

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.

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#### 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