

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce today the Golden Gate National Parks and Technical Corrections bill. Our National Parks are some of America's greatest treasures, and they have been designated that way to ensure they are preserved for our future generations. In California, we are very proud of our Golden Gate National Recreation Area, with parks spanning across San Mateo, San Francisco and Marin Counties. They are a national treasure deserving of the highest National Park Service designation which this legislation will ensure. The Golden Gate National Parks offer a unique historical perspective on the story of California and the Nation, and unparalleled natural beauty in an unlikely setting close to a major metropolitan area.

One hundred years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt declared Muir Woods the Nation's tenth National Monument to honor the conservationist John Muir and preserve a beautiful natural space. Today, I would like to recognize the establishment of the Golden Gate National Parks, which will contain the Muir Woods National Monument, as the 59th National Park. In honor of renowned environmentalist Edgar Waybum, and my friend and predecessor in Congress, the late Congressman Phillip Burton, who dedicated their careers and lives to preserving these remarkable natural and historical spaces for our and future generations to enjoy, I dedicate this bill.

The Golden Gate National Parks offer residents of and visitors to the San Francisco Bay Area the opportunity to escape from the city and connect with nature and our Nation's history. The Golden Gate National Parks are home to sites utilized by the Coastal Miwok and Ohlone people, the Spanish missionaries and military, Mexican settlers, Gold Rush prospectors, and Civil War military units. There remain many historic sites preserved within the Parks, including the Cliff House Restaurant and the Sutro Baths in San Francisco, as well as decommissioned army bases and fortifications dating back to 1776 and used by our Nation from the Civil War to the Cold War. This bill will strengthen the ability of the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and the Presidio, two of the Golden Gate National Parks, most historic areas, to preserve historic spaces and provide world-class services to visitors from throughout the world.

The Golden Gate National Parks also offer visitors access to an amazingly diverse natural area. Encompassing almost 60 miles of bay and ocean shoreline, the Golden Gate National Parks contain windswept beaches, salt-water marshes, stunning cliffs, and the world's only coastal old-growth redwood forest. The Parks contain expansive forests and costal

lands, such as Sweeney Ridge in San Mateo County and Muir Woods in Marin. There is also an abundance of plant and animal life in the Parks with over 1,200 identified plant and animal species, including 33 threatened and endangered species.

In the years since the establishment of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area almost 40 years ago, the park units have collectively been referred to as Golden Gate National Parks. As natural and historic sites have been added to this park system the need has grown to recognize the system of parks for what they are, which is one of our Nation's great natural treasures. This bill recognizes the importance of Golden Gate National Parks to the history and future of our Nation and rewards it with a designation befitting its place among the most spectacular National Parks in our Nation.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF LEESBURG

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the historic Town of Leesburg in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia.

Leesburg was established in September 1758 by an act of the Virginia House of Burgesses who appointed Nicolas Minor to design the initial layout of the town. The Town of Leesburg quickly grew from a quiet town of sleepy streets to a bustling epicenter in the early 18th century. Settlers flocked to the town for its strong sense of community and numerous market-to-town opportunities. The agriculture and transportation industries grew as Leesburg became the center of commerce in Loudoun County and other regions of northern Virginia.

Leesburg was the temporary capital of the United States during the War of 1812 and also served as a battleground during the American Civil War in the Battle of Balls Bluff. Leesburg has been home to many prominent Americans including President James Monroe, noted African-American attorney Charles Houston, General George C. Marshall and entertainer Arthur Godfrey.

In 1970, Leesburg received a place in the National Register of Historic Places and was cited as one of the best and most picturesque downtowns in Virginia. Today, Leesburg maintains its status as the center of the crossroads of northern Virginia and is the largest town in northern Virginia. I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating this historic event by driving 40 miles northwest from the Capitol to visit historic Leesburg and partake in some of the town's year-long festivities in honor of the anniversary. The town is holding a flag-design contest in honor of this historic event, to design an official flag for the town. On September 14, 2008, the town will celebrate her

250th birthday and I invite all to attend to commemorate history and enjoy the distinctly Americana spirit of the day's activities.

I have been proud to serve the people of Leesburg since the start of my terms in the House and I share in the town's celebration of this significant anniversary.

TRANS-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS DIALOGUE—64TH MEETING OF DELEGATIONS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEET UNDER LEADERSHIP OF THE HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to another successful meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) that was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from May 24–26, 2008. The United States delegation continues to flourish under the outstanding leadership of Chairwoman SHELLEY BERKLEY, the gentlelady from Nevada. She has injected energy and enthusiasm into this interparliamentary dialogue, while further strengthening American relationships with a wide range of European parliamentarians. The Republican vice-chairman, Representative CLIFF STEARNS from Florida, has also maintained an effective voice in European affairs and the TLD.

Representatives BERKLEY and STEARNS should be praised for their efforts to recruit members to participate in the Slovenia session, with the delegation of 10 members being the largest and by all reports most well informed in recent years. I commend the members of this bipartisan delegation—Rep. GARY ACKERMAN (D-NY), Rep. JOE BARTON (R-TX), Rep. RUSS CARNAHAN (D-MO), Rep. ELIOT ENGEL (D-NY), Rep. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE (D-TX), Rep. PHIL GINGREY (R-GA), Rep. STEVE ISRAEL (D-NY), and Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ (D-CA)—for contributing to a rich and meaningful exchange of views.

The TLD serves as the formal response of the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress to the commitment in the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) of 1995 to enhance legislative ties between the European Union and the United States. Building on the existing interparliamentary relationship, the TLD involves bi-annual meetings between American and European legislators in order to discuss topics of mutual interest and foster transatlantic discourse.

The most recent session in Slovenia addressed a wide range of foreign policy challenges, including the Middle East, China, Russia, and Kosovo. Members discussed regulatory initiatives being undertaken by the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), with American members reinforcing Administration

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