

caused a significant drop in public attendance at the Smithsonian facilities, which has only recently begun to bounce back. Many believe the Institution has become too closely identified with donors and corporate sponsors of its buildings and activities, which threatens its reputation for independence.

Mr. Speaker, the House Administration Committee thought long and hard about whether it would be appropriate to replace some members of the Board of Regents. In prior years, the committee had essentially rubber-stamped appointment recommendations from the board, and candidates seeking a second term routinely received it. This year, two citizens regents are seeking reappointment, including Mr. Sant, and two additional seats will be filled by new members who have who not yet been recommended to us. So there is a process of natural rotation.

We ultimately decided to give the board more time to implement the promising reforms recommended both by its Governance Committee and the Independent Review Committee. The committee expects the board to appoint a secretary who will be fully responsive to the board and protect the values the American public has expected of the Smithsonian.

As part of the process of considering this joint resolution, committee members met with Mr. Sant 2 weeks ago to hear his views about recent events in the Smithsonian and assessment of the pace of the ongoing reforms at the Institution. We were cautiously optimistic that the board is on the right track. Mr. Sant has broad understanding of the Smithsonian operation and its past flaws, and we believe he can make a useful contribution to the restructuring of the board.

He also informed the committee that he is not running for the new and enhanced position of chairman of the board, which is expected to be created January 2008 as one of the principal reform recommendations. We think the new occupant of this position should bring a fresh perspective of the management of the board's affairs.

For these reasons, we have decided to recommend Mr. Sant's reappointment to the board for a second 6-year term and urge his approval by the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the House Administration Committee, I am pleased to support S.J. Res. 7, a bill that allows for the reappointment of Roger Sant as a citizen regent of the Smithsonian Institution.

Several other members of the Committee on House Administration and I had the opportunity recently to meet with Mr. Sant and discuss the road ahead for the Smithsonian in this time of change and opportunity, and also to discuss the mistakes of the past. Mr. Sant assured me that, with his re-

appointment, he would do his part to ensure that the "Nation's attic," which is the common name for the Smithsonian, is not being looted by those who have put personal gain above the interests of the Institution.

In the last Congress, this committee conducted an oversight hearing into Smithsonian Business Ventures in what would turn out to be a prophetic concern about the museum's financial operations. While my colleague Chairman BRADY and I are committed to continuing vigorous oversight of the Smithsonian, an effective and engaged Board of Regents is an essential first line of defense in ensuring that we do not experience a repeat of those problems that plagued the immediate past president of the Smithsonian.

I am confident, based on the statements made by Mr. Sant, that he is committed to earning back the trust of the Congress and the American people regarding the board's role of safeguarding our Nation's most treasured assets and ensuring proper governance of the Smithsonian and all its different enterprises.

I appreciate the leadership given by the chairman of this committee, Mr. BRADY, and the way he has taken hold of this issue, among others, and I am pleased to join him in approving this resolution.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the reappointment of Roger Sant to the Smithsonian Board of Regents.

I am a new member of the Board of Regents since January. And although the past eleven months have been challenging for the Smithsonian . . . this period of transition will result in a new Secretary, an improved governance structure and a stronger relationship with Congress and the American people. I believe that much of the changes can be attributed to Mr. Sant's leadership during this time.

In March, Mr. Sant led the effort to create both an Independent Review Committee, headed by Chuck Bowsher, formerly the Comptroller General of the United States . . . and an internal Governance Committee, on which I serve.

As a result of both of the committees' work, the Regents adopted a comprehensive set of governance reforms, comprised of 25 specific changes in June, 2007. In broad terms, these reforms will ensure that the Board of Regents and the Secretary of the Smithsonian work together in a constructive partnership, and will improve the Smithsonian's culture of accountability and transparency. To date, eleven of these 25 reforms have been implemented in whole or in part, and the remainder will be implemented by May, 2008.

Additionally, Mr. Sant serves on the new Facilities Revitalization Committee. The Committee is addressing shortfalls in funding for Smithsonian facilities revitalization and maintenance, estimated to require \$1 billion above current funding levels over the next ten years. The Regents are hard at work developing a plan to fund this shortfall and return the Smithsonian's museums and other facilities to the condition expected by the American public.

My colleagues and I on the Board of Regents are fully committed to ensuring that the Institution operates at the highest level of in-

tegrity and transparency. Mr. Sant has been involved at every level of reform and has done a tremendous amount of work, as have my fellow Regents. The Board is guided by the same principals that guide our work in Congress . . . operating as a public trust . . . following only the highest ethical standards . . . and conducting business with an increased ethos of transparency.

The Board's accomplishments during these few months are notable, as are its plans for future improvements. The Board of Regents is currently conducting a search for a new Secretary, and is still in the midst of a thorough and thoughtful process to reform its governance structure. We have the momentum and the dedication from the Board Members and need to be able to continue our work.

I applaud Chairman BRADY and Ranking Member EHLERS for moving Mr. Sant's reappointment at this time. And for their continued commitment to the betterment of the Institution.

Let me conclude by saying that each year, over 25 million visitors come to the Smithsonian. The National Collections, containing over 135 million items, are cared for, displayed, and made available for research by this beloved institution.

The Smithsonian faces many challenges as it pursues its mission for "the increase and diffusion of knowledge." While the Board works to find a new Secretary, institute governance reforms and address facilities needs . . . the Smithsonian continues to mount world-class exhibitions and conduct cutting-edge research in science, history, art, and culture.

The Smithsonian offers a uniquely American experience to all of our constituents when they come to the nation's capitol. Mr. Sant's dedication and commitment to the Smithsonian benefit us all.

I would urge my colleagues to support his reappointment to ensure that all of the reforms that he has helped to implement are executed in a prompt and timely manner. I thank him for his leadership during this period of transition.

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

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no further 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 7.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO PUBLIC LAW 109-116

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2206) to provide technical corrections to Public Law 109-116 (2 U.S.C. 2131a note) to extend the time period for the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2206

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

SECTION 1. ROSA PARKS STATUE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1(a) of Public Law 109-116 (2 U.S.C. 2131a note) is amended by—

(1) striking “2 years” and inserting “4 years”; and

(2) adding at the end the following: “The Joint Committee may authorize the Architect of the Capitol to enter into the agreement and related contracts required under this subsection on its behalf, under such terms and conditions as the Joint Committee may require.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of Public Law 109-116.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD and include extraneous matter.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will provide technical corrections to Public Law 109-116 to extend the time period for the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue honoring Rosa Parks, and for other purposes.

In November of 2005, this House passed Public Law 109-116, then H.R. 4145, which provided for the placement of a statue of Rosa Parks in the National Statuary Hall. Due to technical drafting errors, we failed to provide the Architect of the Capitol with the resources necessary to acquire such a statue.

The original bill set a deadline of December 1, 2007, for acquisition of the statue, and S. 2206 would extend the deadline for 2 years. Further, the bill authorizes the Architect of the Capitol to enter into any agreement or contract necessary to have the statue rendered.

It is imperative that we honor the memory of Rosa Parks in Statuary Hall as soon as possible. The House is in agreement today, as it was 2 years ago, that this is long overdue. Her contributions to the civil rights movement and to the historical record of this country deserve to be reflected in Statuary Hall.

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

□ 1600

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2206, which will extend the time period for the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks.

A tireless advocate for equality, Rosa Parks is best remembered for a single act of civil disobedience that would change the history of our Nation. By refusing to move to the back of the bus in her native Alabama, to make room for white passengers, Mrs. Parks ignited passions on both sides of the civil rights movement. This led to the Montgomery bus boycott and helped to elevate the work of another great American of the civil rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as an august Member of this body, Congressman John Lewis, who also participated and played a leading role in some of the demonstrations of that time.

Even in her passing, Rosa Parks was a trailblazer as the first woman and only the second African American to lie in state in the Capitol rotunda.

I am especially pleased to speak on her behalf since she decided to take up residence in Michigan for the remainder of her life after she had gone through various demonstrations and activities surrounding her initial act of defiance. She was a distinguished citizen of our State, and in fact we recently dedicated a new park in downtown Grand Rapids in her honor. It is named the Rosa Parks Park.

By extending the time period to procure a statue of Mrs. Parks, this bill will allow the Joint Committee on the Library to delegate the administration of the statue selection process to the Architect of the Capitol. The JCL was not designed for, nor is it equipped, to run an arts competition. Allowing the Architect of the Capitol to administer the competition process will ensure that the statue selected is a fitting tribute to this marvelous civil rights pioneer.

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

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for such time as he may consume.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2206, a bill that simply provides technical corrections to Public Law 109-116.

This legislation authorizes the Architect of the Capitol to enter into agreement on behalf of the Joint Committee of the Library to acquire a statue of Mrs. Rosa Parks. It also extends the time period for that agreement by 2 years.

In 2005, it was my privilege to introduce this very important legislation with Senator JOHN KERRY and Senator MITCH MCCONNELL of the other body to honor the life and work of the late Mrs. Rosa Parks by placing a statue in National Statuary Hall.

Everyone knows the story of how Mrs. Parks helped spark the modern

civil rights movement when she refused to give up her seat on a legally segregated bus that fateful day, December 1, 1955, leading to the Montgomery bus boycott and the emergence of Martin Luther King, Jr.

From the beginning, Mrs. Parks led a life dedicated to social change, becoming an active member of the Montgomery, Alabama, chapter of the NAACP, which in the 1940s and 1950s was considered a dangerous organization. It could cost you your job. It could even cost you your life.

In 1943, along with the State president of the NAACP, she mobilized a historic voter registration drive in Montgomery and was later elected NAACP chapter secretary. Mrs. Parks was a courageous woman who possessed the firm and quiet strength necessary to challenge injustice.

Following the 1954 Brown Supreme Court decision which provided equal protection under the law's legal framework, her refusal to give up her seat eventually led to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the 1968 Open Housing Act, all of which helped make America better for all Americans.

Rosa Parks remained a committed activist until the end of her life. In the 1980s, she worked in support of the South Africa anti-apartheid movement. In Detroit with Congressman JOHN CONYERS in 1997, she founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, a career counseling center for African American youth.

With dignity, with grace and with courage, Rosa Parks inspired generations and helped to make the world a more just and compassionate place. In life she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999, the highest honors our Nation bestows on civilians.

This placing of a Rosa Parks statue in National Statuary Hall is a testament to the fact that the long arc of history bends towards freedom and justice and equality. When Statuary Hall was created by law in 1864, African Americans could not be citizens of the United States. Indeed, the term “African Americans” did not exist. Under that law it was impossible for us to be considered favorite sons or favorite daughters of States.

When Rosa Parks takes her place in National Statuary Hall, she takes with her Frederick Douglass. She takes with her the United States coloreds troops. She takes with her Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth. She takes them there. Indeed, she takes the legacy and history of redefining what it means to be an American for all Americans as she takes her place among the enormous statues that presently represent the various States within that great Hall.

She takes with her countless nameless people of African descent, who from slavery to today, sacrificed for an America many would never live to see.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose half statue is not in Statuary

Hall, would implore us, Now is the time.

I want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN for introducing this bill in the other body. I want to thank Matt McGowan and Khalil Abboud from the Joint Committee on the Library for diligently working to get this extension enacted into law. I want to thank Barbara Wolanin from the Architect of the Capitol's Office for working with all of us to make sure that the goals of my original bill are realized.

I want to thank Chairman BRADY and Ranking Member EHLERS for their sensitivity on this critical issue at this critical hour. And I want to thank in a special way our late Chair, Juanita Millender-McDonald, who worked with me tirelessly on this effort.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I might add that in the 13 years I have had the privilege of serving in this body, I have only missed two votes: one vote because my pager died and the battery did not forward my pager the power to let me know to vote; and the other vote was when I was on the other side of the aisle so overwhelmed by the number of Republicans who were willing to sign onto a Rosa Parks statue in Statuary Hall that the Democratic clerks could not find me to tell me to vote. I was overwhelmed by that occasion.

I am hoping, Mr. Speaker, that today Members of Congress will once again vote "aye" on S. 2206. I know of no American more worthy of an honor than the late Mrs. Rosa Parks.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, but I would like to close with a few additional comments.

First of all, I admire my colleague's voting record. It is a rare person who misses only two votes during 13 years.

But above all, I want to comment on a few things relating to Rosa Parks. First, what impresses me is how much one person who is determined to fight for what is right can accomplish. She was a marvelous person and stuck to her guns in tough situations, and she carried the day and inspired a lot of other people to carry the day.

The other factor is, as I look around the world today, and the United States especially, and compare that to the world before Rosa Parks, what a mammoth change we have undergone. But also as I look around, I still remember how much further we have to go. And let us always work in the spirit of Rosa Parks to destroy discrimination of all sorts and make certain that every American and in fact every citizen of this planet enjoys the freedom that we enjoy.

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

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would again like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for his participation and for his voting record also. And I thank my friend from Michigan, the ranking member, for all he has done. We have a great working relationship, and I

thank him for continuing that relationship.

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2206.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1833

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee) at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3685, EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-422) on the resolution (H. Res. 793) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3685) to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 3222, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII and by direction of the Committee on Appropriations, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3222) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. MURTHA, DICKS, VISLOSKEY, MORAN of Virginia, Ms. KAPTUR, Messrs. CRAMER, BOYD of Florida, ROTHMAN, BISHOP of Georgia, OBEY, YOUNG of Florida, HOBSON,

FRELINGHUYSEN, TIAHRT, WICKER, KINGSTON, and LEWIS of California.

There was no objection.

MOTION TO CLOSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON H.R. 3222, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008, WHEN CLASSIFIED NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, I move that meetings of the conference between the House and the Senate on H.R. 3222 be closed to the public at such times as classified national security information may be broached, providing that any sitting Member of the Congress shall be entitled to attend any meetings of the conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, the motion is not debatable and the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on permitting closed conference committee meetings on H.R. 3222 will be followed by 5-minute votes on motions to suspend the rules with regard to H.R. 513, by the yeas and nays, and H. Res. 744, by the yeas and nays.

The votes on H. Res. 379 and H. Con. Res. 236 will be taken later in the week.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 351, nays 0, not voting 81, as follows:

[Roll No. 1034]

YEAS—351

Abercrombie	Calvert	Dingell
Aderholt	Camp (MI)	Doggett
Allen	Campbell (CA)	Donnelly
Altmire	Cantor	Drake
Andrews	Capito	Dreier
Arcuri	Capps	Edwards
Baca	Capuano	Ehlers
Bachmann	Cardoza	Ellison
Bachus	Carnahan	Ellsworth
Baker	Carter	Emerson
Baldwin	Castle	Engel
Barrett (SC)	Castor	English (PA)
Barrow	Chabot	Eshoo
Bartlett (MD)	Chandler	Etheridge
Barton (TX)	Clarke	Everett
Becerra	Clay	Fallin
Berkley	Cleaver	Farr
Berry	Clyburn	Fattah
Biggert	Coble	Feeney
Bilbray	Cohen	Filner
Bilirakis	Cole (OK)	Fortenberry
Bishop (GA)	Conaway	Fossella
Bishop (NY)	Conyers	Foxx
Bishop (UT)	Cooper	Frank (MA)
Blackburn	Costa	Franks (AZ)
Blumenauer	Courtney	Frelinghuysen
Boehner	Cramer	Galleghy
Bonner	Crenshaw	Garrett (NJ)
Bono	Cuellar	Gerlach
Boozman	Culberson	Gilchrest
Boren	Davis (AL)	Gillibrand
Boucher	Davis (CA)	Gingrey
Boustany	Davis (KY)	Gonzalez
Boyd (FL)	Davis, David	Goode
Boyda (KS)	Davis, Lincoln	Goodlatte
Brady (PA)	Davis, Tom	Gordon
Brady (TX)	Deal (GA)	Granger
Broun (GA)	DeFazio	Graves
Brown (SC)	DeGette	Green, Al
Brown-Waite,	Delahunt	Green, Gene
Ginny	DeLauro	Grijalva
Buchanan	Dent	Hall (NY)
Burgess	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hall (TX)
Burton (IN)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hastings (FL)