

thoughtful and hard-working staff for the two committees, including Meghan Conklin, Dave Watkins, and David Sienicki, and my own legislative director, Ben Miller.

The Port Chicago memorial, which is in my district, commemorates a very important story in American history.

The deadly munitions explosion there on the night of July 17, 1944, killed more than 300 people—the worst homefront disaster of World War II.

When sailors were ordered to resume work a few weeks later, most of them refused to return to their dangerous tasks until supervision, training, and working conditions were improved.

In response, the Navy charged 50 men with conspiring to mutiny—all were convicted.

The majority of the men killed while handling ordinance at Port Chicago, and all of those convicted of mutiny, were African-American.

The Port Chicago story was a turning point in American history. The injustice strongly influenced the Navy's move toward desegregation in 1945.

The Port Chicago memorial tells that story, and I am proud to have authored the legislation designating the memorial, as I am proud to be involved in enhancing it with this legislation.

At our hearing in Mr. GRIJALVA's subcommittee last fall, we heard from the National Park Service, in support of this bill; from Dr. Robert Allen, who literally wrote the book on Port Chicago and is a board member of the Friends of Port Chicago; and Mr. Eugene Sayles, who was a seaman first class at Port Chicago and helped to get injured men out of the barracks after the explosion.

As they and others have said, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial tells a critical story in our civil rights and military history, and with this legislation, we are ensuring that more Americans will hear the Port Chicago story.

The National Parks Conservation Association has also strongly supported this legislation, pointing to the "broad local and national support" for the effort, and noting that the Port Chicago memorial deserves elevation to its "rightful place as a fully-fledged unit of the National Park System."

The new designation under this bill brings with it increased stature—and more importantly, the Park Service will be able to budget for the memorial's needs.

In addition, the bill provides for an interpretive center for the Memorial—this facility will allow school groups, families, and other visitors to learn about Port Chicago even if they can't access the site, which is located within the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

Again, I want to thank Chairman GRIJALVA, Chairman RAHALL, Chairman SKELTON, and their staff for helping us bring this important legislation to the floor today.

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

Mr. RAHALL. 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 West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3111, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HUNTING IN NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5137) to ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5137

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

SECTION 1. HUNTING IN NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER.

Section 1106 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460m-20) is amended in the first sentence by striking "may" and inserting "shall".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. 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 on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the New River Gorge National River in southern West Virginia was designated as a unit of the National Park System in 1978. At times referred to as the "Grand Canyon of the East," we in West Virginia refer to the Grand Canyon as the "New River Gorge of the West."

The national river is comprised of over 70,000 acres of mostly rugged terrain and is renowned as a destination for its world-class whitewater recreation, rock climbing, and other outdoor activities. But it is also a place where generations of West Virginians have hunted and fished.

Unfortunately, the National Park Service, as part of the development of a new general management plan for the park unit, has included a no-hunting alternative. It is doing so because legislation which establishes the New River Gorge National River states that hunting "may" be permitted.

The enabling statute for the nearby Gauley River National Recreation Area, on the other hand, states that hunting "shall" be allowed. In fact, this is the case for the vast majority of the 62 units of the National Park System in which hunting is permitted.

The bill we are considering today simply changes the "may" to a "shall"

in the law which established the New River Gorge National River. While there is no doubt in my mind that the current superintendent of this park unit will do the right thing and allow hunting to continue in the final general management plan, this is too important of an issue to remain at the discretion of future managers of the park unit.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 5137, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

When credit is earned, credit needs to be given where it is due, and Chairman RAHALL has a wonderful bill. I am totally supportive of his efforts, and it's an excellent bill.

This ensures that hunting rights will continue in this great area, the New River Gorge National River. I am encouraged to see that many of my colleagues on the other side appreciate the importance of hunting and the benefit it has on public lands even within the Park Service System. And I hope that the chairman will join with us as we work to ensure second amendment hunting rights on Federal lands are secured in the other 49 States as well. I am confident that we can build a consensus around State and local control of hunting and deliver the rights that this legislation ensures to the Federal land around this particular entity.

As I said, I am totally in support of this bill. I think it's an excellent bill.

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

Mr. RAHALL. 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 West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5137.

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.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 845) recognizing the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 845

Whereas Everglades National Park celebrated its 60th anniversary on December 6, 2007;

Whereas when President Harry S. Truman dedicated Everglades National Park on December 6, 1947, he stated: "Here is land, tranquil in its quiet beauty, serving not as the source of water, but as the last receiver of it."