

Clark's determined leadership that led his men through this incredible mid-winter journey.

Once arriving in Vincennes on February 23, 1779, Clark and his men forced the British to surrender just 2 days later on February 25, 1779. As a result of Clark's outstanding military achievements, the British ceded a vast area of land to the United States, which is now Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and a portion of Minnesota. His actions were paramount in the establishment of the upper Midwest.

The designation of the George Rogers Clark Trail would pay homage to an American hero who is seldom recognized for his contributions in American history. The designation would also promote tourism in three of Illinois' State historic sites and draw visitors to retrace Clark's historic path. Tourism is a growing and very important industry in southern Illinois, and establishing a national trail would be highly beneficial to the region.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to join me in authorizing a study to designate the route of George Rogers Clark during the Revolutionary War for potential addition to the National Trails System, and I thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member for bringing this legislation to the floor today.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to point out that our side pronounced the names correctly.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1963.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. 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 material in the RECORD on the four bills just considered, S. 1857, H.R. 1870, H.R. 1883, and H.R. 1963.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HUNTING SEASONS FOR MIGRATORY MOURNING DOVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER). Pursuant to House Resolution 353 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 concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 275.

□ 1319

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 concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 275) expressing the sense of the Congress that hunting seasons for migratory mourning doves should be modified so that individuals have a fair and equitable opportunity to hunt such birds, with Mr. SHIMKUS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Under the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) each will control 30 minutes.

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

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

As the author of H. Con. Res. 275, I am pleased to present this legislation to provide badly needed relief to millions of dove hunters throughout the United States.

Mourning doves are the most widely distributed and harvested game bird in North America. Dove hunting is a cherished and honored tradition in this country. Dove hunters pay millions of dollars in excise taxes each year that are deposited in the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund. These monies are used to acquire and manage thousands of acres of critical wetlands that provide essential habitat for many species of migratory birds.

Under current law, the hunting season for doves and all migratory bird games is September 1 to March 10 of each year. I am not aware of the rationale for these arbitrary dates and there is little, if any, discussion as to why that period was selected. While these dates may be fine for dove hunters in Southern California, they have a long-term negative impact on sportsmen in dozens of northern States. In fact, because of rapidly changing weather conditions, it is not unusual to have a dove hunting that lasts less than a week or even just a day in States like Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, et cetera.

Furthermore, this is not simply a western States problem. I have been told that even States like Maryland have a very short dove hunting season.

The goal of this legislation is to allow all hunters a fair and equal opportunity to pursue doves. Under the

terms of this resolution, the Bush administration would be asked to begin discussions with the other signatories of the Migratory Bird Treaty with the goal of moving the season up from September 1 to the last week of August. Thirty-four northern States would be eligible for this earlier opening in the dove season.

I have been advised by wildlife biologists that the last week of August is the traditional week that doves are not sitting on their nests, and that by advancing the hunting season it would not have an adverse effect on migratory dove populations. In addition, game managers will be free to update any regulations necessary to allow for a lengthened season and this legislation would not affect those States that do not have a dove hunting season.

This measure is supported by a number of conservation organizations, including the Grand National Waterfowl Association, Quail Unlimited, Safari Club International, and the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance.

In summary, all hunters should have an equitable chance to harvest this tasty but apparently thin-skinned little bird. This is a common-sense solution to a problem that has frustrated northern hunters for years.

I urge an "aye" vote so that all hunters can have an equal shot.

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

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

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, neither myself nor the ranking Democratic member of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), have objected to H. Con. Res. 275. The nonbinding resolution of the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), chairman of the committee, seeks to expand the hunting season for mourning doves in the United States.

As I have stated during consideration of the resolution in the Committee on Resources and again at yesterday's meeting of the Committee on Rules, the nonbinding context of the resolution does not make this a contentious matter at all.

Nevertheless, if a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, I think it is worth repeating that even if this legislation were to pass, several important issues would have to be addressed nationally and internationally before the intent of the resolution becomes reality. Amending the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the underlying Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds would not be routine. In fact, no one should underestimate the potential difficulties.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the underlying Convention agreed to by the United States and Great Britain in 1916 are two of our Nation's earliest and most enduring conservation agreements; and, as I have

noted in previous discussion, the Convention and MBTA has been amended only once since 1916, and that change was to allow for the subsistence taking of birds and eggs in Alaska and northern Canada. Additionally, that amendment was agreed to only after 20 years of negotiation.

Opening the Migratory Bird Convention on the MBTA amendment for amendment for a single species would require the administration, the States, and our international partners to investigate the status of the entire continental mourning doves population. No one disputes that the population of mourning doves remains abundant across its range, and for many people, including hunters, that is indeed good news, because the bird is a species favored by sportsmen and women.

If time had been available, I would have preferred for the Committee on Resources to look into this issue a little bit more. However, this is just the type of critical biological question I am sure the Flyway Councils will want to investigate before recommending any action which could conceivably impact the population in a negative way.

There are other administrative and social considerations, but, frankly, there is little need to belabor the point.

In closing, I want to reiterate that I am supportive of H. Con. Res. 275, and I urge other Members to keep in mind the nonbinding nature of this resolution.

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

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Housing Concurrent Resolutions 275.

For thousands of years before the first Europeans set foot on the continent of North America on the East Coast of Florida in 1513, Native Americans were already the great hunters and stewards of the New World that was to become America. They hunted, gathered and farmed as a way of life, which allowed them to live and prosper long before the great societies of Europe began to flourish. The native tribes of Florida fished in the great bays and estuaries, such as Tampa Bay, and hunted in the vast swamps and prairies up and down the Manatee River where Hernando De Soto landed to embark on the exploration of the new continent of America. The Native Floridian way of life depended on the game they hunted, the fish they caught and the crops they could grow. They only harvested what they needed and never took from the wild more than they could use. This was the birth of the American hunting tradition of being a steward of game and wildlife while engaging in the sport of hunting.

When Florida was acquired by the United States in 1821, Florida pioneering families, affectionately called "Crackers" for the sound their whips made when driving cattle, came to settle on the vast Florida peninsula to stake out a claim for a new life. They depended on the abundance of wildlife to support themselves and their growing families. What the Native Floridians taught the Florida pioneers was the same lesson that was taught to the Pilgrims at Plymouth hundreds of years ear-

lier; the reward of being good stewards of the land.

These basic truths, passed down through so many generations of Americans, Native and immigrant alike, are the values of stewardship and sportsmanship involved in hunting. The stewardship of the game populations that provide a bounty of food and sport is crucial in the survival of many game animal species. The gains achieved in the scientific management of game species can be linked to the efforts of hunters to maintain the populations and quality of the game they hunt. Populations of game animals have more than flourished through proper game management by concerned and devoted hunters. The populations of deer and turkey alone are far greater now at the beginning of this century than they ever were at the beginning of the last.

It is in a hunter's best interest to maintain game populations so that they may continue to practice the tradition they love. Licensed game hunters are deeply involved in game management on many levels. They pay taxes on their arms and ammunition, stamps and permits; funds that all go to help protect and maintain the sport that they hold so dear to their hearts. The rules and code that today's sportsmen follow, serve to protect and improve the quality of game species for generations to come.

In honor of the men, women and youth who continue to practice the time honored American tradition of hunting I urge the support of this legislation.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, this Member wishes to state for the RECORD that had there been a recorded vote on H. Con. Res. 275, he would have voted "nay" based on the concerns expressed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

According to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, dove populations have been declining and biologists are concerned that lengthening the hunting season could be detrimental. Also, many fledgling doves are still in nets around the time of the opening of the current annual hunting season. Extension of the hunting season could have an adverse effect on fledgling survival rates. It appears that further study is needed before a change such as this is made.

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the concurrent resolution is considered read for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The text of House Concurrent Resolution 275 is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 275

Whereas the vast majority of mourning doves that hatch, fledge, and nest in States north of 37 degrees north latitude migrate south beyond the boundaries of those States before the national hunting season opening date of September 1, thus denying hunters in those States an equitable opportunity to harvest this species;

Whereas mourning doves are the most widely distributed and harvested game birds in North America;

Whereas current regulated hunting for mourning doves has been conclusively found to cause no significant effects on recruit-

ment of fledglings in mourning dove populations;

Whereas sportsmen have a strong commitment to the health, conservation, and enjoyment of wildlife, as demonstrated by the millions of dollars they have voluntarily paid over the past 70 years into the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund established by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.);

Whereas mourning dove hunting has been a cherished and honored tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas migratory bird hunters provide millions of dollars to wildlife conservation and local economies; and

Whereas millions of hunters in States north of 37 degrees north latitude are currently unable to experience hunting conditions similar to conditions in other regions of the country with respect to game availability because of the current unfair hunting season restrictions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that, to provide a fair and equitable opportunity for individuals to hunt for mourning doves—

(1) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 should be modified to allow for mourning dove hunting during the last week of August in areas north of 37 degrees north latitude, as approved by the parties to the appropriate international agreement;

(2) such an extended hunting season will—

(A) improve hunting opportunities in the United States without causing negative impacts on mourning dove populations;

(B) through the sale of hunting permits, generate additional revenue that may be used for the better management and conservation of mourning doves and other wildlife species; and

(C) continue to provide for the conservation and enhancement of mourning dove populations;

(3) the United States should take immediate steps to begin discussions with the appropriate parties to ensure that all Americans have an opportunity to harvest migratory mourning doves in an equitable manner; and

(4) hunters in all States located north of 37 degrees north latitude and the wildlife management agencies of those States should support an earlier opening date for the mourning dove hunting season.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. During consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

Are there any amendments to the text of the concurrent resolution?

Are there any amendments to the preamble of the concurrent resolution?

If not, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER) having assumed the chair, Mr. LAHOOD, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 275) expressing the sense of the Congress that hunting seasons for migratory mourning doves should be modified so that individuals have a fair and equitable opportunity to hunt

such birds, pursuant to House Resolution 353, he reported the concurrent resolution back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 275, the concurrent resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA AND ITS EFFORTS TO COUNTER THREATS FROM U.S.-DESIGNATED FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 358) expressing support for the democratically elected Government of Colombia and its efforts to counter threats from United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 358

Whereas the democratically elected Government of Colombia, led by President Andres Pastrana, is the legitimate authority in the oldest representative democracy in South America;

Whereas the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, is required to designate as foreign terrorist organizations those groups whose activities threaten the security of United States nationals or the national security interests of the United States pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

Whereas the Secretary of State has designated three Colombian terrorist groups as foreign terrorist organizations, including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), and the National Liberation Army (ELN);

Whereas all three United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations regularly engage in criminal acts, including murder, kidnapping, and extortion perpetrated against Colombian civilians, government officials, security forces, and against foreign nationals, including United States citizens;

Whereas the FARC is holding five Colombian legislators, a presidential candidate, and Colombian police and army officers and soldiers as hostages and has recently escalated bombings against civilian targets, including a foiled attempt to destroy the city of Bogota's principal water reservoir;

Whereas, according to the Colombian Government, the FARC has received training in terrorist techniques and technology from foreign nationals;

Whereas, since 1992, United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations in Co-

lombia have committed serious crimes against United States citizens, kidnapping more than 50 Americans and murdering at least ten Americans;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration believes that members of the FARC and the AUC directly engage in narcotics trafficking;

Whereas individual members of Colombia's security forces have collaborated with illegal paramilitary organizations by, inter alia, in some instances allowing such organizations to pass through roadblocks, sharing tactical information with such organizations, and providing such organizations with supplies and ammunition;

Whereas while the Colombian Government has made progress in its efforts to combat and capture members of illegal paramilitary organizations and taken positive steps to break links between individual members of the security forces and such organizations, further steps by the Colombian Government are warranted;

Whereas in 1998 Colombian President Andres Pastrana began exhaustive efforts to negotiate a peace agreement with the FARC and implemented extraordinary confidence-building measures to advance these negotiations, including establishing a 16,000-square-mile safe haven for the FARC;

Whereas the Government of Colombia has also undertaken substantial efforts to negotiate a peace agreement with the ELN;

Whereas the United States has consistently supported the Government of Colombia's protracted efforts to negotiate a peace agreement with the FARC and supports the Government of Colombia in its continuing efforts to reach a negotiated agreement with the ELN;

Whereas the United States would welcome a negotiated, political solution to end the violence in Colombia;

Whereas, after the FARC hijacked a commercial airplane and took Colombian Senator Jorge Eduardo Gechem Turbay as a hostage into the government-created safe haven, President Pastrana ended his government's sponsorship of the peace negotiations with the FARC and ordered Colombia's security forces to re-establish legitimate governmental control in the safe haven;

Whereas President Pastrana has received strong expressions of support from foreign governments and international organizations for his decision to end the peace talks and dissolve the FARC's safe haven; and

Whereas the Government of Colombia's negotiations with the ELN are continuing despite the end of the negotiations with the FARC: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives—

(A) expresses its support for the democratically elected Government of Colombia and the Colombian people as they strive to protect their democracy from terrorism and the scourge of illicit narcotics; and

(B) deplors the continuing criminal terrorist acts of murder, abduction, and extortion carried out by all United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations in Colombia against United States citizens, the civilian population of Colombia, and Colombian authorities; and

(2) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the President, without undue delay, should transmit to Congress for its consideration proposed legislation, consistent with United States law regarding the protection of human rights, to assist the Government of Colombia protect its democracy from United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations and the scourge of illicit narcotics; and

(3) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of State

should designate a high-ranking official to coordinate all United States assistance to the Government of Colombia to ensure clarity of United States policy and the effective delivery of United States support.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution. In our ongoing war on terrorism, we have an extremely volatile situation in our own hemisphere that cannot be ignored any longer: the threat against democracy in Colombia.

Colombia has been beset by many years of violence that have culminated in numerous terrorist attacks in the past month. This oldest representative democracy in South America is under attack as we speak by terrorists known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, otherwise known as the FARC, another violent left-wing group, the National Liberation Army, known also by its Spanish acronym ELN, and illegal right-wing paramilitary groups. The Secretary of State has designated all three groups as foreign terrorist organizations that threaten the security of the United States and our citizens.

□ 1330

These groups regularly engage in criminal acts, such as murder, kidnapping, extortion and narcotics trafficking. They are currently holding captive dozens of Colombian security force officers, soldiers and civilians. The FARC and the ELN have kidnapped more than 50 Americans and have murdered 10 of our citizens.

Colombian President Pastrana invested his presidency, indeed his entire political fortune, in an attempt to negotiate peace with the FARC for the past 4 years. This protracted peace process ended February 20 when the FARC hijacked a commercial airliner and kidnapped a prominent Colombian senator, the leader of the Colombian Senate Peace Commission. The senator is now the fifth legislator being held captive by the FARC.

On that same day, President Pastrana ordered the Colombian military into the 16,000 square mile demilitarized zone that he ceded to the FARC in his efforts to negotiate peace. Since that time, the FARC has waged even more bloody terrorism against the Colombian Government, its democratic