

which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 66 and H.R. 791, the two bills just passed.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE TO HAVE UNTIL FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1999 TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 1995, TEACHER EMPOWERMENT ACT

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and the Workforce may have until 3 p.m. on Friday, July 9, to file a report on the bill, H.R. 1995, the Teacher Empowerment Act, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

WORLD WAR VETERANS PARK AT MILLER FIELD GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to House Resolution 231 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 592.

□ 1514

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 592) to designate Great Kills Park in the Gateway National Recreation Area as "World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills", with Mr. BONILLA in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

□ 1515

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 592 introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA). H.R. 592 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate a portion of Gateway National Recreation Area in New York as World War Veterans Park at Miller Field. H.R. 592 would change the name of this park to recognize and honor the veterans of our world wars who fought to protect and defend democracy and freedom.

During markup of this bill, we accommodated concerns by the administration. This bill is now supported by

the National Park Service and the minority. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 592.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 592.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 592 as introduced would have amended the act designating the Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City to change the name of Great Kills Park to World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills.

The National Park Service testified at the hearing of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands on May 11 that it opposed this name change because there is no known connection between Great Kills Park and World War II activities or historical figures, nor do veteran groups have any known connection with the area. It was also noted that NPS already administers several entire national park units that are historically tied to World War II veterans.

However, we learned at the hearing that there is general agreement to provide some sort of recognition to veterans at a more suitable location, known as Miller Field, within the Gateway National Recreation Area.

While the NPS appears to have administrative authority to make such a change, the Committee on Resources adopted an amendment, drafted by the NPS, to designate the location as World War Veterans Park at Miller Field. Based on the representations made to us by the NPS, this change appears to be in keeping with NPS policies and as such we support the bill as amended.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), the sponsor of this legislation.

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 592 is a simple bill. If passed, it would rename a portion of the Staten Island Unit of the Gateway National Recreation Area as World War Veterans Park at Miller Field. The purpose of this bill is simply to honor the brave men who served in World War I and World War II. Staten Island has a long and proud tradition of honoring our veterans, and this bill merely adds to that tradition.

First, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) of the Committee on Resources and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands for their assistance in moving this bill through the committee process, and, on my staff, Travers Garvin, for really carrying the load.

Originally, as the ranking member indicated, H.R. 592 was intended to rename the Great Kills portion of the Gateway National Recreation Area. H.R. 592 would have renamed that park World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills. The National Park Service was concerned that the park being renamed should have a historical connection to the new name. Nevertheless in response to those concerns, we agreed to a compromise. H.R. 592 will now rename another portion of the Gateway National Recreation Area, known as Miller Field.

Miller Field was originally named after a World War I aviator and was used as a military airstrip during World War II. In order to recognize veterans from both World War I and World War II, the bill seeks to rename the park World War Veterans Park at Miller Field. This change satisfies the National Park Service concerns and, more importantly, still recognizes veterans from Staten Island, Brooklyn and our Nation. I have spoken with veterans who had supported the original bill and they have agreed to the change.

I believe strongly that without our veterans' dedication and sacrifice, we would not have the freedoms that we enjoy to this day. My concern is that as time goes by, perhaps the memories, particularly those in the World War I and World War II generation, may fade. The renaming of this park will stand as a timeless reminder of the heroism of the brave men and women who served our Nation. It is my wish that for generations to come, the thousands of people who use this park will stop for a moment and remember the heroism of these men and women.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that enactment of H.R. 592 will have no significant impact on the Federal budget. It is simple, again non-controversial and bipartisan. The bill has 13 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle and all parts of the country. H.R. 592 is legislation that takes pride in America. Because of this, I expect it will be an easy vote for. I think it would be especially appropriate to pass this bill for our veterans as we head into the Fourth of July weekend.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I support the gentleman from New York's legislation to honor veterans of World War I and World War II by renaming Miller's Field in honor of our veterans. As the only New York member on the Committee on Resources, I was happy to support this legislation in committee. I believe that this park will not only honor veterans in the New York-New Jersey area but veterans throughout our country.

Recently, I had the honor to join the French Consul General in New York to present the French Medal of Honor to a World War I veteran who lives in Flushing, New York. Tragically this