterans from World War II through Vietnam.

I parked near the house, walked up the wooden porch steps and entered a large room that would be familiar instantly to anyone who knows military posts. There was that same smell of governmental dust, the same kind of linoleum alternating with Veterans Affairs gray paint on the floor, even the same sickly pale green on some of the walls. I liked it.

But there didn't seem to be much to see. Just how important is it historically?

Very, said Kerri Childress, public affairs director for the home, whose office is in Anderson Cottage. This is where Lincoln finished the Emancipation Proclamation.

Ms. Childress, a tall, slim woman with bright blond, short-cropped hair, has a contagious enthusiasm for the Soldiers' Home, its residents and Anderson Cottage.

"This really is a well-kept secret," she said. "Even the Lincoln buffs are sometimes surprised."

More surprising is how rarely it's visited: At most, 100 tourists a year find their way to the cottage.

"If this building were any place else, it would be a national shrine," Ms. Childress said. "We make such a big deal out of Ford's Theater. Nothing happened there except that he died. This was where he lived. This was where he created. This was where he became Abraham Lincoln."

Like many presidents, Lincoln had a summer White House, though I had never associated that plain man with such a luxury. This was it—a getaway that may have been the only place in Washington where he and his family had a semblance of normal life or anything approaching happiness.

It's still fresh and countrylike, but now the Soldiers' Home is an island awash in city

streets. During Lincoln's summers, it was well outside of smelly, muddy, crowded, insect-ridden Washington—a genuine country estate built for a local banker in 1840.

The government purchased the property in 1850 to create one of the nation's first homes for veterans. The cottage was renamed at the start of the Civil War to honor Maj. Robert Anderson, the Union Commander of Fort Sumter, the bastion off the South Carolina coast where the first official shots were fired.

Anderson Cottage was the first infirmary at the Soldiers' Home, the first guest house and, in 1954, the first dormitory for female veterans, Ms. Childress said.

The gray-stucco cottage also served as summer White House for presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and Chester A. Arthur. President James Buchanan had his summer residence across the street.

But it's the Lincoln connection that matters most.

"Secretary of War Edwin Stanton did not want Lincoln up here," Ms. Childress said. "He felt they could not protect him out here." Stanton probably was right.

From late June to early November, starting in 1862, Lincoln commuted virtually daily by horseback between the cottage and the White House, accompanied by 20 to 30 cavalymen with their swords drawn. He didn't much care for the escort.

Even so, Ms. Childress said, one night he arrived at the cottage without his stovepipe hat. It had been shot off his head.

Anderson Cottage also is where John Wilkes Booth's first plot against the president was supposed to have been carried out. It was a kidnapping plan that later was abandoned in favor of a bullet.

There, too, Mary Todd Lincoln held seances, trying to connect with the spirit of her son, Willie, who had died in the White House just three months before the Lincolns first came to Anderson Cottage.

This also is where Mrs. Lincoln spent two months recuperating from an 1863 carriage accident. Some historians believe the carriage had been tampered with in an attempt on Lincoln's life, Ms. Childress said.

Mrs. Lincoln refused to be taken to the White House after the accident. "There was an open-door policy at the White House" during the war, Ms. Childress said. "I can only imagine the chaos."

Besides, "Mrs. Lincoln wasn't set up to be a politician's wife, especially a president's wife. What comforted her was this place."

At Anderson Cottage, "Lincoln did not entertain and did as little business as possible," Ms. Childress said. "There is very little doubt in my mind that some of Lincoln's greatest thoughts and greatest writings took place in this house. This is the only place he would have had the solace and the quietude to do that."

As the afternoon deepened into the winter twilight, Ms. Childress walked me across the drive to an ancient copper beech, a gigantic tree with a knobby trunk and a ring of low branches touching the ground. Where each touched, a young tree had sprung up.

"In summer," Ms. Childress said, "it is like a big canopy."

Lincoln took refuge in there, she said. When aides couldn't find him anywhere else, they would look for him under the swooping branches, where he often went to read.

Sometimes he even played there. He climbed this tree a couple of times, she noted—once with his son Tad, another time with Stanton's children.

I was awed. This tree knew Abe Lincoln—it's one of the few living things in this world that did.

Back inside, I saw that the cottage was bigger than it looked—it's a "cottage" only

if you compare it with a mansion such as the White House. The style is Gothic revival, and it still has its lacy white trim, big front porch and heavy interior moldings.

Except for modern furniture and a few partitions, the layout of the house is about the way it was when the Lincolns knew it. The White marble mantelpieces are original. So is the simple wooden banister leading up the stairs from the entry hall. And the shutters folded into the window frames. And the sliding pocket doors on the ground floor—painted shut now, but still there.

I wandered upstairs on my own and easily found the large second-floor room at the front of the house that had been Lincoln's bedfront. This was where he wrote the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The room is sparsely furnished—a Victorian dresser, a contemporary dining-room table ringed with modern chairs. But its appeal lies in its silence, not its furniture. It was dead quiet there the day I visited—genuinely peaceful. The only sound from outside was a plaintive bugle call as veterans lowered the flag for the day.

I could imagine the tall, gaunt president leaning against the fireplace mantel or looking out the windows at the green lawn that still surrounds the cottage. He probably even looked through the same panes of glass.

It hit me then: This place has more to do with Lincoln the president than any other shrine. More than his well-preserved home in Springfield, ILL. More than the frontier hamlet of New Salem, ILL. More than the White House itself.

Here he was not only commander in chief, but also husband, father and human being. No wonder he would take risks to ride out here every chance he got.

The house is structurally sound—always has been and always will be, Ms. Childress said: "We will always take care of it." It's not restored, so it's not pretty, but it could be.

Unfortunately, the Soldiers' Home doesn't have the money to do it. The home has been funded from its beginning by small deductions from enlisted men's pay—now 50 cents a month, plus any fines and forfeitures from disciplinary actions. It has never been supported by taxpayer dollars.

But with the downsizing of the military, less money is coming in because there are fewer soldiers to fund the deductions. The effect has been "devastating," Ms. Childress said, "just devastating."

A rescuer may be coming, however. The United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home is negotiating with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to have the trust take care of the cottage.

Rather than having it become just another Victorian house with antique furniture, Ms. Childress said she hopes it can be used as a learning center for an array of related topics: the Civil War, the effects of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln himself. But all that, she said, is still a long way off.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 219, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONSEQUENCES FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1501) to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders:

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Chairman, people own guns for many reasons. They use them for hunting. They use them for recreational shooting. And they use them for self defense.

About 2 million times a year, people use guns to defend themselves, their families and businesses.

So what does this have to do with trigger locks?

It requires that guns be sold with trigger locks. That doesn't seem unreasonable. In fact about 80% of guns sold today are sold with trigger locks. That seems pretty reasonable.

What's wrong with the amendment is that it requires gun owners to keep a trigger lock on their guns.

It accomplishes this by saying that gun owners are liable for the criminal use of a stolen gun that was stored without a trigger lock.

Someone breaks into your home, steals your gun, robs or kills with it, and you are held responsible.

Mr. Chairman, I hold here a trigger lock. In the small print it says "don't use on a loaded gun."

So what the practical implications of this amendment are:

You can no longer keep a loaded gun in your night stand to defend your family.

When the armed intruder enters your home, here is what you will have to do

Find the key. Unlock the trigger. Remove the trigger lock. Load the gun.

If that crook is armed, you have no chance of defending yourself.

Mr. Chairman, there are two groups who really support this amendment:

Crooks who would invade our homes and harm our families and trial lawyers who would be enriched.

The losers are honest, law abiding citizens who want to defend themselves.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the defeat of this amendment.

COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE OF SANDRA K. HOGAN

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to Ms. Sandra K. Hogan, Director of the Legislative and Regulatory Review Office of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Ms. Hogan will retire, July 3rd after 37 years of service to AMS. For 33 of those years, she has not only served 13 AMS Administrators, but has also been a valuable asset to Congress in her role as the Congressional Liaison for AMS.