

The River Raisin Battle is still the bloodiest battle ever in Michigan, and was the most violent battle on continental U.S. soil outside of the Civil War. It is an important episode in American history that needs to be recognized.

Since 1813, the site of the battle and massacre has been encroached upon increasingly by the town of Monroe. What was once a small farming settlement is now a bustling city.

Homes have been built where the American soldiers crossed the river. A factory, at one time, operated on the site; buildings were built and later torn down. Now, most of the land where the battle took place is in the possession of the City of Monroe and they want to make sure that it is protected for all Americans to visit.

The State of Michigan has provided \$1 million for Brownfield redevelopment and rehabilitation of the site. The City of Monroe and the Monroe County Historical Society have each pledged \$35,000 for the creation of a master plan for the entire battlefield site, and they will soon be applying for a Battlefield Protection Grant through the National Park Service.

A citizens' group has also formed to guide the development of the battlefield, raise funds for historic preservation and develop educational programs.

I am confident that the energy and commitment of the community would make this a wise inclusion into our National Park system.

I can think of no better way to honor the hundreds who gave their lives at the River Raisin than to make the site a permanent memorial to their bravery and sacrifice.

We need to do this in order to protect an important piece of our Nation's heritage.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5132, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL STUDY ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1796) to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico for study for potential addition to the National Trails System as a national scenic trail, national historic trail, or both, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1796

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 "Mississippi River Trail Study Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ROUTE OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER FOR STUDY FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the first paragraph after paragraph (40) as paragraph (41) and, in such paragraph, by striking "The" and inserting "LONG WALK TRAIL.—The";

(2) by redesignating the second paragraph after paragraph (40) as paragraph (42); and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(43) MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL.—The route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico."

(b) RELATION TO OTHER STUDIES.—The study required by the amendment made by this section is intended to complement, and not duplicate, other studies of the scenic or historical importance of the Mississippi River that may be underway or undertaken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

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

H.R. 1796 would designate the route of the Mississippi River for study as a potential addition to the National Trails System as a national scenic trail, national historic trail or both. The route would stretch from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

Establishing a national trail along the river will connect the nearly 40 existing public land units on or very near the river which includes national forests, national parks, and wildlife refuges.

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

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

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, Representative BETTY MCCOLLUM is to be commented for her foresight in introducing this legislation and her diligence in working to get her bill to the floor today.

The importance of the mighty Mississippi in her district and all along its route as it bisects this country before reaching the Gulf of Mexico can never be overstated.

I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1796.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to my friend and our colleague from St. Paul, Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Guam, a fellow alumni from the College of St. Catherine's located in St. Paul, Minnesota, on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1796, the Mississippi River Trail

Study Act, which will help connect America and Americans in the future to the Mississippi River and focus attention on its incredible natural resource.

The Mississippi River Trail Study Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study examining the feasibility and the suitability of including the Mississippi corridor in our National Trails System.

This study will be an important step towards coordinating the public and private amenities along the river, preserving its natural treasures, and recognizing the Mississippi's historic and cultural values for our country.

This will be the first time the Mississippi River corridor is considered for inclusion in our National Park System, and it should be for, after all, the Mississippi River is America's river.

On its journey from Lake Itasca in my home State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi River touches 10 States.

□ 1515

It shapes the everyday life for more than 11 million Americans living in communities along its banks and contributes to the enjoyment of millions of domestic and international tourists who visit the Mississippi River attractions each year.

The mighty Mississippi continues to be a working river, moving goods safely and inexpensively along America's natural artery of commerce.

The Mississippi River Trail Study Act is supported by local and multi-state groups. For example, the Mississippi Parkway Commission, the Audubon Minnesota and the Mississippi River Trail Corporation have offered to help the National Park Service complete the study by contributing data, local contacts and other tangible forms of assistance, and these are just a few of the examples that the Park Service can expect all up and down the Mississippi River corridor.

The Park Service said, with this help and cooperation from groups, they will be able to save time and money in completing the study.

In the past, the Mississippi River has been a powerful story line in America's narrative. Today, the River continues to shape our identity, strengthen our economy, and its beauty continues to be breathtaking. The Mississippi River a national treasure, deserving consideration authorized by this legislation.

Once again, I thank my colleagues from Guam and New Mexico for helping with the floor debate.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MCCOLLUM for her remarks. I have no further speakers.

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

Mr. PEARCE. 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 Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1796.

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.

**PIEDRAS BLANCAS HISTORIC
LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING
NATURAL AREA ACT OF 2005**

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3534) to designate the Piedras Blancas Light Station and the surrounding public land as an Outstanding Natural Area to be administered as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows

H.R. 3534

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2005”.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

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

(2) **LIGHT STATION.**—The term “Light Station” means Piedras Blancas Light Station.

(3) **PUBLIC LANDS.**—The term “public lands” has the meaning stated in section 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1703(e)).

(4) **OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.**—The term “Outstanding Natural Area” means the Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural Area established pursuant to section 3.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) The publicly owned Piedras Blancas Light Station has nationally recognized historical structures that should be preserved for present and future generations.

(2) The coastline adjacent to the Light Station is internationally recognized as having significant wildlife and marine habitat that provides critical information to research institutions throughout the world.

(3) The Light Station tells an important story about California’s coastal prehistory and history in the context of the surrounding region and communities.

(4) The coastal area surrounding the Light Station was traditionally used by Indian people, including the Chumash and Salinan Indian tribes.

(5) The Light Station is historically associated with the nearby world-famous Hearst Castle (Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument), now administered by the State of California.

(6) The Light Station represents a model partnership where future management can be successfully accomplished among the Federal Government, the State of California, San Luis Obispo County, local communities, and private groups.

(7) Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural Area would make a significant addition to the National Landscape Conservation System administered by the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management.

(8) Statutory protection is needed for the Light Station and its surrounding Federal lands to ensure that it remains a part of our historic, cultural, and natural heritage and to be a source of inspiration for the people of the United States.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS HISTORIC LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to protect, conserve, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the unique and nationally important historical, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic, and recreational values of certain lands in and around the Piedras Blancas Light Station, in San Luis Obispo County, California, while allowing certain recreational and research activities to continue, there is established, subject to valid existing rights, the Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural Area.

(b) **MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**—The boundaries of the Outstanding Natural Area as those shown on the map entitled “Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station: Outstanding Natural Area”, dated May 5, 2004, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director, Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of the Interior, and the State office of the Bureau of Land Management in the State of California.

(c) **BASIS OF MANAGEMENT.**—The Secretary shall manage the Outstanding Natural Area as part of the National Landscape Conservation System to protect the resources of the area, and shall allow only those uses that further the purposes for the establishment of the Outstanding Natural Area, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other applicable laws.

(d) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, and in accordance with the existing withdrawal as set forth in Public Land Order 7501 (Oct. 12, 2001, Vol. 66, No. 198, Federal Register 52149), the Federal lands and interests in lands included within the Outstanding Natural Area are hereby withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the public land mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws and the mineral materials laws.

SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT OF THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS HISTORIC LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall manage the Outstanding Natural Area in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the unique and nationally important historical, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic, and recreational values of that area, including an emphasis on preserving and restoring the Light Station facilities, consistent with the requirements section 3(c).

(b) **USES.**—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall only allow such uses of the Outstanding Natural Area as the Secretary finds are likely to further the purposes for which the Outstanding Natural Area is established as set forth in section 3(a).

(c) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a comprehensive management plan consistent with the requirements of section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) to provide long-term management guidance for the public lands within the Outstanding Natural Area and fulfill the purposes for which it is estab-

lished, as set forth in section 3(a). The management plan shall be developed in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, and local government agencies, with full public participation, and the contents shall include—

(1) provisions designed to ensure the protection of the resources and values described in section 3(a);

(2) objectives to restore the historic Light Station and ancillary buildings;

(3) an implementation plan for a continuing program of interpretation and public education about the Light Station and its importance to the surrounding community;

(4) a proposal for minimal administrative and public facilities to be developed or improved at a level compatible with achieving the resources objectives for the Outstanding Natural Area as described in subsection (a) and with other proposed management activities to accommodate visitors and researchers to the Outstanding Natural Area; and

(5) cultural resources management strategies for the Outstanding Natural Area, prepared in consultation with appropriate departments of the State of California, with emphasis on the preservation of the resources of the Outstanding Natural Area and the interpretive, education, and long-term scientific uses of the resources, giving priority to the enforcement of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.) and the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) within the Outstanding Natural Area.

(d) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—In order to better implement the management plan and to continue the successful partnerships with the local communities and the Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies pursuant to section 307(b) of the Federal Land Management Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1737(b)).

(e) **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.**—In order to continue the successful partnership with research organizations and agencies and to assist in the development and implementation of the management plan, the Secretary may authorize within the Outstanding Natural Area appropriate research activities for the purposes identified in section 3(a) and pursuant to section 307(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1737(a)).

(f) **ACQUISITION.**—State and privately held lands or interests in lands adjacent to the Outstanding Natural Area and identified as appropriate for acquisition in the management plan may be acquired by the Secretary as part of the Outstanding Natural Area only by—

(1) donation;

(2) exchange with a willing party; or

(3) purchase from a willing seller.

(g) **ADDITIONS TO THE OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.**—Any lands or interest in lands adjacent to the Outstanding Natural Area acquired by the United States after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be added to and administered as part of the Outstanding Natural Area.

(h) **OVERFLIGHTS.**—Nothing in this Act or the management plan shall be construed to—

(1) restrict or preclude overflights, including low level overflights, military, commercial, and general aviation overflights that can be seen or heard within the Outstanding Natural Area;

(2) restrict or preclude the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace or the establishment of military flight training routes over the Outstanding Natural Area; or