

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) REFUGE.—The term "Refuge" means the Red River National Wildlife Refuge established under section 3.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to exclude extraneous material therein on H.R. 4318, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4318 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY). It will establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana.

The Red River Valley is part of a historic migratory corridor that is used by over 350 different species of birds. These species include migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and neotropical migratory songbirds.

It is part of the Mid-Continent Flyway region that stretches as far north as the Arctic Circle and as far south as Tierra del Fuego, South America.

Under the terms of the bill, the Secretary of Interior is provided with the authority to acquire up to 50,000 acres of land, water and other interests for inclusion in the refuge.

I fully expect that all private land acquired by the Red River Refuge will be purchased from willing sellers.

Mr. Speaker, I compliment the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) for his tireless leadership on behalf of this legislation. The gentleman has worked extremely closely with local, State, and Federal officials to make the Red River National Wildlife Refuge a reality. I obviously urge an aye vote on 4318.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment and thank my good friend from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) for his management of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the cooperation and progress that has been

made to improve the provisions of H.R. 4318 since it was ordered reported favorably by the Committee on Resources in July of this year.

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the final maps depicting the proposed acquisition boundaries for this new refuge have been agreed to by the bill's sponsor, my good friend, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY), and by the Fish and Wildlife Service. I support these boundaries; and with this last remaining issue resolved, I am comfortable with moving this bill forward with passage today.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, will help restore and protect in perpetuity, valuable wetlands and wildlife habitats along the Red River in northern Louisiana. This bill is supported by the administration and has strong bipartisan support on both sides of the aisle on the Committee on Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for H.R. 4318, the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act. This measure, which I introduced, establishes the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Caddo, Bossier, Red River, Natchitoches, and DeSoto Parishes in the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana.

At present, there are 20 national wildlife refuges in the State of Louisiana which host over 1.4 million visitors annually. However, not a single national wildlife refuge exists in Northwest Louisiana to meet a demonstrated environmental need in the Red River Alluvial Valley.

The Red River Alluvial Valley is an internationally significant environmental resource that has been neglected and requires active restoration and management to protect and enhance the value of the region as habitat for fish and wildlife.

The Red River Valley is part of a major continental migration corridor for migratory birds funneling through North America from as far north as the Arctic Circle to as far south as Tierra del Fuego in South America. This valley is of critical environmental importance to over 350 species of birds (including migratory and resident waterfowl, shore birds, and neotropical migratory birds), aquatic life, and a wide array of other species associated with river basin ecosystems.

However, since the 1820s, the Red River Valley has been almost totally cleared of its forest cover, primarily due to agricultural production. The recent completion of the Red River Waterway project in Louisiana and the land-use changes away from agricultural production in the area have enhanced opportunities for environmental restoration and management of fish and wildlife in the Red River Valley.

H.R. 4318 authorizes the acquisition of up to 50,000 acres of land, waters, or interests therein in Caddo, Bossier, Red River, DeSoto, and Natchitoches Parishes for inclusion in the Red River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is envisioned to take the form of several large tracts of refuge lands comprising several thousand acres apiece, managed as a system to restore and preserve fish and wildlife habitat.

The Red River National Wildlife Refuge, authorized in this Act, represents the federal

share of a unique federal, state, local and private partnership being proposed by local conservationists, including Paul and Skipper Dickson and other members of the Friends of the Red River Refuges, to restore and manage approximately ten percent of the 800,000-acre Red River Alluvial Valley in Louisiana. Funding for land acquisition would come from the Migratory Bird Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

H.R. 4318 calls for significant local public involvement in the delineation of refuge boundaries and the formulation of a refuge management plan. The bill also encourages public use of refuge lands and environmental outreach programs and facilities, including the authorization of wildlife interpretation and education center associated with the refuge.

I would like to thank House Resources Committee Chairman DON YOUNG, Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee Chairman JIM SAXTON, and the other members of the Resources Committee for their support for this proposal. I urge members of the House to vote in favor of this legislation so we may undertake this important conservation and restoration project as soon as possible.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4318, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill H.R. 4318, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORINTH BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1117) to establish the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park, in the vicinity of the city of Corinth, Mississippi, and in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1117

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 "Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) in 1996, Congress authorized the establishment and construction of a center—
(A) to facilitate the interpretation of the Siege and Battle of Corinth and other Civil War actions in the area in and around the city of Corinth, Mississippi; and

(B) to enhance public understanding of the significance of the Corinth campaign and the Civil War relative to the western theater of operations, in cooperation with—

(i) State or local governmental entities;
(ii) private organizations; and
(iii) individuals;

(2) the Corinth Battlefield was ranked as a priority 1 battlefield having critical need for

coordinated nationwide action by the year 2000 by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in its report on Civil War Battlefields of the United States;

(3) there is a national interest in protecting and preserving sites of historic significance associated with the Civil War; and

(4) the States of Mississippi and Tennessee and their respective local units of government—

(A) have the authority to prevent or minimize adverse uses of these historic resources; and

(B) can play a significant role in the protection of the historic resources related to the Civil War battles fought in the area in and around the city of Corinth.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to establish the Corinth Unit of the Shiloh National Military Park—

(A) in the city of Corinth, Mississippi; and

(B) in the State of Tennessee;

(2) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to manage, protect, and interpret the resources associated with the Civil War Siege and the Battle of Corinth that occurred in and around the city of Corinth, in cooperation with—

(A) the State of Mississippi;

(B) the State of Tennessee;

(C) the city of Corinth, Mississippi;

(D) other public entities; and

(E) the private sector; and

(3) to authorize a special resource study to identify other Civil War sites area in and around the city of Corinth that—

(A) are consistent with the themes of the Siege and Battle of Corinth;

(B) meet the criteria for designation as a unit of the National Park System; and

(C) are considered appropriate for inclusion in the Unit.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Park Boundary-Corinth Unit”, numbered 304/80,007, and dated October 1998.

(2) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Shiloh National Military Park.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) UNIT.—The term “Unit” means the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park established under section 4.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the States of Mississippi and Tennessee the Corinth Unit of the Shiloh National Military Park.

(b) COMPOSITION OF UNIT.—The Unit shall be comprised of—

(1) the tract consisting of approximately 20 acres generally depicted as “Battery Robinett Boundary” on the Map; and

(2) any additional land that the Secretary determines to be suitable for inclusion in the Unit that—

(A) is under the ownership of a public entity or nonprofit organization; and

(B) has been identified by the Siege and Battle of Corinth National Historic Landmark Study, dated January 8, 1991.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 5. LAND ACQUISITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire land and interests in land within the boundary of the Park as depicted on the Map, by—

(1) donation;

(2) purchase with donated or appropriated funds; or

(3) exchange.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Land may be acquired only by donation from—

(1) the State of Mississippi (including a political subdivision of the State);

(2) the State of Tennessee (including a political subdivision of the State); or

(3) the organization known as “Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth”.

SEC. 6. PARK MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Unit in accordance with this Act and the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(1) the Act entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

(2) the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes”, approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(b) DUTIES.—In accordance with section 602 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 430f-5), the Secretary shall—

(1) commemorate and interpret, for the benefit of visitors and the general public, the Siege and Battle of Corinth and other Civil War actions in the area in and around the city of Corinth within the larger context of the Civil War and American history, including the significance of the Civil War Siege and Battle of Corinth in 1862 in relation to other operations in the western theater of the Civil War; and

(2) identify and preserve surviving features from the Civil War era in the area in and around the city of Corinth, including both military and civilian themes that include—

(A) the role of railroads in the Civil War;

(B) the story of the Corinth contraband camp; and

(C) the development of field fortifications as a tactic of war.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry this Act, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with entities in the public and private sectors, including—

(A) colleges and universities;

(B) historical societies;

(C) State and local agencies; and

(D) nonprofit organizations.

(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—To develop cooperative land use strategies and conduct activities that facilitate the conservation of the historic, cultural, natural, and scenic resources of the Unit, the Secretary may provide technical assistance, to the extent that a recipient of technical assistance is engaged in the protection, interpretation, or commemoration of historically significant Civil War resources in the area in and around the city of Corinth, to—

(A) the State of Mississippi (including a political subdivision of the State);

(B) the State of Tennessee (including a political subdivision of the State);

(C) a governmental entity;

(D) a nonprofit organization; and

(E) a private property owner.

(d) RESOURCES OUTSIDE THE UNIT.—Nothing in subsection (c)(2) authorizes the Secretary to own or manage any resource outside the Unit.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To determine whether certain additional properties are appropriate for inclusion in the Unit, the Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of land in and around the city of Corinth, Mississippi, and nearby areas in the State of Tennessee that—

(1) have a relationship to the Civil War Siege and Battle of Corinth in 1862; and

(2) are under the ownership of—

(A) the State of Mississippi (including a political subdivision of the State);

(B) the State of Tennessee (including a political subdivision of the State);

(C) a nonprofit organization; or

(D) a private person.

(b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—The study shall—

(1) identify the full range of resources and historic themes associated with the Civil War Siege and Battle of Corinth in 1862, including the relationship of the campaign to other operations in the western theater of the Civil War that occurred in—

(A) the area in and around the city of Corinth; and

(B) the State of Tennessee;

(2) identify alternatives for preserving features from the Civil War era in the area in and around the city of Corinth, including both military and civilian themes involving—

(A) the role of the railroad in the Civil War;

(B) the story of the Corinth contraband camp; and

(C) the development of field fortifications as a tactic of war;

(3) identify potential partners that might support efforts by the Secretary to carry out this Act, including—

(A) State entities and their political subdivisions;

(B) historical societies and commissions;

(C) civic groups; and

(D) nonprofit organizations;

(4) identify alternatives to avoid land use conflicts; and

(5) include cost estimates for any necessary activity associated with the alternatives identified under this subsection, including—

(A) acquisition;

(B) development;

(C) interpretation;

(D) operation; and

(E) maintenance.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year and 180 days after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall submit a report describing the findings of the study under subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act, including \$3,000,000 for the construction of an interpretive center under section 602(d) of title VI of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 430f-5(d)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 1117 establishes the Corinth Unit of the Shiloh National Military Park in the vicinity of Corinth, Mississippi, in the State of Tennessee. Companion legislation, H.R. 2249, was introduced by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER). The purpose of S. 1117 is to protect and commemorate areas associated with the Civil War battle of Corinth. The

Corinth Unit consists of approximately 20 acres of land and is the future site of an interpretive center.

The Battle of Shiloh took place in April of 1862 and is considered to be one of the most important battles of the Civil War. Thousands of men died in the 2-day battle with the Union forces; and as a result of the Battle of Shiloh, Confederate troops were forced to withdraw southward.

The Union armies remained intact enough and to continue their southward advancement, eventually taking Vicksburg and Port Hudson in 1863. The Union advance essentially cut the South in half and many knew at this point it was solely a matter of time before the Union would prevail.

The Battle of Corinth played a large part in the overall battle of Shiloh. Because of this, S. 1117 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to manage and protect the resources associated with the Battle of Corinth by establishing the Corinth Unit as part of the Shiloh National Military Park.

This bill also provides for a resource study to be conducted by the Secretary to determine whether certain other additional properties are appropriate for inclusion in the newly established unit.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 1117.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. I know the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO), my colleague and good friend, is on his way.

Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, I am just pinch-hitting for the gentleman from Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, the area in and around the city of Corinth, Mississippi, near the Mississippi-Tennessee border, played a significant role in several early chapters of the American Civil War. Corinth was the crossroads of two rail-lines vital to Confederate supply efforts, and the city served as the front line of the western theater of battle.

The battle of Shiloh in April 1862 was launched after 44,000 Confederate troops had withdrawn to Corinth to regroup and to resupply forces.

Several weeks later, Union forces briefly laid siege to the city, finally overtaking Corinth and holding it for the rest of the war. The site of the Battle of Shiloh is a national military park but does not include the city of Corinth. However, in 1996, Congress authorized the establishment of an interpretive center for the Corinth campaign.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1117 offered by the majority leader from the other body, the gentleman from Mississippi, would build on that effort by establishing Corinth as an official unit of the Shiloh National Military Park. The new unit would consist of the 21-acre site selected for that interpretive center, plus any additional land, owned by a public or a nonprofit entity, which the Secretary determines to be suitable.

The legislation contains provisions for management of the new unit, future land acquisition, a special resource study of the area and authorizes an additional \$3 million for the construction of that interpretive center.

This legislation has the support of the administration and bipartisan support of both sides of the aisle in this committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act. This legislation authorizes \$3 million for the construction of the Corinth-Civil War Preservation and Interpretive Center and its inclusion into the Shiloh National Military Park. The bill gives Corinth its proper status as one of America's most pivotal and important Civil War sites. I would first like to thank my colleague from Utah, the distinguished Chairman of the Resources Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, Mr. HANSEN, and the Ranking Member, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, for holding a hearing on this important legislation in April. The bill before us today is the companion to H.R. 2249, which I introduced.

As legendary Civil War historian Ed Bearss proclaimed, "The Battle of Corinth was the bloodiest battle in the State of Mississippi. Troops were brought from New Orleans, Mobile, Texas, and Arkansas because Corinth was such an important place. With the fall of Corinth, Perryville, Kentucky, and Antietam, Maryland, the Confederacy was lost." We owe it to our ancestors and to future generations to protect Corinth and the abundance of Civil War history in this small town.

Corinth, referred to as the "Vertebrae of the South," was the intersection of the Memphis & Charleston railroad and the Mobile & Ohio railroad which connected the Confederate States of America from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Each side recognized its significance. In a telegram to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in May of 1862, Union General W.H. Halleck expressed the importance of Corinth: "Richmond and Corinth are now the great strategical points of war, and our success at these points should be insured at all hazards," the telegram read.

Mr. Speaker, the Battle of Corinth also involved one of the first uses of "earthworks" as part of modern warfare. These trenches, which would later be used extensively in World Wars I and II, are considered to be among the largest and best-preserved fortification groups in the nation but are in danger of being lost forever.

Sites such as the Corinth battlefield are far too important to be known only through history books. We need places where Americans can come and see history right before their eyes. Although the Corinth Battlefield has been designated as a National Historic Landmark, it is still considered a "Civil War Landmark At

Risk" by the Civil War Site Advisory Commission.

For over one hundred years, the United States Congress has advanced the idea that our national interest is best served by preserving America's historic treasures, not only by ensuring the proper interpretation of important historic events, but also the places and properties where important military milestones occurred.

Mr. Speaker, this outstanding preservation effort would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of Mrs. Rosemary Williams and the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, along with the people of Corinth, and Alcorn County, Mississippi. This bipartisan bill is widely supported by local, state, regional, and national preservation organizations. We must take this necessary step to protect our heritage so that generations to come can gain an understanding of the struggles of our great nation. Events such as the Siege and Battle of Corinth have helped shape our American democracy and have transformed our diverse states and citizens into a united and prosperous nation, better prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

I urge my colleagues to support the Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1117.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS MEMORIAL

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4957) to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the legislative authority for the Black Patriots Foundation to establish a commemorative work.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4957

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

SECTION 1. BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS MEMORIAL.

Section 506 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 1003 note; 110 Stat. 4155) is amended by striking "2000" and inserting "2005".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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