

continuing care for injured servicemen and servicewomen once they transition to veteran status.

Today, more servicemembers are surviving the wounds of war than those injured in previous conflicts. For example, the ratio of wounded to killed averaged approximately 1.7 wounded for every fatality for the first world wars. In Korea and Vietnam, the ratio improved to three wounded per fatality, largely due to air medical evacuation. In Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, improved body armor and superior battlefield medicine techniques have resulted in seven wounded per fatality.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, there is a growing need to provide continuing care to those injured and wounded from recent conflicts once they reach veteran status. As a result, providing support and resources to those giving care to these wounded and injured veterans is of real concern.

Unfortunately, the Veterans Administration currently does not collect data that would enable us to assess the number of veterans currently under continuing care. More significantly, there is no data available to assess the number of caregivers, whether they be family members or other individuals. I believe this legislation provides for that right approach, and again thank the gentleman from Maine for his initiative in doing this bill.

This bill would require the VA to conduct a caregivers survey at least once every 3 years of individuals caring for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system and report back to Congress no later than 180 days after the date of which the survey has been completed.

Mr. Speaker, in essence this bill would improve the quality of treatment and care of our veterans. Specifically, this bill would create a new caregiver program in order to provide coordinated support services to those that are giving care to our veterans. Training would be made available to caregivers through the Veterans Administration. Pertinent information would be disseminated to make sure that the caregivers are aware and well informed of services and resources available to them. As a result, the bottom line, Mr. Speaker: Our veterans are provided the necessary care for their needs.

Again, I support the legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, again I thank the gentleman, Mr. FALCOMA, for his support of these bills.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3155, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I speak today on behalf of H.R. 3155, the Caregiver Assistance and Resource Enhancement Act—the CARE Act.

The nature of warfare is changing as is the economic requirements of American families. Thanks to advances in medical technology and our outstanding service men and women, more and more of our wounded warriors are surviving their injuries than ever before. At the same time more and more of our families must rely on dual incomes just to get by.

Some of our wounded, though they survived, must now receive full time care due to the extent of their injuries. That second income earner ends up having to quit their job or limit their hours in order to provide care for their loved one. The potential loss in earnings for these families, even with military medical retirement pensions and VA disability pensions, is often catastrophic. And on top of that, the families must navigate the system largely on their own, putting pieces together and connecting the dots by figuring out the right questions to ask.

This bill is a vital piece of legislation that will provide resources in a comprehensive program to engage those wounded warriors who require caregiver assistance and the family and friends who often serve as the caregiver.

This bill provides for mental health and counseling services for those caregivers and ensures health care coverage for those caregivers who may have lost their health care coverage when they gave up their job to care for their loved one.

This bill ensures that respite care is provided that is appropriate to the specific veteran's needs, including, if necessary, 24-hour in home respite care.

And this bill provides the authorization for the VA to provide a stipend to the caregivers to help compensate for their loss of income.

We owe it to our wounded warriors to ensure their care, and to ensure the care of those that sacrifice to care for them. We must pass this bill.

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, during the upcoming August recess, many of my colleagues and I will travel home to visit with constituents and speak with them about their problems and find ways in which we can help them. As is often the case, my constituents continue to inspire me with their willingness to take on hard challenges themselves and help their neighbors in need. Many veterans throughout my district often volunteer their time to drive fellow veterans to medical appointments even though the drive can last over 3 or 4 hours. It is a hardship that too many face and should be made easier.

That was why I introduced H.R. 2738, a bill that would direct the Secretary of the VA to reimburse family caregivers of disabled veterans for travel expenses, including lodging and food, in connection with authorized VA treatment. Rural veterans face too many obstacles when seeking medical treatment, and I believe this legislation will make their lives a little easier while they seek the care that they were promised. I am very happy to note that the language contained in H.R. 2738 was included in H.R. 3155. H.R. 3155 includes many provisions that are necessary to assist not only veterans, but those that are caring for our wounded warriors. We made a lot of promises to our veterans, and it's about time we began to

honor them. I hope that my colleagues will support this very important piece of legislation, and I urge its passage.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues' total support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3155, 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.

NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 288) recognizing the importance of park and recreation facilities and expressing support for the designation of the month of July as "National Park and Recreation Month".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 288

Whereas public parks and recreation systems are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents in communities around the country through recreation programming, leisure activities, and conservation efforts;

Whereas parks, recreation activities, and leisure experiences provide opportunities for young people to live, grow, and develop into contributing members of society; create lifelines and continuous life experience for older members of the community; generate opportunities for people to come together and experience a sense of community; and pay dividends to communities by attracting businesses, jobs, and increasing housing value;

Whereas parks and recreation services play a vital role in creating active and healthy communities, and the majority of older adults who visit parks report moderate or high levels of physical activity during their visit and 50 percent of older adults who participated in light to moderate aerobic park activity report being in a better mood after visiting parks;

Whereas parks and recreation facilities foster a variety of activities that contribute to a healthier United States, such as introducing injured military veterans and those with physical disabilities to physical activity, mobilizing urban communities to use chronic disease prevention practices, working with local school systems to develop science-based curricula to educate children on nutrition and activity, connecting children with nature, and combating obesity in youth;

Whereas the creation of places for physical activity, combined with information outreach, produced a 48.4 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity;

Whereas more than 75 percent of United States citizens use park and recreation facilities to maintain fitness and to remain socially interactive, which are critical to maintaining community cohesion and pride;

Whereas community recreation programs at park and recreation facilities provide children with a safe refuge and a place to play, which helps to reduce at-risk behavior such as drug use and gang involvement;

Whereas 69 percent of the United States population believes in local park and recreation services, which supports the idea that such parks and services should be funded by taxes and user fees;

Whereas public parks and recreation facilities create enormous economic value through increased partnership, which improves the job base and the economic viability of the local economy, including business relocation and expansion in the community and increased tourism; and

Whereas parks and recreation facilities reduce fuel costs and commute times by providing a place close to home to relax, exercise, and reduce stress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the great societal value of parks and recreation facilities and their importance in local communities across the United States;

(2) recognizes and honors the vital contributions of employees and volunteers in park and recreation facilities; and

(3) supports the designation of a “National Park and Recreation Month”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. 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 gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 288 was introduced by our colleague from Georgia, Representative JOHN BARROW, and would recognize July as National Park and Recreation Month. Federal, State, territorial, and local parks and recreation facilities across our Nation play a vital role in creating healthy communities. They improve our quality of life, they keep our children active and safe and connected with nature, and they create economic opportunities by attracting businesses and jobs and increasing home values.

House Resolution 288 recognizes the importance of our valued parks and recreation facilities by encouraging the designation of a National Park and Recreation Month. I commend my colleague, Representative BARROW, for his diligent work on this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this measure.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution has been adequately explained by the gentle-

woman from Guam. I would like to add that it is my hope that this resolution reminds the American people that public lands are theirs to fully enjoy.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 288 designating the month of July as “National Park and Recreation Month”.

State and local parks and recreation facilities play a vital role in stimulating our nation’s economy, improving community health and wellness, enhancing quality of life, and safeguarding our nation’s natural resources. The value of state and local parks and recreation facilities and their employees is undeniable, and I have no doubt that we’re all enriched by the wonderful experiences they offer.

Park and recreation facilities aid in combating obesity and chronic disease epidemics; connect children with nature; provide opportunities for increased physical activities; and enhance the quality of life for injured military servicemembers and those with physical disabilities through therapeutic recreation.

As American families enjoy our summer season, I offer H. Res. 288 as a tribute to our state and local parks and their employees and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 288.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1376) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Waco Mammoth National Monument in the State of Texas, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1376

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 “Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) *The Waco Mammoth Site area is located near the confluence of the Brazos and the Bosque rivers in Central Texas, near the City of Waco.*

(2) *Baylor University has been investigating the site since 1978 after the discovery of bones emerging from eroding creek banks leading to the uncovering of portions of five mammoths.*

(3) *Several additional mammoth remains have been uncovered making this the largest known*

concentration of mammoths dying from the same event.

(4) *The discoveries have received international attention.*

(5) *The University and the City of Waco have been working together to protect the site and to develop further research and educational opportunities.*

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act the following definitions apply:

(1) *NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The term “national monument” means the Waco Mammoth National Monument, established in section 4.*

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

(3) *MAP.—The term “map” means the map titled “Proposed Boundary Waco-Mammoth National Monument”, numbered T21/80,000, and dated April, 2009.*

SEC. 4. WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT, TEXAS.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Waco Mammoth National Monument in the State of Texas, as a unit of the National Park System, as generally depicted on the map.*

(b) *AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.*

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the national monument in accordance with this Act, the cooperative agreements described in this section, and laws and regulations generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the National Park Service Organic Act (39 Stat. 535, 16 U.S.C. 1).*

(b) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements for the management of the national monument with Baylor University and City of Waco, pursuant to the National Park Service General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–2(1)).*

SEC. 6. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AND BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT.

(a) *ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary is authorized to acquire from willing sellers lands, or interests in lands, within the proposed boundary of the national monument necessary for effective management.*

(b) *CONDITIONS.—Lands identified in subsection (a) may be acquired—*

(1) *by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, transfer from another Federal agency, or by exchange; and*

(2) *in the case of lands owned by the State of Texas, or a political subdivision thereof, or Baylor University only by donation or exchange.*

SEC. 7. CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES ON NON-FEDERAL LANDS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized, subject to the appropriation of necessary funds, to construct essential administrative or visitor use facilities on non-Federal lands within the national monument.*

(b) *OTHER FUNDING.—In addition to the use of Federal funds authorized in subsection (a), the Secretary may use donated funds, property, and services to carry out this section.*

SEC. 8. GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than three years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with Baylor University and City of Waco, shall prepare a management plan for the national monument.*

(b) *INCLUSIONS.—The management plan shall include, at a minimum—*

(1) *measures for the preservation of the resources of the national monument;*

(2) *requirements for the type and extent of development and use of the national monument;*

(3) *identification of visitor carrying capacities for national monument; and*

(4) *opportunities for involvement by Baylor University, the City of Waco, the State of Texas,*