There was no objection.

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

H. R. 2614, as introduced by our colleague, Representative KEN CALVERT, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial and technical assistance for new water recycling projects in Southern California. Funding these and other water recycling projects may be the only way that Southern California can protect itself from droughts.

Similar legislation passed the House in the two previous Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, we fully support this noncontroversial bill, and I ask that my colleagues join me in support of H. R. 2614.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. R. 2614, a bill sponsored by the former chairman of the Water and Power Subcommittee, Mr. CALVERT of California.

Since Southern California is dependent upon imported water, many communities are pursuing ways to develop local water supplies through water recycling. This bill will help the Yucaipa Valley and the town of Corona in California reduce their dependence on imported water through water recycling.

This bill, which is cosponsored by our distinguished colleague, JERRY LEWIS of California, will also help protect the Columbia. The black granite in the great hall is sandstone from Pennsylvania. The floor stone is marble from Tennessee and dolomite from Wisconsin.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING THAT THE GREAT HALL OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER SHALL BE KNOWN AS EMBARCADERO HALL

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H. R. 3315) to provide that the great hall in the Capitol Visitor Center shall be known as Embarcadero Hall.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 3315

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF GREAT HALL OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER AS "EMBARCADERO HALL".

(a) IN GENERAL—The great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center shall be known and designated as "Emancipation Hall", and any reference to the great hall in any law, rule, or regulation shall be deemed to be a reference to Emancipation Hall.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE—This section shall apply on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial bill, and I ask that my colleagues join me in support of H. R. 2614.

H. R. 3315 is a bill to designate the great hall located in the Capitol Visitor Center as "Emancipation Hall." Since its earliest beginnings, this extraordinary building that was called the Capitol, along with, of course, many other historical remnants, that did indicate that slaves worked on the original Capitol, is to finally acknowledge the efforts of slaves that helped build the Capitol, other Federal buildings, and the White House, which at the time was known as the President's House. Although the record was incomplete because of the overplantation of slave labor, the evidence available and historical context in the report provided several indications that slaves and freed African Americans played a significant role in building the physical symbols and the Capitol itself.

H. R. 3315 was introduced to acknowledge the work of many who were forced to work on building the U.S. Capitol. Mr. Speaker, I am a third-generation Washingtonian. My great grandfather, Richard Holmes, was a runaway slave from a plantation in Virginia. He arrived here in the 1850s, and that's how our family began here. He was freed in a congressional emancipation 9 months before the Emancipation Proclamation. This emancipation was a Civil War emancipation bill issued earlier than the more famous Emancipation Proclamation.

He worked on the streets of the capital. I have no evidence that he worked on the Capitol itself. Indeed, there was no mention of the work of slaves or African Americans on this Capitol even in official Capitol histories until recent decades.

The Capitol has stood for 212 years without even acknowledging, in some small way, perhaps a marker, something to indicate that slaves, many of them quite skilled because they were hired out as "hired Negroes" in order to bring in the greatest revenue to their slave owners, and therefore, it behooved him or her to hire out those Negro hires, as they were called, who could benefit the slave owner the most.

These are nameless African Americans. Nothing in the Emancipation Hall and nothing that we do now will make us understand who they are. The very least we can do, if we are adding to this Capitol, is to finally acknowledge their work in building this extraordinary building that was called from its earliest beginnings, the Temple of Liberty, or perhaps now that we have founded the great hall, it will be more worthy of that name.

When I visited the center, I was very impressed by it; but in the early days of its construction, I asked, How are you going to commemorate the fact that slaves worked on the original Capitol? And there was something, along with many other historical remnants, that did indicate that slaves had built or helped build the original Capitol, along with, of course, many working-class and skilled whites who participated in the effort. But that was going to be the sum total of it.

One of the difficulties that we have is how do you do something sizable in the history of our country that is large enough to encompass what we had not remembered for two centuries?

In my judgment, there is no place, there is no marker, there is no piece of ground that can adequately recognize and remember their contribution. And so we don't name a hall, we don't name a room, we don't have a statue. We say...
enter this space. When you enter this space, it will be called Emancipation Hall.

And in that way we will perhaps emancipate our Capitol from more than two centuries of ignoring the contribution of these slaves who helped build this majestic building.

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

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

H.R. 3315 provides that the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center be known as Emancipation Hall. The bill was introduced by Representative ZACH WAMP of Tennessee on August 2, 2007.

At nearly 580,000 square feet, the Capitol Visitor Center is the largest project undertaken by the Office of the Architect of the Capitol in the Capitol’s 212-year-old history. It is one of the most important projects since the extensions to the Capitol and the Dome were built more than 140 years ago. As an extension of the Capitol, the Capitol Visitor Center will welcome visitors to the seat of the American Government.

With the Capitol Visitor Center, the great hall is a large 20,000-square-foot room where visitors will gather as they enter the Capitol. This promising gathering space will serve as the gateway for the public’s experience of the Capitol and American democracy.

The Capitol Visitor Center will provide visitors to the Capitol the opportunity to learn about and more fully understand the Constitution, the Congress, and the history of the Capitol, including the contribution of slaves who helped build the Capitol and the country. It will help deepen the understanding of all who visit about our Nation’s long struggle with slavery and its ultimate abolition.

It is fitting and appropriate to recognize the seminal moment of the Emancipation Proclamation in American history. We should recognize the sacrifice and contribution of the many slaves who helped build the Capitol.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Let me express my great appreciation to the chairman and to the ranking member of this committee.

Today we have come to this temple of democracy on this momentous occasion to write a new chapter in the unfolding story of human freedom. The event of emancipation marks one of the most if not the most significant event in American history.

Emancipation was more than an act; it was a process. Emancipation was not a date but a period. Emancipation was not the fulfillment of providence that the arc of history may be long but it bends towards justice and human freedom.

When the American city war erupted, both North and South defended their causes as morally just, legally right, and constitutionally sound. Northerners and southerners saw themselves as the true Americans following in the tradition and the footsteps of the Founding Fathers. North and South used the Constitution as their source of moral and legal authority for conducting a war against each other. Both sides saw themselves as standing in the tradition of the Sanitary Fair in Baltimore on April 18, 1864, summed up the quandary.

He said, “We all declare for liberty; but in using the same word, we do not mean the same thing. With some the word ‘liberty’ means for each man to do as he pleases with himself and the product of his labor; while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men and the product of other men’s labor. Here are two not only different but incompatible things called by the same name: liberty. And it follows that each of these things is, by their respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names: liberty and tyranny.”

Today women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered Americans, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and students see in the word “liberty” one thing. Today for the Titans of Industry, it still means quite another. For the disposed, it means for each person to do with himself as they please. For the Titans, it means for them to do as they please with other men and the product of other men’s labor in the world.

As Lincoln said, “And it follows that each of the things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names: liberty and tyranny.”

That is why the efforts to name the great hall Liberty Hall will settle for some but still not settle for others the fundamental question of human freedom. For millions of Americans to pass through Emancipation Hall and not Liberty Hall is an important acknowledgment about the process for attaining human freedom in the American historical context.

Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate that the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. ZACH WAMP, offered this amendment, in conjunction with the gentleman from Illinois, to help establish a marker in the Capitol of the United States about the significant role that these Americans, these Africans, played in the process not only in constructing the temple of our democracy but in strengthening America.

Madam Chair, it is probably most appropriate that the Emancipation Hall designation be established during this Thanksgiving period, as the first Thanksgiving established by proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln was during the American Civil War. When President Lincoln, on October 3, 1863, looked out over a Nation torn by war, ravaged by internecine, intrafamily and interfamily struggles, and concluded that because of the extraordinary efforts of the North and South, men and women who thought their causes were just, that we needed a national day of thanks. And so on October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln affixed to a national proclamation a national day of thanks to say thank you for now until eternity for all of the blessings that have been bestowed upon our Nation.

Thanksgiving has a lot less to do. Mr. Speaker, with Pilgrims in 1620 and more to do with the emancipation of human freedom.

I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Lincoln understood for his time and ours that we must not be confused about the language and process of human freedom.

Much has been said about Lincoln and his ambivalence about emancipation. I believe when placed in context greater clarity emerges in Lincoln’s calculation of Emancipation.

In 1862, Lincoln’s announced support of colonization, along with his lack of public support for emancipation, was generating sometimes vicious attacks from militant abolitionists, including a “Prayer for Twenty Millions” editorial emancipation through the now defunct Horace Greeley’s New York Tribune. On August 22, a month after the private announcement to his cabinet on July 22 that he intended to issue an Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln replied to Greeley’s editorial with a masterfully written open letter.

If there be those who would not save the Union, unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount objective in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not, I hope, to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union, and what I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union. I shall do less whenever I shall believe what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do more whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause.

Lincoln was reiterating his central thesis, that the purpose of the war was preservation of the Union, but in light of the intransigence of the other three States, he was stating that he might have to do something more, including emancipation, to save the Union. In this open letter, Lincoln was saying “if,” but he had already concluded in his own mind “that” the only way to save the Union was to free the slaves.

After the emancipation proposal became public, Lincoln was sometimes ridiculed in political oratory and newspaper editorials about...
his Emancipation Proclamation, which would free the slaves only where the president had no power to do so—in the rebel southern States—but preserve the institution everywhere else. But Lincoln’s enemies either mis-understood the president, lacked his understanding of the Constitution or ignored his political strategy. As long as the Union, Lincoln had ad-
tional flexibility under the Constitution. Polit-
cally, he could sometimes get away with vio-
lating it by engaging in arbitrary arrests and suspending the writ of habeas corpus. On the question of ending slavery, however, Lincoln saw no such flexibility. His understanding of the Constitution committed him to acting within both it and the law, for neither had yet been changed. Under the Constitution, slavery was still legal in the United States.

On the first question, Lincoln and all Repub-
licans agreed that a Thirteenth Amendment outlawing slavery must be added to the Con-
titution. The Senate quickly passed such an amendment, but the House—which had gained thirty-four Democrats in the 1862 mid-
term elections—was opposed. Lincoln understood, if others didn’t, that issuing the Emancipation Proclamation would convert a struggling Union army, trying to hold a Nation together, into a liberation army to free the slaves. The newly freed slaves could help win the struggle by fighting alongside the Union soldiers. Of course, the liberation of slaves would happen only if the North won the war. Militant abolitionists still thought the proclama-
tion weak, southerners thought it an outrage, but most antiabolition advocates, both black and white, understood its revolutionary implications. All agreed that this one act changed the entire character of the war. It gave the war a moral purpose—human freedom—to bolster the political goal of saving the Union. And with such deep emotional power con-
demned the Confederacy to sure defeat.

The question now was, having transformed the conflict into a war of liberation, would the northern Union soldiers still fight? Some said no. “An Ohio Democrat amended the party’s slogan to proclaim, “the Constitution as it is, the Union as it was, the Niggers where they are.”” But Edward Everett of Massachusetts, editor, wrote a letter to Lincoln on Novem-
ber 13, 2007, urging him to the “day of our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival.” She wrote, “You may observe that for some years past, there has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs National recognition and authoritative fixa-
tion, only, to become permanently, an Ameri-
can custom and institution.” The document below sets apart the last Thursday of No-

November — a day of Thanksgiving and Praise.

According to an April 1, 1864, letter from John Nicolay, one of President Lincoln’s se-
cretaries, this document was written by Sec-

Covt. to the President: “The manu-

s secretary of State William Seward, and the original was in his handwriting. On October 30, 1863, Lincoln’s confidential aide, John Eldo-

Welles recorded in his diary that he complimented Seward on his work. A year later the manu-

script was sold to benefit Union troops.

By the President of the United States of A

PROCLAMATION

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot be left unacknowledged. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, it has pleased the Most High God, who, while dealing with the sin of this fearful conflagration, has yet preserved for Union.

The conclusion was that the Great Rebellion has already extended to the verge of the Mississippi, and is fast advancing upon this city. The shouts of victory are heard everywhere. The people are imbued with the spirit of the Times; and the public mind is full of the great events that are about to take place. The Union, strong as it is, and determined as it is, will ever be free, and no power on earth can destroy it.

The people are filled with the hope of success, and are ready to die in the cause of freedom. The Union is now in a state of preparation for the great struggle. The citizens of the North are resolved to give their lives and property for the preservation of the Constitution and the Union.

The President, therefore, does hereby appoint as the day of thanksgiving and Praise, the last Thursday of November, and do hereby recommend it to all the churches and churches of the United States, to be observed by solemn acts of thanksgiving, and to be followed by proper resolutions and measures for the promotion of public welfare.

Washington, D.C.,

October 3, 1863.
us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble hearts and contrite spirits, acknowledge and bewail our national indisposition to abide by His will and to walk in all His ways; that we may turn from our evil ways, humbly and penitently, and implore His merciful interposition to restore our rational and valuable country to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this third day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln.

William H. Seward,
Secretary of State.

The question for contemporary American memory is why would we appropriate the memory for Thanksgiving as “Plymouth Rock” an event that has its formation in quite a different story.

The same can be said for the story of our capitol. From the moment a visitor enters this building the unfolding process of emancipation, the players in this drama, the actors, the people, the heroes and the sheroes have been hidden, denied a fair and accurate account of these unfolding events.

Rotunda: Story of America from pilgrims to slaves.

Today we begin the process of educating America on who Mr. Kinte was! Today we acknowledge in a small way Mr. Kinte’s contribution to the Union making it more perfect.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of the bill, Mr. WAMP of Tennessee.

Mr. WAMP. I thank the distinguished ranking member and the chairwoman and Mr. JACKSON.

I love this Capitol. I love every square inch of it. I have spent many, many hours walking people through this Capitol and talking about the extraordinary history of this place. About 1,700 times I have taken groups through the Capitol over the last 13 years.

Some of the stories that I have learned about as I share them just send chills up and down my spine. To think that the experiences Nelson Lincoln had in receiving the Civil War stationed on Capitol Hill, that 4,000 troops were here at the Capitol during the Civil War.
And when you go up inside of the Dome, the magnificent Dome, which around the world is the beacon of freedom, the symbol of hope, recognizable everywhere in this world, you go up inside of it, and you ask what the little hooks are hanging there, and somebody will tell you that is where they hung the lanterns when Union soldiers would work side by side with slaves to build that Rotunda in the depths of the Civil War.

That is a fact that few people know because, as Ms. NORTON said, the story was never told. It was never archived, the incredible commitment and the irony of the people fighting for the slaves' freedom were working side by side during the Civil War to build this temple of freedom. All the history books point out that that is one great and grave omission in the Capitol history.

A guy named Oz Guiness once told me that the power to convene is greater than the power to legislate. As we convene here in the Capitol, people from all over the world, for good causes. The floor space of the Rotunda, which is the most prominent room in Capitol, is about 7,500 square feet. As Ms. Norton said, the floor space of this new hall, which has been called the great hall, is almost three times that size. It's a magnificent space designed to bring all of the visitors there to convene there before they enter this temple of freedom.

I want to answer the question why not the Great Hall, because it has been referred to as the great hall. But the Great Hall for over 100 years is the foyer, the Great Hall, at the Library of Congress in the Jefferson building. It is one of the most ornate spaces in the United States of America. I think it is the most beautiful room in Washington, D.C. And it is called the Great Hall. The Librarian of Congress told us as some of the ranking members of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee in January, that this was a conflict because the CVC construction adds a tunnel between the Great Hall and the great hall. On two sides of the tunnel is going to be two great halls. Are you kidding me? How did we do that? That's confusing. That's problematic. That diminishes the name and the history for over a century of the Great Hall of the Library of Congress, which everyone in this city, the Presidents, Vice Presidents, Speakers of the House, know as the Great Hall. So you can't call this the great hall. So what shall it be called?

Emancipation brings us all together at a time in this country where we need things to bring us together. This is a way to honor this incredible process that led to an event that liberated all people in this country under our Constitution, not just some. And it was Abraham Lincoln who was the great emancipator.

So our parties come together today, and I ask the House to join us in this most important naming. It is important what you name things. It's important what we name each other. It's important what we call things. It's important what we call each other. Words matter.

Emancipation liberates us today, the thought of Emancipation Hall, the largest and most prominent room in this 580,000-square-foot addition to the Capitol.

Come together, House of Representatives. Come together. United States Senate. Let us send the message to all who come to this temple of freedom that emancipation lives on. And with such an important moment in the learning process of this experiment in freedom, democracy known as the American Republic, let's come together today.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. It is so true that slavery was an abomination and is even today a blemish on this country's collective soul, and we can thank God that it has been eliminated.

Emancipation Hall, it does have a great ring to it. It sounds beautiful and it sounds like it's high time that such a hall were so named, and it does sound like an appropriate hall.

As I go back, though, and think through the comments and the speechess of those who were able to get rid of this abomination in this country, I think about the reasoning they had. Some have said that if there is no universal standard of right and wrong, if there is no force in the universe beyond ourselves that is unwavering as to right and wrong, that is the God that's referenced "In God We Trust."

But as we look throughout the Congressional Visitor Center, we find the Emancipation Hall will be a great addition, but there ought to be a basis, some reference, so people know why the emancipation was so important.

Mr. Speaker, according to the records, the financial records of the District of Columbia, hundreds of local residents of the District of Columbia received payments for the work of the slaves they owned here. Remember, the Capitol of the United States retained slavery until just before the end of the Civil War. But we should not forget the capstone itself, the monument replica, is turned where people can't see it.
that, while it is well enough to acknowledge that slaves were instrumental in building this building, there is no building from the 19th century that was constructed in this town, no public building, no building of any note, that was not built in part through the labor of slaves. This was true throughout the United States. Faneuil Hall in Boston, the so-called “Cradle of Liberty,” was built by slave labor. The homes of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were constructed with the help of slaves.

They will never be commemorated. What Emancipation Hall will do is to make Americans want to know more about how much of our country was built on the backs of slave labor that have never been recognized. And Emancipation Hall is the place to do it because the visitor center itself is going to be a giant temple for education about our country, about our Capitol, and what happened in this building. So when people visit the Capitol and come through Emancipation Hall, there should be a marker indicating why the great entrance to the visitor center is named Emancipation Hall. And throughout their visit, as they travel down the history of our country, which is going to be recorded there in so many ways, they will be educated about much that has happened in our country; and for most Americans, this will be the first time they will begin to educate them about slaves and their contribution to the United States of America.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker I rise in strong support of H.R. 3315, a bill to designate the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center (“CVC”) as “Emancipation Hall.” I commend the work of the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for their work in support of this bill.

The United States Capitol and its iconic dome are symbols of democracy around the world; symbols of the deliberative legislative process, a place where people debate in the realm of ideas not with arms, swords, or bombs but with minds and ideas. As America has grown and changed over its history, so has the Capitol. Beginning next year, the Capitol will have an extraordinary new addition, the Capitol Visitor Center. The CVC represents the largest addition to the U.S. Capitol in its 212-year history.

This facility will host the more than three million people who visit the Capitol on an annual basis. The great hall will include information and ticketing desks, and provide an area where Americans from all over the country can gather to take in scenic views of the Capitol or prepare to explore the 580,000-square-foot Visitor Center. The CVC will also include an exhibition gallery, a 550-seat cafeteria, gift shops, and orientation theaters.

The CVC will provide an opportunity for visitors to learn about the construction of the Capitol from its very beginning. This education would not be complete without an acknowledgment of the contribution slave labor.

In 2004, Congress directed the Architect of the Capitol to produce a report on the history of slave labor in the construction of the United States Capitol. Although the report is incomplete because of limited documentation of slave labor, the evidence available and historical context provide several indications that slaves and free African Americans played a significant role in building these historical monuments.

The U.S. Capitol was constructed during a time when the Potomac region’s population was sparse, but the concentration of slave laborers was the highest in the nation. Slave labor was used in the construction of the nation’s workforce. Slave labor was utilized in all aspects of construction of the Capitol and slaves often worked alongside free blacks and whites in the areas of carpentry, masonry, carting, and painting. Many of the products of slave labor are still visible in the Capitol buildings today and they serve as a reminder of the significant and undeniable contribution that these individuals made to our nation.

In 2005, the Slave Laborers Task Force was established to study and recognize the contributions of American’s enslaved in building the U.S. Capitol. On November 7, 2007, the Slave Laborers Task Force, chaired by Representative JOHN LEWIS, specifically recommended that the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center be designated as “Emancipation Hall.”

H.R. 3315 acknowledges the historic contributions of slaves and freedom to the building of the United States Capitol. This bill is a fitting tribute to those who worked tirelessly, but especially to those who were slaves and who gave their labor in this citadel of freedom and democracy. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3315.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I support recognizing emancipation and honoring the contributions of slaves in the construction of the Capitol. However, as I discussed in the subcommittee hearing and full committee markup, I have concerns about renaming the Great Capitol of the Capitol Visitor Center.

Throughout the history of the Capitol, none of the memorial spaces, such as the House and Senate chambers or the Rotunda, have been named after specific individuals or events in history. Instead, the great spaces of the Capitol have long been called by their functional names. By doing so, all people, regardless of their race, ethnic heritage, contributions, or human travails are equally recognized.

These spaces are dynamic because of their physical settings and the unique historical events that took place within their walls. Similarly, the Great Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center will become a monumental space with its own unique history; and just as those spaces have not been named, I believe the Great Hall should be reserved and left to honor all Americans.

While I do not believe it is appropriate to rename the Great Hall, I do believe that it is important for Congress to acknowledge and honor the contribution of the Capitol. In the hearing held by the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management and again in the full committee markup of this legislation, I recommended that other spaces could be named to honor the laborers who helped build the Capitol.

It would be most appropriate to name the exhibition hall that will provide an important historical context to the name Emancipation Hall. It would also provide visitors an opportunity to learn about and pay tribute to emancipation. One of the first recommendations I made as a member of the Capitol Preservation Commission was to create a first-class museum space within the CVC. I proposed the history of slavery could reside in the CVC. I envisioned a museum space that could exhibit some of the Nation’s treasures—the Emancipation Proclamation—which are rarely viewed by the public.

The exhibition hall will be 16,500 square feet. Outside of the National Building, this will be our Nation’s finest exhibition space. This hall will not only honor those who built the Capitol, but provide information about their contributions to American history. This exhibition hall will display and prominently house the catafalque that was built to support the casket of Abraham Lincoln—the Great Emancipator. This is the original funeral bier used as the Great Emancipator lay in state in the Capitol Rotunda. This hall will contain permanent exhibits on the Constitution and the post-Civil War amendments proposed by Congress and ratified by the States to abolish slavery, to guarantee equal protection under the law, and to ensure the right to vote.

This beautiful hall will have strong historical and contextual links to emancipation. It will be the primary venue for acknowledging and commemorating the slaves who helped build the Capitol and the country. It will help deepen the understanding of our Nation’s long struggle with slavery and its ultimate abolition for all who visit here. For all of these reasons, nothing could be more appropriate or significant than naming this area of the Capitol Visitor Center Emancipation Hall.

Another possible Emancipation naming CVC venue would be the congressional auditorium. While it does not have the strong links to emancipation as the exhibition hall, it is the most significant functional space in the facility, a place where leaders will gather to discuss important ideas of their time. The auditorium is a grand space that is being designed to serve as an alternative House Chamber. Except for the current House and Senate Chambers, no other venue in the Capitol has such an important purpose. The name Emancipation Hall would serve as a valuable reminder of courage, leadership, and our unique commitment to advance the cause of human freedom and fulfill the promise of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. As such, I believe it would be appropriate and fitting to name the facility Emancipation Hall.

In sum, I believe there are more appropriate areas in the Capitol Visitor Center to name Emancipation Hall. Additionally, we have a tradition naming the monumental spaces of the Capitol un-named. As a monumental space in, and an introduction to, the Capitol, the Great Hall should retain its current functional name like the other great spaces within the Capitol.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3315, to provide that the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center shall be known as Emancipation Hall, and to commend the Slave Laborers Task Force, led by Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and its important work. As the Task Force concluded, H.R. 3315 helps to fill an important gap in the history of slavery, albeit overdue, tribute to the slaves—gifted carpenters, skilled stone masons, woodworkers, clay makers and other craftsmen—
who built the Capitol that the Capitol Visitor Center be renamed Emancipation Hall and celebrate the freeing of all Americans from bondage, oppression, and restraint.

The Capitol symbolizes our nation’s core values of freedom and liberty and the basic rights of all human beings. It symbolizes who we are as a nation. However, though countless visitors walk its halls each day, few know the important role slaves played in the construction of the Capitol.

Many slaves worked in quarries, extracting the stone used to construct this building. Others were used as carpenters. Women and children often molded clay in kilns. District of Columbia financial records show that hundreds of local residents received payment for the work they did, recorded in the ledger as “Negro hire.” In all, hundreds of slaves helped build the Capitol from the late 1700s until the mid-1800s.

Indeed, it was Philip Reid, a slave laborer who figured out how to take apart the plaster mold for the Capitol dome and who figured out how to take apart the plaster mold for the dome's crown. The dome was added to the Capitol in the 1850s.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3315.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2705) to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2705

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 “Compacts of Free Association Amendments Act of 2007”.

SEC. 2. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS.

(a) In General.—Section 101 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended under the Agreement to Amend Article X that was signed by those two Governments on June 30, 2004, which shall serve as the authority to implement the provisions thereof”; and

(2) in the first sentence of subsection (b), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as amended under the Agreement to Amend Article X that was signed by those two Governments on June 18, 2004, which shall serve as the authority to implement the provisions thereof”. For Federal Programs and Services Agreement, see 48 U.S.C. 1921a.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall be effective as of April 30, 2008.

SEC. 3. FUNDS TO FACILITATE FEDERAL ACTIVITIES.


(1) in clause (ii)(I), by inserting “and its territories” and inserting “; and”;

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by inserting “, the Republic of the Marshall Islands” and inserting “; and”;

(3) in clause (ix), by inserting “—;

(A) by striking “Republic” both places it appears and inserting “government, institutions, and people”; and

(B) by striking “2007” and inserting “2009”; and

(C) by striking “was” and inserting “were”.

SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.


(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “; and

(ii) in paragraph (9)(A), by inserting a clause (ix) that shall each be construed and applied in accordance with the two Agreements to facilitate each agency’s activities under the Federal Programs and Services Agreement, and inserting “government, institutions, and people”;

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall be effective as of April 30, 2008.

SEC. 5. CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING PALAU.


(1) in clause (ii)(I), by striking “and its territories” and inserting “; and”;

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by inserting “, the Republic of the Marshall Islands” and inserting “; and”;

(3) in clause (ix)—

(A) by striking “Republic” both places it appears and inserting “government, institutions, and people”; and

(B) by striking “2007” and inserting “2009”; and

(C) by striking “was” and inserting “were”.

SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL SERVICES.

Section 105(f)(1)(C) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(C)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, which shall also continue to be available to the Government of the Marshall Islands, under Article X of the FSM Compact, the RMI Compact, and the Republic of Palau; and

SEC. 7. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) Title I.—

(1) Section 177 agreement.—Section 101(c) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(c)(1)) is amended by striking “Section 177” and inserting “Section 177 and inserting “Title”.

(b) Interpretation and United States Policy.—Section 104 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(c)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (8), by striking “to include” and inserting “and include”;

(2) in paragraph (9)(A), by inserting a comma after “may”; and

(3) in paragraph (10), by striking “related to service” and inserting “related to such services”;

(b) in the first sentence of subsection (j), by inserting “the” before “U.S.—RMI Compact,”; and

(c) in subsection (a)—

(1) in the first sentence of paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking “and include” and inserting “and include”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking “the” before “U.S.—RMI Compact,”; and

SEC. 8. SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS.—Section 105(b)(1) of the Compact of Free Association