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No. 182

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GARAMENDI).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 7, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN GARAMENDI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as we listen to the debate in the other body, there are two missing factors that would create the momentum for reform and revitalization of our health care. There is a stunning disconnect between the two sides on the nature of the problem and the impact of government's involvement in health care.

Opponents argue, with apparent sincerity, that America has the best health care in the world and it would

be "destroyed by Federal involvement undermining the quality of existing care", while supposed cost increases would make health care unaffordable for individuals purchasing insurance and ultimately for the taxpayer as well.

What opponents describe could not be more different from what my research, my constituents and my personal experience tells me. For many in Congress, there is no sense of urgency to compel action because Members of Congress are perhaps the most health care secure people in the world and all can enjoy the finest health coverage in the world.

No one in Congress is likely to go bankrupt this year, or the next, from their preexisting conditions. It doesn't matter because all are eligible for participation in the Federal employees health benefits program. They are able to access the House physician. When they travel overseas, they have military doctors. About a quarter of the House and Senate are eligible for Medicare and for veterans' programs. No wonder there's no sense of urgency, and Senators and Congresspeople can be sincere in their conviction that America has the best health care in the world.

The disconnect is my colleagues' failure to recognize the government's role in all that they enjoy. There is a simple solution to break this deadlock—support my bill to end government involvement in the health care of Members of Congress. I propose, until comprehensive health care reform is signed by the President, there be no Federal investment in health insurance for Members of Congress. No Federal involvement in negotiating their Federal Employees Health Benefits. They would not be eligible to be participating in the dreaded government single payer program—Medicare. There would be no veterans, no House physicians, no military doctors. Those, after

all, are socialized medicine. Members of Congress would be in exactly the same position as over 200 million Americans who are currently underinsured, uninsured, or are relying on the good intentions of a spouse's employer, or their ability to negotiate insurance on the private market, contending with their preexisting conditions and the fine print.

Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely confident that within 6 months of Members of Congress experiencing the health care world of most of America, dealing with the fine print, the preexisting condition, the uncertainty, the bureaucracy, we would have the consensus necessary to be able to move forward with the comprehensive health insurance reform that Americans want, need and deserve.

I would urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation to get government out of the health care of Members of the House and Senate until all Americans can enjoy such health security.

JOB CREATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 2 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a headline in the Wall Street Journal last week read, Job Cuts Loom as Stimulus Fades. Therein lies the jobs problem. The Democratic stimulus plan was poorly designed as a job creator. Government money doesn't do a very good job of stimulating the private sector to invest. The American people know that true economic stimulus starts with tax relief for working families and small businesses. They know that burdening those same families and businesses with an expensive health care program with unknown consequences is a job killer. They know that placing additional energy taxes on

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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the public through the cap and trade system makes businesses pull back on any new investments for the fear of the unknown costs they will face. A stable economy with no surprises looming in the future will give confidence to businesses, and they are the true economic engines of our country. Tax relief promises more capital in the hands of those who invest in the future.

At the time of the stimulus vote, Republicans wanted more funds put into highway construction and Army Corps projects, but that didn't happen. The President has acknowledged that jobs are a problem by holding a jobs summit just this last week. He knows that more than 15 million Americans are looking for work. Let's hope he chooses a new and better path.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: The first touch of snow startled Washington as Your soft whisper of winter upon us, Lord. Not enough to stall the driving force in the Nation's Capital, it melts like political words on the air; yet penetrates the grounding of all future plans.

Lord, this thin white curtain fell on our scene, a seeming call for purification of intentions. Quite unsure if we are ready to be fully clothed with Your victory of total transformation, we beg for more time as if it were not already given freely.

Send us more gentle snow, Lord, if it will awaken within us the hidden child who accepts Your surprising sky with a quiet smile. Brighten our shortened days, Lord, that we may take delight again in Your creation and prepare to celebrate the approaching day of Your visitation, when You embraced all our limitations and kept loving us anyway. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HARVARD MED DEAN FAILS HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here is what Jeffrey Flier, dean of Harvard Medical School, has to say about the administration's health care bill: ". . . The people who favor the legislation are engaged in collective denial.

"Speeches and news reports can lead you to believe that proposed congressional legislation would tackle the problems of cost, access and quality. But that's not true.

". . . There are no provisions to substantially control the growth of costs or raise the quality of care. So the overall effort will fail to qualify as reform.

"Whatever its shape, the final legislation that will emerge from Congress will markedly accelerate national health care spending rather than restrain it . . . The legislation would do little or nothing to improve quality or change health care's dysfunctional delivery system.

"Worse, currently proposed Federal legislation would undermine any potential for real innovation in insurance and the provision of care."

Dean Flier has good advice: Congress should start over and do it right.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RECOGNIZING ECHO COMPANY OF 100TH BATTALION OF THE 442D INFANTRY

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 199) recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the activation of Echo Company of the 100th Battalion of the 442d Infantry, and the sacrifice of the soldiers and families in support of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 199

Whereas Company E, 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment of the United States Army was redesignated on February 16, 1999, on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Guam and protects the citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam;

Whereas the soldiers of Company E and their families are active community volunteers supporting the local community and participating in community events;

Whereas Company E has served with great honor and distinction for two tours in Iraq in 2004–2006 and 2008–2009;

Whereas Army Staff Sergeant Wilgene T. Lieto, Army SPC Derence W. Jack, and Army Sergeant Julian F. Manglona of Company E made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States while they served in Iraq; and

Whereas Company E commemorates one of the original companies of the 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment, which served with distinction during World War II, and continues to live by its motto "Go For Broke": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the valuable, historic, and continued contribution of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment of the United States Army to the citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States;

(2) commends the efforts and contributions of the soldiers and sacrifices of the families of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment to the United States;

(3) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of Congress to support the mission of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment; and

(4) honors the lives of the soldiers of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the United States.

Amend the title so as to read: "Concurrent resolution Recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the redesignation of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment of the United States Army and the sacrifice of the soldiers of Company E and their families in support of the United States."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) 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 have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks 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 might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of House Concurrent Resolution 199, introduced by my colleague, Congressman SABLON, from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

House Concurrent Resolution 199 recognizes the valuable contributions of

Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment of the United States Army.

Not many know that the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment remains the only combat unit in the Army Reserve. In fact, Echo Company of the 100th Battalion was redesignated on February 16, 1999, on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

As the representative from Guam, I appreciate the opportunity to recognize and commend these soldiers for their outstanding and important service to our Nation.

So today I join my colleague in recognizing the 10th anniversary of the activation of Echo Company and commend the men and women who serve in Echo Company and their families for their dedication and their sacrifice.

During the Second World War, the 100th Battalion, known as “one-puka-puka” was comprised principally of Japanese Americans from Hawaii. The battalion subsequently became a part of the 442nd Infantry Combat Regiment comprised of Japanese Americans who had parents, siblings, and relatives, and many who themselves had been forcibly removed from their homes and communities and sent to internment camps in the United States.

These highly decorated individuals distinguished themselves on the battlefields of Europe; and today those who volunteer to serve in Echo Company continue to serve with distinction on today’s battlefields.

Echo Company has served two tours in Iraq in 2004 through 2006 and, again, in 2008 through this year. In fact, on my most recent trip to Iraq, I had the opportunity to meet with men and women of Echo Company who were performing security operations. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with these men and women in uniform and to recognize their service in the theater of operations.

Unfortunately, three members of Echo Company have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation: Staff Sergeant Wilgene T. Lieto, Specialist Derence W. Jack, and Sergeant Julian F. Manglona. Our hearts and prayers are with their families and loved ones and those who they left behind.

The motto of the 100th Battalion is “Go for broke,” which continues unabated. Today, we commend Echo Company on their 10th anniversary, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of these fine men and women who have volunteered to defend our Nation, and to support House Concurrent Resolution 199.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 199, which recognizes the service and sacrifices of Echo Company of the 100th Infantry Battalion. I want to thank Delegate GREGORIO SABLAN for supporting it.

Ten years ago, Echo Company was redesignated on the island of Saipan,

Tinian, Rota, and Guam and now serves to protect the citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam. Since that time, it has served two tours in Iraq, suffering the loss of two of its men. It continues to support the people and communities of the Northern Marianas and stands ready to serve America.

Echo Company carries on the traditions of World War II predecessors in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment and continues to live by its motto, “Go for broke.”

This resolution honors the soldiers of the unit and the families who support them. I urge Members to vote “yes” on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend and colleague and the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN).

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, our Nation can never say “thank you” too frequently to the men and women who put their own lives at risk in military service. So I rise today as the sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 199 thanking the men and women of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment for their service, their dedication, and their sacrifice.

I ask that the House adopt House Concurrent Resolution 199 honoring Company E—Echo Company, as we call it in the Northern Mariana Islands—in this year, the 10th anniversary of this distinguished band of soldiers. This year also marks the completion of Echo Company’s second tour of duty in Iraq where they have distinguished themselves for their fortitude and bravery, always living up to the company motto, “Go for broke.”

I appreciate the support of the distinguished gentlelady from Guam and the other 25 members of the House Armed Services Committee who are cosponsors of House Concurrent Resolution 199. I also want to thank the additional 29 Members of this House from both sides of the aisle, including my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from Florida, who stepped up to say “thank you” to Echo Company.

Most of all, I want to thank Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCKEON for their leadership and their commitment to our men and women in uniform and for working with me to bring this resolution to the floor today.

As the first person to have the honor to represent the people of the Northern Mariana Islands here in Congress, one of my duties, I believe, is to educate this House about the people I represent. One distinguishing trait of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands is our devotion to the United States of America. We’re unique, I believe, in modern times to have chosen as a society to become a permanent part of the United States. We could have become an independent nation, but instead, we chose to be part of this Nation.

Perhaps nothing exemplifies our commitment to serve our new Nation

more than our participation in military service. Thirty percent of our graduating class from our public high schools enlisted in military service this year. And obviously, of course, with this out-of-proportion participation in our military, there is an out-of-proportion level of risk. Our community, our small community of some 65,000 people, has suffered the loss of 12 of our people in military service since the commencement of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is certainly one of the highest per capita rates of death in service of any community in our Nation.

I would like to read their names and honor them today: Army Sergeant Yihjya “Eddie” L. Chen; Army Sergeant Jesse J. Castro; Marine Lance Corporal Adam Q. Emul; Army Specialist Leeroy A. Camacho; Army Private First Class John D. Flores; Army Private First Class Victor M. Fontanilla; Army Specialist Joe G. Charfauros, Jr.; Navy Seaman Anamarie San Nicholas Camacho; Senior Airman Audra P.M. Winkfield; and, finally, the three members of Echo Company who gave their lives in combat for their country: Army Staff Sergeant Wilgene T. Lieto, Army Specialist Derence W. Jack, and Army Staff Sergeant Julian F. Manglona.

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Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to say that by honoring specific individuals or a specific unit of the military, we in no way are forgetting all the men and women from communities all across our Nation who serve in the armed services. There are, in fact, many people from the Northern Mariana Islands who are not members of Echo Company in service throughout the world today. My prayers go out to them today and my thanks.

But Echo Company is the only unit from the Northern Mariana Islands composed solely of people from the Northern Mariana Islands and a platoon from Guam. So as the Representative of the Northern Mariana Islands and especially because this is the 10th anniversary of Echo Company in the Northern Mariana Islands, it is my honor and responsibility to take the floor and say “thank you.”

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize and am honored to have Representative and Senator-elect Ralph Torres of the Northern Mariana Legislature in the gallery today. Mr. Torres is here to join me in paying respect to our troops.

I would like to submit this letter of support from Representative and Senator-elect Ralph M. Torres into the RECORD.

SAIPAN, MP,
December 5, 2009.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SABLAN: I am proud and honored to write this letter of support for H. Con. Res. 199, the concurrent congressional resolution recognizing the outstanding efforts of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442 Infantry Regiment for their second deployment to Iraq; and to recognize

their 10th Anniversary of being located on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

As a current Representative and Senator-Elect in the CNMI Legislature, I appreciate your efforts to honor the dedication of our troops, and for recognizing the commitment and challenges the spouses and families face when their loved ones are deployed.

Company E not only preserves our freedoms, but is a valuable part of our community. They participate in many community events, such as every July 4th as part of Island Liberation Day, provide all funeral details on the CNMI and participate in the Go for Broke baseball and canoeing teams.

Go for Broke is the motto of Company E, and they live that way in all they do and I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 199.

Sincerely,

RALPH TORRES,
Representative and Senator-Elect.

Godspeed to Company E, to all our men and women for your sacrifice and for all that you have done for our people and for the United States of America.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I have no further requests for time, 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 concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 199, as amended.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMENDING THE SOLDIERS AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL STATIONED AT FORT GORDON

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 206) commending the soldiers and civilian personnel stationed at Fort Gordon and their families for their service and dedication to the United States and recognizing the contributions of Fort Gordon to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and its role as a pivotal communications training installation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 206

Whereas in 1940, in preparation for possible involvement in World War II, the United States Army identified a site near Augusta, Georgia, that was suitable for division-level training, and the War Department entered into a \$22 million contract to construct the new installation;

Whereas, at the groundbreaking ceremony on October 18, 1941, the new installation was named Camp Gordon in memory of John B. Gordon, a general in the Civil War and former Georgia Governor;

Whereas during World War II, Camp Gordon was home to three Army divisions, namely the 4th Infantry Division, the 26th Infantry Division, and the 10th Armored Division until they were deployed to Europe, where all three served with distinction;

Whereas after the war, on November 1, 1948, Camp Gordon began its signal corps tradition by becoming the home of the Signal Corps Training Center;

Whereas by 1950, the need for signalmen for the Army during the Korean War led to a major expansion of the Signal Corps Training Center, making it the largest single source of Army communications specialists;

Whereas, on March 21, 1956, Camp Gordon was made a permanent installation and renamed Fort Gordon;

Whereas the military conflicts in Southeast Asia in the 1960s and 1970s, together with advances in communications-electronics (C-E) technology, placed heavy training demands on Fort Gordon;

Whereas at the height of the Vietnam War, the Signal Corps Training Center was renamed the Southeastern Signal School and became the primary source of personnel for tactical C-E units in Vietnam;

Whereas in September 1965, the Southeastern Signal School activated the Signal Officer Candidate School, from which more than 2,000 officers graduated by February 1968;

Whereas in the post-Vietnam era, as the Army reorganized and modernized, signal training at Fort Gordon progressed to keep pace with rapid technological advances on the modern battlefield, and the Southeastern Signal School was renamed first as the United States Army Signal School and subsequently the United States Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon;

Whereas in June 1986, the United States Army Signal Corp Regiment was established, and Fort Gordon was designated as the regimental home base;

Whereas the Signal Center's efforts included the development of Mobile Subscriber Equipment, the Army's communications architecture and assuming the lead for the Army's Information Mission Area, which included the integration of automation, communications, visual information, records management, and publications and printing;

Whereas in 1990 and 1991, the Signal Center played a vital role in preparing soldiers for deployment during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm;

Whereas in the 1990s, Fort Gordon became the home for training most of the personnel within the Department of Defense who operate and maintain satellites and continued to train signal troops of allied and foreign countries;

Whereas Fort Gordon continues to serve as a power projection base for several Signal units responsible for conducting operations overseas;

Whereas approximately 19,000 soldiers are stationed at Fort Gordon, and many of these soldiers have been deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom multiple times; and

Whereas the strength and unwavering support of the soldiers and their families of Fort Gordon and the entire Augusta community have contributed to making the United States a safe and secure country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes Fort Gordon as the home of the United States Army Signal Corps on the

occasion of the 60th anniversary of Fort Gordon serving as the home of the Signal Corps Training Center;

(2) commends the soldiers, their families, and the civilian personnel at Fort Gordon for their service and dedication to the United States; and

(3) recognizes the contributions of Fort Gordon to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) 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 have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks 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 might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Concurrent Resolution 206, commending the dedication of soldiers, civilian personnel, and families stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and recognizing the 60th anniversary of Fort Gordon as the vital training center of the United States Army Signal Corps.

Fort Gordon has a long and storied history of preparing our soldiers to effectively utilize technological advances on the battlefield. Now, Fort Gordon is training our soldiers in the advanced communication technologies needed to execute missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

I also want to commend the civilian personnel at Fort Gordon who are key members of the United States Army Signal Corps team and whose hard work and dedication to the mission are critical to the United States Army's success. To be the best, we need soldiers and civilians working together.

And finally, I want to express my gratitude to the families stationed at Fort Gordon. While their loved ones train for long hours and deploy overseas for extended periods of time, the families remain supportive and steadfast, understanding the sacrifice that comes from keeping the United States safe and secure. I also commend the entire Augusta, Georgia, community who rally around the great men and women of Fort Gordon.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. BROUN of the State of Georgia, for his work in bringing this resolution to the floor, and I ask all my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 206.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 206, which commends the soldiers, civilian personnel, and their families stationed

at Fort Gordon, Georgia, for their service and dedication to the United States.

I want to commend Representative PAUL BROUN of Georgia for sponsoring this legislation which has drawn wide support of other Members as cosponsors, including a great number of non-Georgians.

Mr. Speaker, Fort Gordon has been an important site of Army training for more than 60 years. Initially a training area for newly formed combat divisions preparing for battle in World War II, the 4th Infantry, the 26th Infantry, and the 10th Armored Divisions trained at the then-Camp Gordon before they were deployed to combat in Europe and distinguished themselves in hard fighting across France, the Low Countries, and Germany.

After the war, the newly designated Fort Gordon became the home of the Army's Signal Corps. In every conflict since, from Korea through today's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Fort Gordon has trained Army combat communicators in their essential combat duties.

This is why it is, therefore, right and proper that we recognize Fort Gordon, the home of the Army Signal Corps, for its outstanding contributions to our Nation. I urge all Members to support this resolution.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time, 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 concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 206, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING 373RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 940) recognizing and honoring the National Guard on the occasion of its 373rd anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 940

Whereas the National Guard celebrates its 373rd birthday on December 13, 2009;

Whereas the National Guard and its citizen-soldiers have participated in all major American conflicts, most recently Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the National Guard is the oldest component of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the National Guard has served with distinction as America's first line of defense against natural and man-made disasters within the United States;

Whereas Colonial and State militias were the precursors to the National Guard;

Whereas the militia stood their ground during the opening shots of the Revolutionary War at Lexington Green and Concord Bridge in 1775;

Whereas more than 164,000 members of the militia from the 13 colonies served under the command of George Washington during the Revolutionary War;

Whereas in 1824, the 2nd Battalion, 11th Regiment, New York Artillery became the first military organization in the United States to adopt the title "National Guard";

Whereas during the Mexican War of 1846-1848, more than 70 percent of the total manpower effort was from citizen-soldiers through volunteer militiamen;

Whereas the Union and Confederate Armies relied heavily on militias and volunteer regiments during the Civil War of 1861-1865;

Whereas, on April 15, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln invoked the Calling Forth Act of 1792 and ordered 75,000 militiamen into Federal service for 90 days;

Whereas during the Spanish-American War in 1898, over 160,000 National Guardsmen volunteered for active duty;

Whereas a group of National Guardsmen from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas were called the "Rough Riders" and were led by Lieutenant Colonel and future United States President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt;

Whereas in 1902, Major General Charles W. Dick, commander of the Ohio Division of the National Guard and a member of the United States House of Representatives, became president of the National Guard Association;

Whereas the Militia Act of 1903 created the modern National Guard and affirmed the National Guard as the primary organized combat Reserve force of the Armed Forces;

Whereas in World War I, the National Guard made up 40 percent of the United States combat divisions;

Whereas the National Defense Act of 1920 established the Army of the United States, to consist of the Regular Army, the Organized Reserve Corps, and the National Guard, when called into Federal service;

Whereas an amendment to the National Defense Act enacted on June 15, 1933, established the National Guard of the United States as a Reserve component of the Army;

Whereas the National Security Act of 1947 established the Air National Guard as a Reserve component of the Air Force;

Whereas more than 300,000 members of the National Guard, including 18 infantry divisions, participated in World War II;

Whereas more than 138,000 members of the Army National Guard and more than 45,000 members of the Air National Guard were called to active duty during the Korean War;

Whereas almost 23,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard were mobilized for two years of active duty during the Vietnam War;

Whereas more than 70,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard were called upon to participate in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991;

Whereas since the attacks on September 11, 2001, hundreds of thousands of members of the Army and Air National Guard have been called upon by their States and the Federal Government to provide security at home and combat terrorism abroad; and

Whereas more than 50,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard were deployed in the Gulf States following Hurricane Katrina in 2005: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) thanks the members of the National Guard for their service in response to the attacks on September 11, 2001, and their continuing role in homeland security and military operations;

(2) supports providing the National Guard with the necessary resources to ensure its readiness;

(3) expresses its condolences and gratitude to the families of those members of the National Guard who have lost their lives through their dedication and commitment to the freedom and security of the United States while serving in the National Guard; and

(4) honors and supports the compassionate, courageous, and dedicated members of the National Guard who serve a critical role in protecting the United States and its citizens' freedoms and treasured liberties.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) 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 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.

I rise in support of House Resolution 940, introduced by my colleague from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), which recognizes the 373rd birthday of the Nation's military first responders, our National Guard.

On December 13, 2009, we will celebrate the enormous contributions that our Nation's citizen soldiers and airmen have contributed to our national defense for over 300 years. Our forefathers relied on its citizen soldiers to protect this young Nation, and today we continue to rely on our citizen soldiers to protect the values and the rights that Americans enjoy today.

Our men and women in the National Guard not only volunteer to serve overseas in our Nation's defense, they are also an integral part of our local communities, providing assistance, support, and protection to their neighbors and loved ones in cases of natural and man-made disasters within the United States.

The history of the National Guard began back during the early days of our Nation. The colonists adopted the English militia system which required all males between the ages of 16 and 60 to bear arms and contribute to the defense of their community. In those early years, the militia provided the first line of defense in our Nation, which continues to this very day.

Throughout our Nation's conflicts, the National Guard has been an integral part of our country's national defense. During World War I, the National Guard made up 40 percent of America's combat divisions. The National Defense Act of 1933 established the National Guard as a reserve component of the Army, and the National Defense Act of 1947 established the air component of the National Guard as a reserve component of the Air Force.

More than 300,000 members of the National Guard participated in World War II, over 180,000 members of the National Guard participated in the Korean War, and nearly 23,000 members of the National Guard deployed in support of the Vietnam War. More than 50,000 members of the National Guard were deployed to the Gulf States in support of Hurricane Katrina. Today, Mr. Speaker, almost a quarter of a million members of the National Guard have been mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

So, today, we are here to express our appreciation to those who serve in the National Guard and their families, who are also making a contribution in defense of our Nation, and we are here to express our gratitude and respect to those of the National Guard who have given their lives in defense of our Nation. Our sympathy and our prayers are with their families and their loved ones, and their sacrifices will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as a former Lieutenant Governor of Guam, I came to rely on the National Guard to be always there, always ready to respond to local issues. On September 11, the National Guard immediately responded to the new and urgent national requirement to protect our airports. The National Guard is a critical component of our national defense. And I am also proud to represent the Guam National Guard, which has the most membership per capita in any other State National Guard in this country.

So I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 940 and join us as we wish America's National Guard a very happy birthday.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 940, which recognizes the service and sacrifices of the members of the Army and Air National Guard on the occasion of the 373rd anniversary of the National Guard.

I want to commend Representative ROBERT LATTA of Ohio for sponsoring this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, America is such a dynamic, forward-moving, ever-changing Nation that few institutions can survive for long unless they repeatedly prove their worth and are capable of changing to meet new challenges. For more than 300 years, the National Guard has repeatedly demonstrated its worth and value to this Nation in the

crises of peace and war. The courage, commitment, and sacrifices of the National Guard members have been an integral part of every war this Nation has ever fought.

These citizen soldiers most recently have accepted an entirely new role in our national security and enthusiastically transformed themselves and their units from a ready Reserve to an operational Reserve, where repeated deployments to combat have become the norm and not the exception.

□ 1230

While providing significant combat power to support ongoing wars, the Guard has remained true to its mission: to support the individual States in times of natural disasters. With this dual requirement to support not only the Nation, but also the people of the States from which they come, the National Guard is indispensable to the well-being, safety, and security of all Americans. This is why it is, therefore, right and proper that we recognize the National Guard for 373 years of outstanding service.

I urge all Members to support this resolution.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield at this point 3 minutes to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is very appropriate that we assemble here today on December 7, "a day that will live in infamy," words that were spoken by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on this House floor 68 years ago tomorrow. On that December 7, the United States lost many courageous, dedicated, heroic, compassionate men and women when the Pacific fleet was attacked at Pearl Harbor by forces of the Imperial Japan Navy.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 940, which I introduced last week on December 1.

As it has already been pointed out very eloquently about the background of the National Guard, the Guard dates its origins back to December 13, 1636, when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered existing militias to be organized into three regiments. Since then, the National Guard has fought in every major American conflict. From the shot that was heard around the world at Lexington Green and later at Concord Bridge in April of 1775 to our men and women who are standing strong today and fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, the National Guard and its citizen soldiers have been there for us no matter what, always ready, always there.

The National Guard is the oldest component of the Armed Forces of the United States. The National Guard's number one priority is the security and

defense of our homeland at home and abroad. Americans have relied on their National Guard for more than three-and-a-half centuries, even before the United States existed.

I want to thank all past and present members of the National Guard for their service and response to the attacks on September 11, 2001, and their continuing role in homeland security and military operations around the world.

In today's world, it is essential that we honor and support all of our service-members who have sacrificed so much for us to ensure that our freedoms and liberties are secure in the United States. We need to support and provide our men and women of the National Guard and all the Armed Forces with the necessary resources to ensure their readiness and success.

As the National Guard's official song goes, "Defending freedom, protecting dreams, this is the spirit of what it means to me. For my God and my home that I love: I Guard America, Guarding America, America."

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Florida for yielding on this very important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 940, a resolution that recognizes and honors the National Guard on its 373rd anniversary. The National Guard has a long and proud history as the oldest component of our Armed Forces.

The roots of the National Guard date back to our early colonial and State militias, which were vital during the Revolutionary War. It was the National Guardsmen who made up the Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War. More recently, on this date the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and the Greatest Generation went to war. And it is fitting that we pass this resolution today in memory of all those who served, but in particular those who were in the National Guard.

More than 16 million Americans fought in World War II, and about 2 million of them are still alive today, but they are dying at a rate of about 900 a day, according to the Department of Defense. The National Guard have made up 40 percent of the U.S. combat divisions and included 300,000 members and 18 infantry divisions in World War II.

Since the establishment of the National Guard, men and women have served valiantly in every American conflict, including our recent efforts in the Middle East in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As the father of a former National Guardsman who has served in Iraq with the Army, I have the greatest respect and gratitude for the National Guard

and the job that they perform. Earlier this year, I had the privilege to travel to Iraq and Afghanistan to meet many of our soldiers and leaders on the ground, and it was there I witnessed the National Guard firsthand.

I commend and thank the National Guard and all of our men and women in uniform for their selfless service to their country. And I urge my colleagues to support the National Guard and our troops and vote in favor of this important legislation.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, 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. 940.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE AIR FORCE AND DYESS AIR FORCE BASE ON ACHIEVING ENERGY SAVINGS

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 845) recognizing the United States Air Force and Dyess Air Force Base for their success in achieving energy savings and developing energy-saving innovations during Energy Awareness Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 845

Whereas the United States Air Force operates 84 major installations and 82 minor installations worldwide and is supported by an employee base of approximately 700,000 persons, which includes regular and Reserve component members and civilian employees;

Whereas the Air Force mission requires a global presence that provides a rapid response capability and strategic positioning of its assets;

Whereas the Air Force is the largest user of energy in the Federal Government since Air Force aircraft consume significant quantities of energy in executing their mission and keeping the United States and its allies safe;

Whereas the Air Force has a comprehensive energy policy and strategy that identifies the imperative to eliminate waste, conserve resources, and seek new, alternative sources of energy;

Whereas October of each year is Energy Awareness Month throughout the Federal Government, and the Air Force's theme for fiscal year 2010 is "Energy Solutions...Fueling the Mission";

Whereas the theme "Energy Solutions...Fueling the Mission" highlights the

importance of energy to the Air Force's overall mission to "Fly, Fight, Win" and supports the Air Force energy plan to reduce demand, increase supply, and change the culture to make energy a consideration in everything they do;

Whereas Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas, is one of just three Air Force installations recognized by the Department of Energy as a 2009 Federal Energy and Water Management Award Winner;

Whereas Dyess Air Force Base has developed several energy-saving initiatives, including a system that employs a pond and an ice plant through which water is circulated and then used to cool the installation during the hot summer months, reducing the energy used by the B-1 simulator campus by over 30 percent, and saving Dyess Air Force Base more than \$239,000;

Whereas through a partnership with two companies, Dyess Air Force Base was able to take previously unusable water to the base through an abandoned pipeline for use on the installation's golf course, thereby saving more than 160 million gallons of water a year;

Whereas the hangar lights at Dyess Air Force Base were replaced with new electronic dimming lights, which have saved 9,734 million BTUs and \$209,000; and

Whereas in 2008, Dyess Air Force Base energy managers, engineers, and contracting officials reduced energy consumption by 16.5 percent and saved more than \$1 million: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the energy savings and innovations achieved by the United State Air Force;

(2) honors the leadership of the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess Air Force Base for their energy savings; and

(3) congratulates Tom Denslow, Danny Dobbs, Ron Miller, and TSgt (Sel) Daniel Thatcher of the Department of the Air Force, Dyess Air Force Base, and Steve Dumont of the Department of the Air Force, Air Combat Command, for their efforts to reduce energy use in support of the missions of the 7th Bomb Wing and the 317th Airlift Group and to make Dyess Air Force Base a model of efficient energy use.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) 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 have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks 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, I rise today to support House Resolution 845, recognizing the United States Armed Forces and Dyess Air Force Base for their success in achieving energy savings and developing energy-saving innovations.

I would like to thank my colleague and former neighbor, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for his work in bringing this resolution to the floor.

The Air Force pledge to become more energy efficient has facilitated both re-

sourceful engineering projects and simple solutions, such as the installation of new electronic dimming lights in hangars at Dyess Air Force Base.

While the projects at Dyess Air Force Base range in size and scope, the end result is a 16.5 percent reduction in energy usage at a savings of over \$1 million in 2008. The diligence exhibited by the Air Force and leadership at Dyess Air Force Base serves as a good example of what can be achieved in energy savings, not only at other bases, but in government facilities, private businesses, and personal households.

The men and women at this base in Abilene, Texas, continue to display a commitment to conserve energy and remain faithful stewards of the taxpayers' money. They accomplished all of this without sacrificing their ultimate mission to "Fly, Fight, Win."

So Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the United States Air Force and Dyess Air Force Base for their successes in energy conservation by supporting House Resolution 845.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 845, which recognizes the United States Air Force and Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, for their innovative approaches and success in achieving energy savings. I want to commend Representative RANDY NEUGEBAUER of Texas for sponsoring this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as the largest user of energy in the Federal Government, the Air Force has been a national leader in seeking ways to conserve energy, eliminate waste, and seek alternative sources of energy at its 166 large and small installations around the world. Within this exemplary group of military installations, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, was just one of three Air Force installations recognized by the Department of Energy as a 2009 Federal Energy and Water Management Award winner. In earning this distinction, Dyess Air Force Base personnel reduced energy consumption by more than 16 percent and saved over \$1 million without sacrificing mission accomplishment in any way.

This is why it is, therefore, right and proper that we recognize the Air Force and Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, for their leadership and outstanding accomplishments in energy stewardship.

I urge all Members to support this resolution.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, the sponsor of this resolution, Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the

United States Air Force in their tremendous efforts as leaders in the Federal Government's participation in Energy Awareness Month this past October.

America depends on the Air Force to continually provide an umbrella of security, deter our Nation's enemies, and provide safe, efficient, and effective transportation of essential personnel and supplies to carry out their mission.

As the largest single user of energy in the Federal Government, the Air Force faces the daily challenge of improving their energy efficiency while continuing to provide our Nation and her allies with the most reliable Air Force in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also take this opportunity to congratulate Dyess Air Force Base, located in my district. Dyess Air Force Base was recently recognized by receiving the Department of Energy's Federal Energy and Waste Management Award. The Federal Energy and Waste Management Award recognizes individuals, groups, and agencies for their outstanding contributions in the areas of energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of advanced and renewable energy technologies at their Federal facilities. Having earned this award in the past, Dyess Air Force Base continues to be a model for smart energy use.

As we recognize October as Energy Awareness Month throughout the Federal Government, Dyess Air Force Base has made outstanding contributions in areas of energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of advanced and renewable energy technologies. Some of the energy-saving initiatives included a system that employs a pond and an ice plant through which water is circulated and used to cool the installation during the hot summer months, and reducing the energy used by the B-1 bomb simulator over 30 percent, saving almost \$239,000. They also developed a way to use previously unusable water through an abandoned pipeline for use by the installation's golf course, thereby saving almost 160 million gallons of fresh water each year.

All told, in 2008, Dyess Air Force Base reduced its total energy consumption 16.5 percent and saved the American taxpayers over \$1 million. I am proud of this achievement and the honor that this award brings to the Air Force, the people of the 19th Congressional District, and to the State of Texas. As we step toward developing sustainable and alternative energy sources, we must continue to work to increase our energy efficiency.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally congratulate and insert into the RECORD the following names: Tom Denslow, Danny Dobbs, Ron Miller, and Daniel Thatcher of Dyess Air Force Base; and Steve Dumont of Air Combat Command for their efforts to reduce energy use and to make that base a model of energy use. It is because of

their hard work and dedication that America's dollars are better utilized and airmen are best served.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my colleague from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) for managing the bills on the floor today. 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. 845, as amended.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1245

NORTHWEST STRAITS MARINE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1672) to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act to promote the protection of the resources of the Northwest Straits, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1672

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 "Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NORTHWEST STRAITS MARINE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE ACT.

The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act (title IV of Public Law 105-384; 112 Stat. 3458) is amended—

- (1) in section 402, by striking "(in this title referred to as the 'Commission')"; and
- (2) by striking sections 403 and 404;
- (3) by redesignating section 405 as section 410; and
- (4) by inserting after section 402 the following new sections:

"SEC. 403. FINDINGS.

"Congress makes the following findings:

"(1) The marine waters and ecosystem of the Northwest Straits in Puget Sound in the State of Washington represent a unique resource of enormous environmental and economic value to the people of the United States.

"(2) During the 20th century, the environmental health of the Northwest Straits declined dramatically as indicated by impaired water quality, declines in marine wildlife, collapse of harvestable marine species, loss of critical marine habitats, ocean acidification, and sea level rise.

"(3) At the start of the 21st century, the Northwest Straits have been threatened by sea level rise, ocean acidification, and other effects of climate change.

"(4) In 1998, the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act (title IV of Public Law 105-384) was enacted to tap the unprecedented level of citizen stewardship demonstrated in the Northwest Straits and create a mechanism to mobilize public support and raise capacity for local efforts to protect and restore the ecosystem of the Northwest Straits.

"(5) The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative helps the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other Federal agencies with their marine missions by fostering local interest in marine issues and involving diverse groups of citizens.

"(6) The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative shares many of the same goals with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including fostering citizen stewardship of marine resources, general ecosystem management, and protecting federally managed marine species.

"(7) Ocean literacy and identification and removal of marine debris projects are examples of on-going partnerships between the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"SEC. 404. DEFINITIONS.

"In this title:

"(1) COMMISSION.—The term 'Commission' means the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission established by section 402.

"(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

"(3) NORTHWEST STRAITS.—The term 'Northwest Straits' means the marine waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and of Puget Sound from the Canadian border to the south end of Snohomish County.

"SEC. 405. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION.

"(a) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of up to 14 members who shall be appointed as follows:

"(1) One member appointed by a consensus of the members of a marine resources committee established under section 408 for each of the following counties of the State of Washington:

"(A) San Juan County.

"(B) Island County.

"(C) Skagit County.

"(D) Whatcom County.

"(E) Snohomish County.

"(F) Clallam County.

"(G) Jefferson County.

"(2) Two members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior in trust capacity and in consultation with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission or the Indian tribes affected by this title collectively, as the Secretary of the Interior considers appropriate, to represent the interests of such tribes.

"(3) One member appointed by the Governor of the State of Washington to represent the interests of the Puget Sound Partnership.

"(4) Four members appointed by the Governor of the State of Washington who—

"(A) are residents of the State of Washington; and

"(B) are not employed by a Federal, State, or local government.

"(b) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

"(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall select a Chairperson from among its members.

“(d) MEETING.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson, but not less frequently than quarterly.

“(e) LIAISON.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and in consultation with the Director of the Commission appointed under section 407(a), shall appoint an employee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—

“(A) to serve as a liaison between the Commission and the Department of Commerce; and

“(B) to attend meetings and other events of the Commission as a nonvoting participant.

“(2) LIMITATION.—Service of an employee as an appointee under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be limited to service as a liaison and attendance of meetings and other events as a nonvoting participant; and

“(B) does not obligate the employee to perform any duty of the Commission under section 406(b).

“SEC. 406. GOAL AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

“(a) GOAL.—The goal of the Commission is to protect and restore the marine waters, habitats, and species of the Northwest Straits region to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use by—

“(1) designing and initiating projects that are driven by sound science, local priorities, community-based decisions, and the ability to measure results;

“(2) building awareness and stewardship and making recommendations to improve the health of the Northwest Straits marine resources;

“(3) maintaining and expanding diverse membership and partner organizations;

“(4) expanding partnerships with governments of Indian tribes affected by this title and continuing to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties; and

“(5) recognizing the importance of economic and social benefits that are dependent on marine environments and sustainable marine resources.

“(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Commission are the following:

“(1) To provide resources and technical support for marine resources committees established under section 408.

“(2) To work with such marine resources committees and appropriate entities of Federal and State governments and Indian tribes affected by this title to develop programs to monitor the overall health of the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits.

“(3) To identify factors adversely affecting or preventing the restoration of the health of the marine ecosystem and coastal economies of the Northwest Straits.

“(4) To develop scientifically sound restoration and protection recommendations, informed by local priorities, that address such factors.

“(5) To assist in facilitating the successful implementation of such recommendations by developing broad support among appropriate authorities, stakeholder groups, and local communities.

“(6) To develop regional projects based on such recommendations to protect and restore the Northwest Straits ecosystem.

“(7) To serve as a public forum for the discussion of policies and actions of Federal, State, or local government, an Indian tribe affected by this title, or the Government of Canada with respect to the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits.

“(8) To inform appropriate authorities and local communities about the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits and about issues relating to the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits.

“(9) To consult with all Indian tribes affected by this title to ensure that the work of the Commission does not violate tribal treaty rights.

“(c) BENCHMARKS.—The Commission shall carry out its duties in a manner that promotes the achieving of the benchmarks described in subsection (f)(2).

“(d) COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION.—The Commission shall carry out the duties described in subsection (b) in coordination and collaboration, when appropriate, with Federal, State, and local governments and Indian tribes affected by this title.

“(e) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The Commission shall have no power to issue regulations.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each year, the Commission shall prepare, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and make available to the public an annual report describing—

“(A) the activities carried out by the Commission during the preceding year; and

“(B) the progress of the Commission in achieving the benchmarks described in paragraph (2).

“(2) BENCHMARKS.—The benchmarks described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) Protection and restoration of marine, coastal, and nearshore habitats.

“(B) Prevention of loss and achievement of a net gain of healthy habitat areas.

“(C) Protection and restoration of marine populations to healthy, sustainable levels.

“(D) Protection of the marine water quality of the Northwest Straits region and restoration of the health of marine waters.

“(E) Collection of high-quality data and promotion of the use and dissemination of such data.

“(F) Promotion of stewardship and understanding of Northwest Straits marine resources through education and outreach.

“SEC. 407. COMMISSION PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

“(a) DIRECTOR.—The Manager of the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program of the Department of Ecology of the State of Washington may, upon the recommendation of the Commission and the Director of the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, appoint and terminate a Director of the Commission. The employment of the Director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

“(b) STAFF.—The Director may hire such other personnel as may be appropriate to enable the Commission to perform its duties. Such personnel shall be hired through the personnel system of the Department of Ecology of the State of Washington.

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.—If the Governor of the State of Washington makes available to the Commission the administrative services of the State of Washington Department of Ecology, the Commission shall use such services for employment, procurement, grant and fiscal management, and support services necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission.

“SEC. 408. MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The government of each of the counties referred to in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 405(a)(1) may establish a marine resources committee that—

“(1) complies with the requirements of this section; and

“(2) receives from such government the mission, direction, expert assistance, and financial resources necessary—

“(A) to address issues affecting the marine ecosystems within its county; and

“(B) to work to achieve the benchmarks described in section 406(f)(2).

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each marine resources committee established pursuant to this section shall be composed of—

“(A) members with relevant scientific expertise; and

“(B) members that represent balanced representation, including representation of—

“(i) local governments, including planning staff from counties and cities with marine shorelines;

“(ii) affected economic interests, such as ports and commercial fishers;

“(iii) affected recreational interests, such as sport fishers; and

“(iv) conservation and environmental interests.

“(2) TRIBAL MEMBERS.—With respect to a county referred to in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 405(a)(1), each Indian tribe with usual and accustomed fishing rights in the waters of such county and each Indian tribe with reservation lands in such county, may appoint one member to the marine resources committee for such county. Such member may be appointed by the respective tribal authority.

“(3) CHAIRPERSON.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each marine resources committee established pursuant to this section shall select a chairperson from among members by a majority vote of the members of the committee.

“(B) ROTATING POSITION.—Each marine resources committee established pursuant to this section shall select a new chairperson at a frequency determined by the county charter of the marine resources committee to create a diversity of representation in the leadership of the marine resources committee.

“(c) DUTIES.—The duties of a marine resources committee established pursuant to this section are the following:

“(1) To assist in assessing marine resource problems in concert with governmental agencies, tribes, and other entities.

“(2) To assist in identifying local implications, needs, and strategies associated with the recovery of Puget Sound salmon and other species in the region of the Northwest Straits listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in coordination with Federal, State, and local governments, Indian tribes affected by this title, and other entities.

“(3) To work with other entities to enhance the scientific baseline and monitoring program for the marine environment of the Northwest Straits.

“(4) To identify local priorities for marine resource conservation and develop new projects to address those needs.

“(5) To work closely with county leadership to implement local marine conservation and restoration initiatives.

“(6) To coordinate with the Commission on marine ecosystem objectives.

“(7) To educate the public and key constituencies regarding the relationship between healthy marine habitats, harvestable resources, and human activities.

“SEC. 409. NORTHWEST STRAITS MARINE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Commission and the Director of the State of Washington Department of Ecology, or his or her designee, may enter into an agreement with an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a nonprofit foundation to support the Commission and the marine resources committees established under section 408 in carrying out their duties under this Act.

“(b) DESIGNATION.—The foundation authorized by subsection (a) shall be known as the ‘Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation’.

“(c) RECEIPT OF GRANTS.—The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation may, if eligible, apply for, accept, and use grants awarded by Federal agencies, States, local governments, regional agencies, interstate agencies, corporations, foundations, or other persons to assist the Commission and the marine resources committees in carrying out their duties under this Act.

“(d) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation may transfer funds to the Commission or the marine resources committees to assist them in carrying out their duties under this Act.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARAMENDI). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) 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 to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade, the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative has fostered innovative, citizen-driven restoration and conservation programs that protect critical marine, coastal and island resources in the Northwest Straits. Despite hugely successful programs, such as the Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Program, the initiative’s original authorizing statute has lapsed.

H.R. 1672 would reauthorize the initiative and would codify aspects of the initiative’s operating body, the Northwest Straits Commission.

I commend the bill’s sponsor, Representative RICK LARSEN of the State of Washington, for his leadership in reauthorizing the initiative and for enhancing the ability of the commission to produce locally driven, coordinated restoration projects with measurable results.

With that, I urge Members on both sides to support the passage of this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1672 reauthorizes and makes modest modifications to legislation which created a regional citizens’ advisory board in the Pacific Northwest. The Northwest Straits Advisory Commission was established to make recommendations to Federal and State agencies based on input from the county level, and it has no regulatory powers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, 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 pass the bill, H.R. 1672, 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.

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT PENALTY AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2062) to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to provide for penalties and enforcement for intentionally taking protected avian species, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2062

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 “Migratory Bird Treaty Act Penalty and Enforcement Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT.

Section 6 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 707) is amended by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e), and by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) Except in the case of hunting and other activity allowed under section 3, whoever in violation of this Act kills or wounds a migratory bird in an aggravated manner shall, in lieu of any penalty for such violation—

“(A) for the first violation, be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than one year, or both; and

“(B) for the second and any subsequent violation, be fined under title 18 of the United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both.

“(2) The authority under section 3(k) of the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 7421(k)) applies with respect to a violation described in paragraph (1).

“(3) For the purposes of this subsection the term ‘aggravated manner’ means deliberately and in a manner that—

“(A) demonstrates indifference to the pain and suffering of the bird; or

“(B) involves actions that would shock a reasonable person.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) 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 to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2062 would amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to establish new penalties and fines for instances when migratory birds are deliberately killed or wounded in an aggravated manner.

In 2007, a 14-month, multi-State undercover investigation initiated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service revealed that thousands of protected species of hawks and falcons had been killed illegally. Worse, despite the fact that those who had done the killing had used horrific methods, including trapping, poisoning, suffocating, clubbing, and baiting birds with pigeons rigged with fishing hooks, many of the defendants who pleaded guilty to the only applicable charge under the MBTA, a class B misdemeanor, escaped with minor fines or were merely granted probation.

These events confirm that the Congress should amend the MBTA to authorize new felony penalties to deter future offenses and to allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to recommend charges appropriate for the brutal nature of these actions when they do occur.

I commend our colleague from Oregon, Representative PETER DEFAZIO, for his leadership in developing this narrowly tailored legislation that does not diminish in any way the MBTA’s existing “strict liability” standard.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge Members on both sides to support the passage of this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 91 years ago, in an effort to protect certain avian species, Congress enacted the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. That law established criminal penalties for certain illegal activities, such as hunting over a baited field, using a live decoy to hunt waterfowl, or simply killing a protected migratory bird. In most instances, the punishment for these offenses is limited to 6 months in jail, a \$15,000 fine, or both.

What H.R. 2062 is designed to address are inhumane and shocking violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. For example, during the past 3 years, a number of protected hawks and peregrine falcons have been killed by pigeon hobbyists in retaliation for these raptors eating their prized pets. While those involved in this illegal activity were tried and convicted under Federal law, not a single defendant received jail time, and none of the fines approached the maximum level. This is despite the fact that these pigeon hobbyists shot, poisoned, gassed, strangled, and clubbed thousands of protected birds and then bragged about it on the Internet.

In an effort to respond to future cases which would shock a reasonable

person, H.R. 2062 establishes a new two-tiered penalty system under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. For the first offense under this new standard, a defendant could receive up to 1 year in jail, a \$100,000 fine, or both. For subsequent convictions of the same type, the penalties could increase to 2 years in jail, fines of up to \$250,000, or both. These would be available, but not mandatory, penalties that a United States Attorney could seek in future migratory bird prosecutions.

Let me emphasize that this will not be the new legal standard for all violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We are not talking about protected birds that are killed by a cell tower. We are not talking about hunters who kill too many ducks or geese. We are not talking about someone who steals goose eggs from a golf course. We are not talking about your grandmother who may shoot a protected woodpecker because its constant tapping on her house is annoying her. There is also absolutely no intention that these new penalties would affect in any manner the authorized hunting of migratory birds or the taking of migratory birds under a depredation order established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

These enhanced penalties in H.R. 2062 will send a clear message to individuals throughout this Nation that egregious behavior, like the roller pigeon cases, will not be tolerated in the future.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, just over 2 years ago, Fish and Wildlife Service arrested a dozen individuals for repeatedly and deliberately killing protected raptors under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In many cases, the individuals used cruel and shocking methods of torture, mutilation, poisoning, suffocation, and clubbing to kill and wound these birds. They then bragged about their egregious behavior on the internet and to members of their organizations.

Despite the horrific nature of the crimes, the defendants who pleaded guilty to the Class B Misdemeanor—the same penalty ascribed to unauthorized uses of the Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear characters—escaped with fines far smaller than the maximum allowances and were granted probation or given community service.

I and thousands of Oregonians were outraged by the nature of these wanton and senseless crimes. Yet, the individuals responsible only received a stiff slap on the wrist, demonstrating that courts often do not take wildlife crimes seriously enough. Regrettably, horrific violence against protected migratory birds continues across the country.

I introduced H.R. 2062 to provide Fish and Wildlife Service with a law enforcement tool that would allow the agency to prosecute the most egregious violations of the MBTA with serious penalties. This bill would also send a clear message to courts that Congress does take wildlife crimes seriously and expects courts to apply penalties that measure up to the shocking nature of some of these crimes.

The bill before the House today is the consensus product of over 6 months of discussion with conservation groups, hunting associations, Fish and Wildlife Service, the States, and the Republican minority. The bill was

passed unanimously by the House Committee on Natural Resources on November 18th. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. 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 pass the bill, H.R. 2062, 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.

AUTHORIZATION OF A PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR GUAM

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3940) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend grants and other assistance to facilitate a political status public education program for the people of Guam, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3940

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

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

Congress reaffirms that it is the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior to advance the economic, social, and political development of the territories of the United States.

SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR POLITICAL STATUS PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes”, approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C. 1469d), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d) as subsections (c) through (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) The Secretary of the Interior may extend to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands, and their agencies and instrumentalities, assistance, including assistance in the form of grants, research, planning assistance, studies, and agreements with Federal agencies, to facilitate public education programs regarding political status options for their respective territories.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 19(a)(2)(C) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2028(a)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “section 601(c) of Public Law 96–597 (48 U.S.C. 1469d(c))” and inserting “section 601(d) of Public Law 96–597 (48 U.S.C. 1469d(d))”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) 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 to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3940 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist the Governments of Guam, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands in developing and implementing political status public education programs.

Such programs would aid the people of these territories in understanding the various and viable political status options available to them. With such information, they could, in turn, express informed opinions about their future in any political status plebiscite or convention.

Today, Guam, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands are the three United States territories recognized by the international community as nonself-governing. The Federal Government is obligated to advance their self-government, taking into account the political aspirations of their peoples. The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for these efforts under U.S. law, and the resolution of status for these territories is a matter for Congress to ultimately resolve under article IV of the United States Constitution. Although efforts have been made in the past in each territory toward improving its status consistent with the right of self-determination, status remains ultimately unresolved for them.

In Guam, a local law has authorized a plebiscite to be held that is to involve a public education program. In American Samoa, the work of a locally established commission to assess status options, the third such commission in the history of the territory, was recently concluded. A plebiscite on status was also held previously in the Virgin Islands.

Each circumstance, however, demonstrates the importance of a public education program for resolving status in each territory and for preparing for future plebiscites or other processes by which their people can collectively express their political aspirations.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, simply clarifies in law that the Secretary of the Interior can exercise existing authority to provide general technical assistance to these territories for the purpose of facilitating political status public education.

So I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3940 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend assistance to facilitate political

status public education programs for American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These territories may request grant funds from the Secretary to conduct public education programs to assist their electorate in understanding the political status options for each territory.

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

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

□ 1300

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 pass the bill, H.R. 3940, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend Public Law 96-597 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to extend grants and other assistance to facilitate political status public education programs for the peoples of the non-self-governing territories of the United States."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RENAMING THE OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3603) to rename the Ocmulgee National Monument, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3603

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

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION.

The Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Georgia, shall be known and redesignated as the "Ocmulgee Mounds National Monument".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Ocmulgee National Monument shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ocmulgee Mounds National Monument".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) 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 bill 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, H.R. 3603 is sponsored by my friend and col-

league Representative MARSHALL of Georgia.

The bill is very simple. It changes the name of the Ocmulgee National Monument to the Ocmulgee Mounds National Monument.

The new name will more accurately portray the resources at the monument, which is located in Macon, Georgia, and which was established in 1934 to protect a collection of Native American mounds, including a large ceremonial center, that encompassed burial and residential mounds, a large earthen temple, and political meeting chambers.

H.R. 3603 has wide support in the community, and those supporters believe the name change will help the public better understand the nature of the monument and encourage increased visitation.

I urge all Members to support this bill.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Democrat bill manager's adequately explained this bill. We have no objection to its consideration.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL), for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. MARSHALL. I thank the gentlewoman from Guam.

I just want to add my 2 cents here. I am the sponsor of the bill. Locally, in the middle of Georgia area, when we refer to the Ocmulgee National Monument, almost everybody says the Mounds, we are going over to the Mounds. That's the most significant archaeological and physical aspect of this particular facility.

The facility is actually virtually in downtown Macon. It's right at the junction of two interstate highways. It's the most frequently visited monument, museum, et cetera, in middle Georgia. We believe, by adding the word "mounds" to the name, we will increase the visibility of the Mounds.

This site has had continuous human habitation for over 12,000 years. It may be the site, the longest site of continuous human habitation in North America. The Mounds were added circa 600 to 900, if I recall correctly, A.D., but the site is of historical significance that goes well beyond simply the Mounds.

We encourage the House to unanimously support this request.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, 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 pass the bill, H.R. 3603, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PRESERVING ORANGE COUNTY'S ROCKS AND SMALL ISLANDS

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 86) to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by bringing the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 86

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

SECTION 1. PRESERVATION OF ROCKS AND SMALL ISLANDS ALONG THE COAST OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The Act of February 18, 1931, entitled "An Act to reserve for public use rocks, pinnacles, reefs, and small islands along the seacoast of Orange County, California" is amended by striking "temporarily reserved" and all that follows through "United States" and inserting "part of the California Coastal National Monument and shall be administered as such".

(b) REPEAL OF RESERVATION.—Section 31 of the Act of May 28, 1935, entitled "An Act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to dispose of certain lighthouse reservations, and for other purposes" is hereby repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) 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 bill 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, H.R. 86, introduced by our colleague from California Representative CAMPBELL, would correct a situation in which two acts from the 1930s are inadvertently preventing certain rocks, pinnacles, reefs, small islands, and lighthouses off the coast of Orange County from being included in the California Coastal National Monument.

President Clinton, in 2000, created the California Coastal National Monument, which spans the entire 1,100 miles of the California coast and encompasses more than 20,000 small islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles; however, the act designating the monument included only unreserved and unappropriated rocks and islands. Under the 1930s acts, these natural and cultural sites off the coast of Orange County were already reserved.

H.R. 86 would strike the reservation language in one act and repeal another act to provide that these areas finally be permanently protected as part of the California Coastal National Monument.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 86.

I reserve the balance of time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 86, introduced by Congressman JOHN CAMPBELL, will remove an unused lighthouse reservation currently in place for certain rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California. This bill would add them to the California Coastal National Monument. The lighthouse reservation has been in place since 1935 to provide locations for searchlights and other coastal defense equipment; however, we have been assured that there is no longer a need for this reservation.

Congressman CAMPBELL's legislation will provide for consistency in the management of geological features along the coast of Orange County, and I support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, 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 pass the bill, H.R. 86, as amended.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS SEMIPOSTAL STAMP ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1454) to provide for the issuance of a Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1454

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 "Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS SEMIPOSTAL STAMP.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*In order to afford a convenient way for members of the public to contribute to funding for the operations supported by the Multinational Species Conservation Funds, the United States Postal Service shall issue a semipostal stamp (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp") in accordance with succeeding provisions of this section.*

(b) *COST.*—*The Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp shall be offered at a cost equal to the cost of mailing a letter weighing 1 ounce or less at the nonautomation single-piece first-ounce letter rate, in effect at the time of purchase, plus a differential of not less than 25 percent.*

(c) *OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—*The issuance and sale of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp shall be governed by the provisions of section 416 of title 39, United States Code, and regulations issued under such section, subject to subsection (b) and the following:*

(1) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*All amounts becoming available from the sale of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp (as determined under section 416(d) of such title 39) shall be transferred to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, for the purpose described in subsection (a), through payments which shall be made at least twice a year, with the proceeds to be divided equally among the African Elephant Conservation Fund, the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund, the Great Ape Conservation Fund, the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, and other international wildlife conservation funds authorized by the Congress after the date of the enactment of this Act and administered by the Service as part of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.*

(B) *PROCEEDS NOT TO BE OFFSET.*—*In accordance with section 416(d)(4) of such title 39, amounts becoming available from the sale of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp (as so determined) shall not be taken into account in any decision relating to the level of appropriations or other Federal funding to be furnished in any year to—*

(i) *the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; or*

(ii) *any of the funds identified in subparagraph (A).*

(2) *DURATION.*—*The Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp shall be made available to the public for a period of at least 5 years, beginning no later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

(3) *STAMP DEPICTIONS.*—*Stamps issued under this Act shall depict images of flagship multinational species, such as African and Asian elephants, rhinoceros and tigers, marine turtles, and certain species of great apes.*

(4) *LIMITATION.*—*The Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp shall not be subject to, or taken into account for purposes of applying, any limitation under section 416(e)(1)(C) of such title 39.*

(5) *RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.*—*Amounts transferred under paragraph (1) shall not be used to fund or support the Wildlife Without Borders Program or to supplement funds made available for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.*

(d) *DEFINITION.*—*For purposes of this Act, the term "semipostal stamp" refers to a stamp de-*

scribed in section 416(a)(1) of title 39, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) 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 bill 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, this bill has been authored by my colleague and my friend Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. The Multinational Species Conservation Funds support conservation activities in a wide range of countries to protect, recover, or restore threatened and endangered species, specifically, tigers, rhinoceroses, African elephants, Asian elephants, great apes and sea turtles.

H.R. 1454 would require the U.S. Postal Service to issue a Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp to generate additional funding to support the wildlife grant programs under these funds. Considering the high demand for grants under these programs and the fact that they commonly leverage three or four times as much funding from non-Federal contributions, this additional funding, Mr. Speaker, will be put to good use to protect these keystone species.

With that, I ask Members on both sides to support the bill's passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the sponsor of H.R. 1454, first I want to thank the chairwoman of our subcommittee, Ms. BORDALLO, for her assistance in moving this bill forward.

Also, I want to express my sincere appreciation to Chairman NICK RAHALL, Chairman ED TOWNS, Ranking Republican Member DOC HASTINGS and Ranking Republican Member DARRELL ISSA for all of their efforts to facilitate today's consideration for the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a fiscally responsible method to assist endangered species without costing our taxpayers any money.

This bipartisan legislation has been cosponsored by 154 Members of this body and it has been endorsed by more than 40 conservation organizations, including the Humane Society of the United States, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, the

Wildlife Conservation Society, and the World Wildlife Fund. These groups represent millions of Americans, and I agree with their assessment that allowing the U.S. Postal Service to sell a semipostal stamp that would generate funding for the Multinational Species Conservation Funds would give the general public the opportunity to contribute directly to the conservation of many keystone species around the world.

Under the terms of this measure, the U.S. Postal Service will be directed to design and distribute a semipostal stamp depicting various flagship species, like an African elephant, Bengal tiger, white rhinoceros, or loggerhead sea turtle. These stamps would be available to the public at a premium price. After the Postal Service has deducted all of its administrative costs, the remaining proceeds will be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who will then equally divide the monies into the Multinational Species Conservation Funds.

This is not a new idea. In fact, the Congress has already approved semipostal stamps for the 9/11 response heroes, the victims of domestic violence, and breast cancer research. These stamps have been remarkably successful. According to the U.S. Postal Service, more than 860 million breast cancer stamps have been sold, \$381 million in revenue has been obtained, and \$67.8 million has been dedicated for medical research to fight this terrible disease.

Let me be clear that under H.R. 1454, there is absolutely no cost to either our taxpayers or the U.S. Postal Service. In fact, the Postal Service will realize a significant profit from the sale of these wildlife postal stamps because we know, based on previous experience, that a large number of people will buy semipostals but will never use them.

For the past 20 years, the U.S. Congress has generously allocated a small amount of taxpayers' money to save highly imperiled African and Asian elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles. While we have authorized \$400 million to assist these species, only \$64 million has been appropriated, leaving over 1,500 worthwhile eligible conservation projects unfunded.

□ 1315

H.R. 1454 offers us a unique opportunity to establish a new creative funding mechanism, for a limited period of time and at no cost, to provide a small amount of additional money to help save some of the most iconic species on this planet.

Finally, I would like to again thank the leadership of House Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Natural Resources for allowing the House to vote on this important bipartisan wildlife conservation legislation. I would also like to again thank all the cosponsors of this bill and recognize my distinguished colleague and friend

from Columbia, South Carolina, the Honorable JIM CLYBURN, for assisting me in this effort.

I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 1454, and let's work together to stamp out extinction.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the passage of H.R. 1454, legislation to create a postal stamp to benefit the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. I appreciate the leadership of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in crafting this bill and am pleased to support this effort to improve global wildlife conservation efforts.

The bill before the House today, H.R. 1454, would establish a Multinational Species Conservation Fund stamp through the United States Post Office in order to provide the public with a convenient opportunity to contribute to important international conservation efforts.

Like many of my constituents in the west and northwest suburbs of Chicago, I believe that we are called to be good stewards of our environment and natural resources. This means exercising a healthy respect for animals, both domestically as pets, and in the wild. As the parent of four children, I want to pass along to them an appreciation of the beauty of God's creation.

The proceeds of the stamps sold under this legislation will benefit the research and protection of at-risk species including African elephants, Asian elephants, great apes and marine turtles. This legislation provides a great avenue for animal welfare supporters to make a financial difference in international conservation efforts on a daily basis, one stamp at a time.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I encourage supportive members of the public to select these new stamps when they become available to help show their commitment to safeguarding our precious natural resources and wildlife.

I urge Members to support this bill.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I congratulate my colleague for authoring this fine piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, 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 pass the bill, H.R. 1454, 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.

MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADDITION

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 118) to authorize the addition of 100 acres to Morristown National Historical Park, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 118

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

SECTION 1. ADDITION TO THE PARK.

The first section of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the addition of lands to Morristown National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes", approved September 18, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 409g), is amended—

(1) by inserting "from a willing owner only," after "the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to procure"; and

(2) by striking "615" each place it appears and inserting "715".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) 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 bill 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.

H.R. 118 is sponsored by our colleague, Representative FRELINGHUYSEN of New Jersey. The bill would expand the authorized acquisition ceiling for Morristown National Historic Park, which was the first unit of its kind in our national park system.

The park is currently limited to a maximum of 615 acres and is under severe pressure from surrounding residential development. H.R. 118 would allow the National Park Service to acquire up to an additional 100 acres as land or easements become available from willing sellers.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill and I urge Members to support it.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Twice during the Revolutionary War, George Washington decided on Morristown, New Jersey, as the place to station the Continental Army for the winter lull in fighting. There were both military and civilian reasons to choose this area. With the Redcoats in firm control of New York City and the sea, it was essential that an inland route connecting rebel-held New England with the South be kept open. Morristown was positioned just right to keep this link from being severed.

Morristown was also the right place because George Washington had won over the local population to support the American cause. He won their support by insisting that his troops respect the property of the people, even the property of Tory sympathizers.

Not only did Washington give strict orders that forbade the Patriot forces

from looting, in sharp contrast to the practice of the British and Hessian forces, but he also gave the New Jersey militia as its major assignment the mission of protecting the property of New Jersey's farmers from the foraging parties of King George's army.

The leader of the militia in neighboring Somerset County at that time was a young, 23-year-old colonel named Frederick Frelinghuysen. So it is appropriate that this now 200-year-old family tradition of protecting the property rights of New Jersey citizens is upheld in the bill by a "willing seller" provision.

The Morristown National Historical Park was established in 1933 as the first National Historic Park. It includes Washington's winter headquarters and other preserved or reconstructed Revolutionary War encampments and artifacts. The park has reached its statutory size limit, but there are additional parcels that could be donated to the park. H.R. 118 authorizes an additional 100 acres for park expansion.

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

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from South Carolina for yielding me time and for his very accurate history lesson. This is indeed New Jersey's version of Valley Forge.

At the outset I want to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA); and the ranking member, the gentleman from Utah, Mr. ROB BISHOP, for their work on my bill. In addition, I want to offer my appreciation to the chairman of the full Committee on Natural Resources, Mr. RAHALL; and the ranking member, DOC HASTINGS, for bringing this legislation to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, as has been stated here this afternoon, H.R. 118 seeks to authorize the addition of 100 acres to Morristown National Historic Park in my congressional district in New Jersey. The Morristown National Historic Park, our Nation's oldest National Historic Park, has a rich historical significance beginning with Washington's encampment there in 1777, 1779, and 1780.

New Jersey was quite literally the crossroads of the American Revolution as America's struggle for independence was won and, yes, nearly lost there. During two critical winters of the war, Morristown served as the headquarters for General George Washington. To mark the area's impact on our Nation's history, Morristown National Historic Park was established by Congress in 1933.

Today, from time to time, property owners with land adjacent to the park

offer their property in the form of a donation to the National Park Service. Due to an existing acreage ceiling, the park cannot accept these donations nor can it acquire any additional land.

My colleagues, Federal support for Morristown National Historic Park and the inclusion of additional lands that have significant historical background presents a unique opportunity for our government to express its commitment to preserving our past which may be threatened if these lands go unprotected.

I am also pleased that the committee adopted language proposed by Representative BISHOP that land come from only willing donors or sellers, assuring that property rights are respected.

I believe our responsibility at the Federal level is to serve as a helping hand, one that works with the Department of the Interior to secure critical funding, and I do that on the Appropriations Committee, and provides authority to purchase and, yes, accept as donations parcels from willing sellers. This process will allow us to continue to respect and complement greater county, State, municipal, and private efforts already in place to protect these important resources.

I want to commend the cosponsors of this legislation, including the entire New Jersey congressional delegation, and members of the Committee on Natural Resources for recognizing the importance of this proposal. Additionally, I want to thank the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders in New Jersey and the local municipalities for their support.

With that said, I urge passage of my bill.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this bill, 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 pass the bill, H.R. 118, 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 SERVICE AUTHORITIES AND CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3804) to make technical corrections to various Acts affecting the National Park Service, to extend, amend, or establish certain National Park Service authorities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3804

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "National Park Service Authorities and Corrections Act of 2009".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 101. National Park System Advisory Board.

Sec. 102. National Park Service Concessions Management Advisory Board.

Sec. 103. National Park System uniform penalties.

Sec. 104. Volunteers in the parks.

TITLE II—PEARL HARBOR TICKETING

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Sec. 202. Facilitation of admission to historic attractions within Pearl Harbor Naval Complex.

Sec. 203. Protection of resources.

TITLE III—CHANGES TO NATIONAL PARK UNITS

Sec. 301. George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Sec. 302. District of Columbia snow removal.

Sec. 303. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park.

Sec. 304. Lava Beds National Monument Wilderness boundary adjustment.

TITLE IV—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Sec. 401. Baltimore National Heritage Area.

Sec. 402. Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area.

Sec. 403. Snake River headwaters.

Sec. 404. Taunton River.

Sec. 405. Cumberland Island National Seashore.

Sec. 406. Niagara Falls National Heritage Area.

TITLE I—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 101. NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD.

Section 3(f) of the Act entitled, "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes", approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 463(f)), is amended in the first sentence by striking "2010" and inserting "2020".

SEC. 102. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONCESSIONS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

Section 409(d) of the National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-391) is amended by striking "2009" and inserting "2019".

SEC. 103. NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM UNIFORM PENALTIES.

(a) FINES AND IMPRISONMENT.—The first section of the Act entitled, "An Act to provide for the protection of national military parks, national parks, battlefield sites, national monuments, and miscellaneous memorials under the control of the War Department", approved March 2, 1933 (47 Stat. 1420, ch. 180), is amended by striking "such fine and imprisonment." and inserting "such fine and imprisonment; except if the violation occurs within a park, site, monument, or memorial that is part of the National Park System, where violations shall be subject to the penalty provision set forth in section 3 of the Act of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 3; commonly known as the 'National Park Service Organic

Act) and section 3571 of title 18, United States Code.”.

(b) **COST OF PROCEEDINGS.**—Section 2(k) of the Act entitled, “An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes”, approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 462(k)), is amended by striking “cost of the proceedings.” and inserting “cost of the proceedings; except if the violation occurs within an area that is part of the National Park System, where violations shall be subject to the penalty provision set forth in section 3 of the Act of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 3; commonly known as the ‘National Park Service Organic Act’), and section 3571 of title 18, United States Code.”.

SEC. 104. VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARKS.

Section 4 of the Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 18j) is amended by striking “\$3,500,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”.

TITLE II—PEARL HARBOR TICKETING

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

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

(2) **PEARL HARBOR HISTORIC SITE.**—The term “Pearl Harbor historic site” means a historic attraction within the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex, including the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park, the Battleship Missouri Memorial, the Pacific Aviation Museum—Pearl Harbor, and any other historic attraction that the Secretary identifies as a Pearl Harbor historic site and that is not administered or managed by the Secretary.

(3) **VISITOR CENTER.**—The term “visitor center” means the visitor center located within the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex on lands that are within the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument and managed by the Secretary through the National Park Service.

SEC. 202. FACILITATION OF ADMISSION TO HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS WITHIN PEARL HARBOR NAVAL COMPLEX.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in managing the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, may enter into an agreement with the nonprofit organizations or other legally recognized entities that are authorized to administer or manage a Pearl Harbor historic site—

(1) to allow visitors to a Pearl Harbor historic site to gain access to the site by passing through security screening at the Visitor Center; and

(2) to allow the sale of tickets to a Pearl Harbor historic site within the Visitor Center by employees of the National Park Service or by organizations that administer or manage a Pearl Harbor historic site.

(b) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—In any agreement entered into pursuant to this title, the Secretary—

(1) shall require the organization administering or managing a Pearl Harbor historic site to pay to the Secretary a reasonable fee to recover administrative costs associated with the use of the Visitor Center for public access and ticket sales, the proceeds of which shall remain available, without further appropriation, for use by the National Park Service at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument;

(2) shall ensure the limited liability of the United States arising from the admission of the public through the Visitor Center to a Pearl Harbor historic site and the sale or issuance of any tickets to the site; and

(3) may include any other terms and conditions the Secretary deems appropriate.

(c) **LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Under this title, the Secretary shall have no authority—

(1) to regulate or approve the rates for admission to an attraction within the Pearl Harbor historic site;

(2) to regulate or manage any visitor services of any historic sites within the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex other than at those sites managed by the National Park Service as part of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument; or

(3) to charge an entrance fee for admission to the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

SEC. 203. PROTECTION OF RESOURCES.

Nothing in this title authorizes the Secretary or any organization that administers or manages a Pearl Harbor historic site to take any action in derogation of the preservation and protection of the values and resources of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

TITLE III—CHANGES TO NATIONAL PARK UNITS

SEC. 301. GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

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

(2) **RESEARCH CENTER.**—The term “Research Center” means the Federal Highway Administration’s Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center.

(3) **FARM.**—The term “Farm” means the Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

(4) **MAP.**—The term “Map” means the map titled “GWMP—Claude Moore Proposed Boundary Adjustment”, numbered 850/82003, and dated April 2004. The map shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION TRANSFER.**—

(1) **TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary and the Secretary of Transportation are authorized to transfer administrative jurisdiction for approximately 0.342 acre of land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior within the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, generally depicted as “B” on the Map, for approximately 0.479 acre within the boundary of the Research Center land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation adjacent to the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, generally depicted as “A” on the Map.

(B) **USE RESTRICTION.**—The Secretary shall restrict the use of 0.139 acre of land within the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway immediately adjacent to part of the north perimeter fence of the Research Center, generally depicted as “C” on the Map, by prohibiting the storage, construction, or installation of any item that may obstruct the view from the Research Center into the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

(2) **REIMBURSEMENT OR CONSIDERATION.**—The transfer of administrative jurisdiction under this section shall occur without reimbursement or consideration.

(3) **COMPLIANCE WITH AGREEMENT.**—

(A) **AGREEMENT.**—The National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration shall comply with all terms and conditions of the Agreement entered into by the parties on September 11, 2002, regarding the transfer of administrative jurisdiction, management, and maintenance of the lands discussed in the Agreement.

(B) **ACCESS TO LAND.**—The Secretary shall allow the Research Center access to the land the Secretary restricts under paragraph (1)(B) for purposes of maintenance in accordance with National Park Service standards, which includes grass mowing and weed control, tree maintenance, fence maintenance, and visual appearance. No tree 6 inches or more in diameter shall be pruned or removed without the advance written permission of the Secretary. Any pesticide use must be approved in writing by the Secretary prior to application of the pesticide.

(d) **MANAGEMENT OF TRANSFERRED LANDS.**—

(1) **INTERIOR LAND.**—The land transferred to the Secretary under subsection (c)(1) shall be included in the boundaries of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and shall be administered by the National Park Service as part of the parkway subject to applicable laws and regulations.

(2) **TRANSPORTATION LAND.**—The land transferred to the Secretary of Transportation under subsection (c)(1) shall be included in the boundary of the Research Center and shall be removed from the boundary of the parkway.

(3) **RESTRICTED-USE LAND.**—The land the Secretary has designated for restricted use under subsection (c)(1) shall be maintained by the Research Center.

SEC. 302. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SNOW REMOVAL.

Section 3 of the Act entitled, “An Act Providing for the removal of snow and ice from the paved sidewalks of the District of Columbia”, approved September 16, 1922 (Sec. 9-603, D.C. Official Code), is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. (a) It shall be the duty of a Federal agency to remove, or cause to be removed, snow, sleet, or ice from paved sidewalks and crosswalks within the fire limits of the District of Columbia that are—

“(1) in front of or adjacent to buildings owned by the United States and under such Federal agency’s jurisdiction; or

“(2) public thoroughfares in front of, around, or through public squares, reservations, or open spaces and that are owned by the United States and under such Federal agency’s jurisdiction.

“(b) The snow, sleet, or ice removal required by subsection (a) shall occur within a reasonable time period after snow or sleet ceases to fall or after ice has accumulated. In the event that snow, sleet, or ice has hardened and cannot be removed, such Federal agency shall—

“(1) make the paved sidewalks and crosswalks under its jurisdiction described in subsection (a) reasonably safe for travel by the application of sand, ashes, salt, or other acceptable materials; and

“(2) as soon as practicable, thoroughly remove the snow, sleet, or ice.

“(c)(1) The duty of a Federal agency described in subsections (a) and (b) may be delegated to another governmental or non-governmental entity through a lease, contract, or other comparable arrangement.

“(2) If two or more Federal agencies have overlapping responsibility for the same sidewalk or crosswalk they may enter into an arrangement assigning responsibility.”.

SEC. 303. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) **AMENDMENTS.**—The Act entitled “An Act to establish the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes”, approved October 10, 1980 (Public Law 96-428; 94 Stat. 1839) is amended—

(1) in the first section, by striking “the map entitled ‘Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Boundary Map’, number 489/80,013B, and dated September 1992”

and inserting “the map titled ‘Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park’, numbered 489/80,032, and dated April 2009”;

(2) by striking “Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site” each place it appears and inserting “Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park”; and

(3) by striking “historic site” each place it appears and inserting “historical park”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law (other than this Act), map, regulation, document, record, or other official paper of the United States to the “Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site” shall be considered to be a reference to the “Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park”.

SEC. 304. LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT WILDERNESS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

The first section of the Act of October 13, 1972 (Public Law 92-493; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note), is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “That, in” and inserting the following:

“SECTION 1. In”; and

(2) by striking “ten thousand acres” and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting “10,431 acres, as depicted within the proposed wilderness boundary on the map titled ‘Lava Beds National Monument, Proposed Wilderness Boundary Adjustment’, numbered 147/80,015, and dated September 2005, and those lands within the area generally known as the ‘Schonchin Lava Flow’, comprising approximately 18,029 acres, as depicted within the proposed wilderness boundary on the map, are designated as wilderness.”.

TITLE IV—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

SEC. 401. BALTIMORE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11) is amended—

(1) in sections 8005(b)(3) and 8005(b)(4) by striking “Baltimore Heritage Area Association” and inserting “Baltimore City Heritage Area Association”; and

(2) in section 8005(i) by striking “EFFECTIVENESS” and inserting “FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE”.

SEC. 402. MUSCLE SHOALS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

Section 8009(j) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 is amended by striking “EFFECTIVENESS” and inserting “FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE”.

SEC. 403. SNAKE RIVER HEADWATERS.

Section 5002(c)(1) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 is amended by striking “paragraph (205) of section 3(a)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraph (206) of section 3(a)”.

SEC. 404. TAUNTON RIVER.

Section 5003(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 is amended by striking “section 3(a)(206)” each place it appears and inserting “section 3(a)(207)”.

SEC. 405. CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE.

Section 6(b) of the Act titled “An Act to establish the Cumberland Island National Seashore in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes” (Public Law 92-536) is amended by striking “physiographic conditions not prevailing” and inserting “physiographic conditions now prevailing”.

SEC. 406. NIAGARA FALLS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

Section 427(k) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-229) is amended by striking “Except as provided for the leasing of administrative facilities under subsection (g)(1), the” and inserting “The”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) 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 bill 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.

H.R. 3804 is a package of reauthorizations and technical corrections introduced at the request of the National Park Service by Representative PAUL TONKO.

The bill includes 10-year reauthorizations for the National Park System Advisory Board and the National Park Service Concession Management Advisory Board.

H.R. 3804 also increases the authorization for the popular Volunteers in Parks program, which provides reimbursement for travel costs and other small expenses to volunteers whose contributions to our parks are enormous.

Among other provisions, H.R. 3804 also changes the designation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, makes several minor boundary adjustments, and allows park staff at the USS Arizona Memorial to work with other organizations to ease visitors’ admission to the many historic sites at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, Representative TONKO is to be commended for helping the National Park System with this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, December 2, 2009.

Hon. NICK RAHALL,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: I am writing about H.R. 3804, the “National Park Service Authorities and Corrections Act of 2009”, which the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported to the House on November 10, 2009.

I appreciate your effort to consult with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform regarding those provisions of H.R. 3804 that fall within the Oversight Committee’s jurisdiction. These provisions include matters related to snow and ice removal within the District of Columbia.

In the interest of expediting consideration of H.R. 3804, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will not object to the consideration of this bill in the House. I would, however, request your support for the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform should H.R. 3804 or a similar Senate bill be considered in conference with the Senate.

This letter should not be construed as a waiver of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform’s legislative jurisdiction over subjects addressed in H.R. 3804 that fall within the jurisdiction of the Oversight Committee.

Finally, I request that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee on Natural Resources report on H.R. 3804 and in the Congressional Record during

consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

EDOLPHUS TOWNS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2009.

Hon. EDOLPHUS TOWNS,

Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Rayburn H.O.B., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your willingness to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 3804, the National Park Service Authorities and Corrections Act of 2009, which contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 3804, even though your Committee has received an additional referral. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL, II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Although many parts of this legislation are technical, there are a few extra “want list” items thrown in by the National Park Service. It is a bad practice for us to enact substantive changes in law or extensions of authority under the guise of a technical corrections bill.

I want to call the attention of the House to two of the provisions of this bill that should have been subject to hearings and thoughtful deliberation.

First, the reauthorization of the NPS Advisory Board is not a technical matter. The board has recently been reauthorized through annual appropriations bills, but issues such as conflicts of interest, membership qualifications, and the independence of board members who work for organizations that receive funds from the Department of the Interior should be addressed by Congress. The usefulness of the board itself came into question under previous Park Service Directors as it was routinely used to stall difficult decisions.

Second, the Concessions Advisory Board has received little if any oversight, and a 10-year reauthorization without any specific inquiry may be unjustifiable at this time.

Typically, these boards have been used as “plums” by sitting administrations, Republican and Democrat. The

National Park System has many strong supporters in Congress, including me, but I do not think we help the Park Service by enacting unexamined provisions of law buried in a technical corrections bill.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this bill, 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 pass the bill, H.R. 3804, 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.

□ 1330

PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3388) to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3388

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 "Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification Act".

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield is modified to include the properties as generally depicted on the map titled "Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Expansion", numbered 325/80,080, and dated June 2007. The map shall be on file and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(b) *ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES.*—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire the lands or interests in land, described in subsection (a), from willing sellers only by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or transfer.

(c) *ADMINISTRATION.*—The Secretary shall administer any land or interests in land acquired under this section as part of the Petersburg National Battlefield in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION TRANSFER.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Army are authorized to transfer administrative jurisdiction for approximately 1,171 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior within the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield, for approximately 1,170 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army within the boundary of the Fort Lee Military Reservation adjacent to the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield.

(b) *MAP.*—The land to be exchanged is depicted on the map titled "Petersburg National

Battlefield Proposed Transfer of Administrative Jurisdiction", numbered 325/80,081, and dated October 2009. The map shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) *CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER.*—The transfer of administrative jurisdiction authorized in subsection (a) shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) *NO REIMBURSEMENT OR CONSIDERATION.*—The transfer shall occur without reimbursement or consideration.

(2) *DEADLINE.*—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Army shall complete the transfers authorized by this section not later than 120 days after the funds are made available for that purpose.

(3) *MANAGEMENT.*—The land conveyed to the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be included within the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield and shall be administered as part of the park in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) 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 bill 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, H.R. 3388 is sponsored by our colleague, Representative FORBES of Virginia. The 9-month campaign by the Union Army to capture the town of Petersburg, Virginia, was the longest of the Civil War. Today, only a fraction of the sites associated with the siege are protected within Petersburg National Battlefield. The Civil War Preservation Trust has consistently listed this area among the Nation's most endangered Civil War battlefields. Mr. Speaker, this legislation authorizes the expansion of the park to preserve approximately 7,000 acres that retain their historic significance. It was the subject of an extensive public planning process and has strong support within the local community.

I commend Mr. FORBES for sponsoring this legislation to improve the preservation of such an important historic resource, and I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

DECEMBER 3, 2009.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Longworth House Office Building Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 18, 2009, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered H.R. 3388, the Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification Act, to be reported. As you know, this measure contains certain provisions that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

Our Committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 3388 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this

legislation, the Committee on Armed Services will waive further consideration of H.R. 3388. I do so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures. In the event of a conference with the Senate on H.R. 3388, the Committee on Armed Services reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of your response in your Committee's report on H.R. 3388 and the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman,
House Committee on Armed Services.

DECEMBER 3, 2009.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Ray-
burn H.O.B., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your willingness to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 3388, the Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification Act, which contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 3388, even though your Committee has received an additional referral. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Armed Services if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3388 expands the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia and authorizes the exchange of approximately equal 1-acre parcels between the Secretary of the Interior and the Army. The boundary expansion adds an additional 7,000 acres that have been identified as core battlefield areas during the Union Army's long siege of Petersburg during the Civil War.

I want to compliment the sponsor of this bill, Congressman FORBES, for including "willing seller" language in the bill. Private land will fall within the expanded boundary of the park, and those property rights need to be protected.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3388, the Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification Act. This legislation would provide for the expansion of Petersburg National Battlefield in Petersburg, Virginia, which will serve to increase heritage tourism in the Commonwealth of Virginia and enable Americans to learn more about the final years of the Civil War.

Nearly one quarter of the entire Civil War was fought in and around Petersburg, Virginia.

Only 25 miles south of Richmond, the city of Petersburg served as an important supply center to the Confederate capital. With its five railroad lines and key roads, Petersburg was recognized as a lynchpin of all Confederate efforts by both General Ulysses S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee, which is why on June 1864 General Grant moved to surround and isolate the City. Remarkably, for 9 1/2 months, General Lee held off the Northern troops, in what became one of the longest sieges in the history of American warfare. Eventually, both armies were forced to abandon Petersburg, leaving behind 70,000 casualties as they began their trek toward Appomattox Courthouse, where General Lee would ultimately surrender.

The historic sites at Petersburg National Battlefield tell this incredible story, and serve as an important reminder of an extraordinary chapter in American history. The numerous battlefields, monuments, and museums allow not only Virginians, but all Americans, to appreciate those who came before us during one of the most trying conflicts in the history of our great Nation.

The bill before us today, H.R. 3388, expands the area of the Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia by over 7,000 acres. The bill allows the National Park Service to acquire the land by purchase, easement, exchange, and donation from private and nonprofit landowners. This bill would also allow for the administrative jurisdiction transfer of approximately 1.17 acres of land between the Fort Lee Military Reservation, through the Department of the Army, and the National Park Service, through the Department of the Interior. H.R. 3388 is supported by all parties involved, including each surrounding locality.

The Petersburg National Battlefield is an integral part of the local community, an important tourist destination for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a touchstone of America's past. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3388 to ensure that this important historic site is enhanced for generations of Americans to come.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I want to thank my colleague from South Carolina for managing the bills on the floor today.

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 pass the bill, H.R. 3388, 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2009.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 7, 2009, at 9:31 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 370.
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEAL of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A DEFINABLE VICTORY IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I appreciate being recognized and the privilege to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives. And I've just returned within the last few hours from Afghanistan, arriving here this morning sometime around, oh, 7 or so after a long and very busy weekend in places in Afghanistan that we know as Kabul and Kandahar, Bagram, and also, a forward operating base called Spin Boldak.

And it's been my opinion for a long time, and having made at least nine different visits over to theaters that we do call theaters of war, that would include six to Iraq and three trips to Afghanistan, there are some other trips along there that I haven't chronicled, Madam Speaker, but I've found that sitting in classified briefings here in the United States Congress, here in the Capitol Building or over in the secure building in Rayburn, or going out to briefings at the White House and listening to our top military officers, our top civilian officers, including the State Department officers, give us their briefing on what's taking place in a region like that is not a fair substitute for actually going into the theater and receiving the briefings there from the people that are hands-on, on the ground, in the field.

And having an opportunity to sit down and eye-to-eye discuss these situations, generally with people from our home State, where we always have something in common and where we can get down to the frank matters of fact without hesitation because we more naturally trust each other, and we also know somebody that knows somebody, and whether we actually know the troops or not, we know the family members that are related to their family members, at a minimum. And so we build that level of trust and rapport.

This trip was similar to a number in the past. It included briefings from top military personnel, top State Department and civilian personnel, included a meeting that lasted for an extended period of time with President Mohammed Karzai of Afghanistan in the palace in Kabul, and the trip, as I mentioned, out to the forward operating base south and a little bit east of Kandahar, right on the Pakistani border.

The position that I have taken over these years has been a strong national defense position, Madam Speaker. And I would go back and catalog some of that for the benefit of your attention, and that is that, from the time we went into Iraq, and as I watched things, the liberation of Iraq and then the stagnation of our operations in Iraq, the war of attrition that we fought there for a while that wasn't coming to a successful conclusion.

And on one of my trips into that area before the "surge" became a word that was used in the common vernacular here in the United States at least, I had worked through that policy and agreed with the officers who were about to request that President Bush order the surge in Iraq.

So, in short, Madam Speaker, I was for the surge before the surge had a name. And it has proven itself, I believe, to be the successful tactic that's brought about what I have also defined in this Congress—to have achieved a definable victory in Iraq. And I will get to Afghanistan. But I introduced a resolution in February of this year that defines the victory that we've achieved in Iraq. And it goes through the list or the chronology or the history of the incidents that took place in that country, the things that we and coalition forces did to liberate the Iraqi people, and the milestones along the way, the ups and the downs of the struggle that's taken place in Iraq.

And yet, if you put it all together, and you look at the successful ratification of a Constitution, successful elections in Iraq, the emergence of the Iraqi security forces as becoming ever more proficient and ever more stable, the definition of what we were seeking to achieve in Iraq has been very closely achieved to this point. Now, there's no such thing as a locked in, guaranteed, free, and moderate people of any kind. There's not a guarantee in the United States. But by comparison with what Iraq was to what it is today, it's significantly more stable. And we expect there will be a continued transition of power in Iraq, a sharing of power in Iraq that will be brought about by legitimate elections.

And so this accomplishment in Iraq, I bring out and make this point, Madam Speaker, so that should I utter a contrast, I want you and everyone listening to understand the foundation that I build this judgment on, and that's that foundation that I believe we have achieved a definable victory in Iraq. And now, that being said, and I can certainly discount some of the

things that are going on there, and I could lay some conditions on the statement like anyone who might choose to rebut such a position. But, by the same token, a lot's been achieved.

And on my first trip into Afghanistan which was some time, I believe, in 2005, without checking the records, and perhaps 2004, but we were in some of the more difficult times in Iraq at the time that I first went to Afghanistan. But when I came back from Afghanistan, even then, in the middle part of this decade that we're in now, I said then that we'll be in Afghanistan a lot longer than we'll be in Iraq. It wasn't conventional wisdom at the time. People didn't know how we were going to get out of Iraq. They didn't know how we were going to achieve a definable victory there.

But even then, I said we'll be in Afghanistan a lot longer because, Madam Speaker, Afghanistan is a lot closer to the Stone Age than is Iraq. Iraq has resources, they have oil, they have a tradition of education. They have a history of a more moderate and more modern government that has, actually, a central government that reached out to the corners of Iraq.

Afghanistan has none of those traditions and none of those histories, and they don't have the natural resources at this point, at least, that have been developed that's going to help the treasury of Afghanistan. They had a gross domestic product, the previous time that I was there, I remember the briefing documents, of \$7.5 billion. That's the gross domestic product of Afghanistan.

Now it's reported it's gone up to around \$11.4 billion in the GDP. That's only over the last couple of years. Almost a 50 percent increase. And I suspect, Madam Speaker, that some of that has to do, since it's measured in American dollars, with the fall of the American dollar, the diminishment of the value of our American dollar. And when that happens, it's going to automatically and inversely increase the GDP of any country that's indexed to it, such as Afghanistan. But the GDP of Afghanistan is very minimal.

And at one time I compared Afghanistan's GDP to the value of the beer brewed in Wisconsin. They were about the same. A couple of years ago, the \$7.5 billion GDP of Afghanistan and the value of the beer brewed in Wisconsin was \$7 billion. So that gives you a sense of how tiny this economy is, not to disparage the beer brewers in Wisconsin of course, Madam Speaker. And this tiny little economy has struggled along. It's very much agriculture and agrarian-based, and a large percentage of the agricultural value output in Afghanistan is poppies, poppies from which heroin and opium are made, and that produce about half of the value of the ag products in Afghanistan, and perhaps more, if one were able to get an accurate accounting.

The poppy business in Afghanistan, much of it in Helman province, and

neighboring Kandahar province to a lesser degree, those poppies in Afghanistan represent about two-thirds of the world's supply of opium and heroin in the world. So Afghanistan has long been a producer of poppies. But the system that has emerged and developed, we knew it then, we knew when we went in to liberate Afghanistan in the late fall or early winter of 2001, that the heroin trade from poppies was a significant component of the funding of our enemies, the funding of the Taliban.

□ 1345

Glad it remains that way today, and in some respects it may be worse than it was before. And yet there has been an effort under way to reduce the production of poppies in Afghanistan and thereby reducing the amount of dollars that go to the people that we declare to be our enemies. And these would be presumably the people who have attacked the United States, or plotted to do so.

I advocated, Madam Speaker, that on the day we went into Afghanistan, the time that American forces arrived there and became a predominant force there on the ground in Afghanistan was the time that we should have gone in and taken out the poppies. Just sprayed them. We can eradicate most any kind of foliage if we want to do that. And I've made this argument with every United States ambassador—and with one exception, their representative instead because the ambassador wasn't available—that we've had in Afghanistan since the beginning. And their response to me has been, We can't upset the economy in Afghanistan by taking them out of the poppy business. And besides, do I, as a Member of Congress, who advocates such a thing, understand the difficulty and logistics of spraying that many poppies?

And certainly I do understand the difficulty. I'm not sure the ambassadors do. They lay out a comparison that it would be something like four football fields wide, all the way around the Earth at the equator, the equivalent of taking out that much crop. Well, that's an awful lot of crop, Madam Speaker. But we sprayed almost the entire crop in Iowa on average more than once just last summer, and we have a few squadrons of spray planes in Iowa that have the capability of going in and taking out that poppy crop. And if we did that, that would shut down billions of dollars that go into the hands of the Taliban and al Qaeda, billions of dollars that are used against the United States.

Now, some of these briefings will say it's somewhere between \$70 million and \$120 million. Well, if that's the case, I would ask the question, If it's \$3 billion, \$3.5 billion worth of poppies altogether, if that's what the crop is worth, how does only \$70 million to \$120 million get into the hands of the Taliban or al Qaeda, and where does the rest of the money go?

I'll submit, I think it's a lot more money than that. I don't think it's possible for us to track that money. And I don't accept the values that have been put on it with such confidence in places like Afghanistan when I can't, Madam Speaker, find out from the director of the Drug Enforcement Agency here in the United States how many dollars are spent on illegal drugs in the streets of America in a year.

When they tell me, We don't know; we don't know what the drugs are worth that are bought and sold and used and go in people's bloodstream and up the noses of Americans, we can't put a value on that within a billion dollars, how can the State Department tell me in a country that is that close to the Stone Age that doesn't have communications like we have, doesn't have a transportation network as anybody would imagine for any kind of a country, how can we get that estimate close in Afghanistan but we can't even guess at it in the United States?

So I will submit this: if they're right, the poppy crop is worth about half of the GDP of Afghanistan 2 years ago, may or may not be right, then we should be thinking of it in terms of roughly half the GDP in Afghanistan today.

In any case, it's lots of money. It's tens of millions at a very minimum, more likely hundreds of millions and maybe billions of dollars, and large shares of that go into the coffers of the Taliban and al Qaeda; and that money is used to pay the people that they recruit that plot and plan and train against us and to provide for them supplies, munitions, weaponry that get used around this world in terrorist plots.

So the number one effort to eradicate the terrorists that are in the breeding and training grounds in the areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan would be to shut off the money that comes from the illegal drugs that come from the poppy trade.

So instead, we have State Department personnel, USAID and USDA and other personnel that are seeking to negotiate with Afghan farmers to encourage them to raise pomegranates and fruits and nuts of all kinds, especially vines and trees, so they have to invest in longer than an annual crop, a perennial crop that makes them stick with that crop a little bit longer.

We're investing millions in that, and we're providing subsidies to Afghanistan of significant dollars. Now, here I will just pose this number: a billion dollars, a billion U.S. dollars invested in subsidies in Afghanistan to try to convince them that there are crops that pay better than raising the illegal poppy crop.

Well, I think a big degree of this is poppycock, Madam Speaker, to think that we can negotiate with people that are raising illegal drugs and convince them if we just gave them enough subsidy, they will stop doing that. They will always do what pays the best. That's the way things work.

And the world does have a free market economy. Can you imagine going down to pay the people in Mexico and Central and South America not to raise coca or not to raise the tree that produces cocaine, and can we convince them not to raise marijuana crops? Can we convince them not to convert the products that are now smuggled in from China or shipped directly into the United States into methamphetamines because there is something that pays better? It will always find its way to the market.

So we need to raise the cost of transaction. If we raise the cost of transaction, that means knock out these poppies. They will blossom. It's the nature of a poppy. They're easy to see from the air. I know we have poppies growing in places where we don't go with our military, and we're looking at perhaps as much as 90 percent of the poppies raised in Afghanistan, which is someplace two-thirds or more of the world production of poppies taking place in Helmand province down there where we are going to send reinforcements.

And, Madam Speaker, I applaud the President for finally making the decision after 3 months of—what shall I say—floating trial balloons and deliberating, and having discussions at the White House and deliberations. When the request that emerged in the public, a request that was submitted by General McChrystal—and if my date is correct it would be August 30 of this year—and by September 23, that report was leaked into the media. Who knows where it came from, Madam Speaker, and I'm generally a harsh critic of people inside the military system that would leak anything that's classified information.

Now, I don't know if this request was classified, but it was leaked. And I have not heard anyone report how it was leaked, but I suspect it was somebody who wanted the American people to know the request was made by General McChrystal. And I suspect that if that request of General McChrystal, at least the substance of that request that was leaked, that was put out into the press that was reported to be 40,000 troops necessary or risk failure in Afghanistan, if that report, if that request had not been submitted, Madam Speaker, I suspect that we would have never found out what General McChrystal's actual request was.

In fact, back channels tell me that was the lowest number that General McChrystal asked for. And back channels tell me that the number between 40,000 and 80,000 was incrementally dialed in so that if there were 80,000 troops sent rather than 40,000, the odds of success increased in proportion with the number of troops. Less than 40,000, we risk failure; and 80,000 troops would bring us to the highest probability of success. It could be dialed down from 80,000 and still have success, taking the risks, of course, in proportion. But dialed down below 40,000, I don't under-

stand that General McChrystal entertained the thought that 30,000 troops would be enough to do the job.

However, our military, being the brave and noble warriors that they are, do keep a stiff upper lip, and none of them would not utter these things to me because they know what their orders are from the Commander in Chief by rights, by the rights of the Constitution, by the rights of the results of the election, the President of the United States is the Commander in Chief of our military; and implicitly in the Constitution, the President sets the foreign policy.

Our foreign policy now is 30,000 more troops deployed into Afghanistan starting sometime in January and then with a look at 18 months as a period of time to start to withdraw troops out of Afghanistan. And having achieved the goals that have been defined to the American people in the speech the President gave over a little over a week ago—and again, I would reiterate that I was part of the first delegation of Members of Congress to arrive in Afghanistan after the President's speech when he announced he would send an additional 30,000 troops—this deployment of 30,000 troops and the stiff upper lip that's being kept by our military requires one to read between the lines to draw conclusions of what their real judgment is because they have their orders, and they will make due.

But when I see that the lowest number—and again this is back-channel information to me; it's not classified and it's not a briefing. Back channel information to me says 40,000 was the lowest number asked for by General McChrystal. General McChrystal and our troops in Afghanistan got a number that was 75 percent of the minimum number I believe was offered as a necessary number of troops to conduct the operations in Afghanistan with prospects of, let me say, avoiding mission failure in Afghanistan.

So they will make do with what they have. And we have gone out and negotiated with some of our NATO partners; and I saw troops there from Germany and Great Britain and from Canada and a number of other countries that are part of our NATO partners. They are there. And they're working hand-in-glove with American troops.

So the additional anticipation of 7,000 or more coming from the NATO section will be very helpful, Madam Speaker. And it doesn't substitute for the request, I don't believe. I don't think we get to say now it's 37,000. I would have rather seen—if it's going to be the minimum number asked for by General McChrystal, I don't think his request was, Oh, by the way, you don't need to send me any if NATO will come up with 40,000. I don't think that was part of the equation at all because our commanders value—and they should—our American troops as being more effective than the troops that are put together in the coalitions from NATO

themselves, even though we have valuable partners and even though they send some very, very good people there.

A little aside: I looked around the airport in Kandahar, and I hadn't thought about the Europeans that were deployed there in Kandahar. It'd been a little over a year since I'd been there. But when I saw all of these bicycles out there, I knew that I actually was in a place where there were a lot of Europeans that were deployed, and that turned out to be the case, Madam Speaker.

In any case, it will be 30,000 troops, not a minimum of 40,000. It certainly won't be 80,000. One might argue we're 50,000 troops short of what the optimum would have been, as back channels say would have been the best wish list for General McChrystal.

And now what I find on the ground is this: the city of Kabul is more stable than I have seen it. The streets of Kabul seem to have a certain order to them. If you watch the people who are moving around, they're not looking over their shoulder, they're not worried about IEDs going off. They're conducting the business there as they have for centuries in Kabul. Little markets, meat hanging on hooks out in the open air collecting that Afghan dust. And if there is one word I would use to describe Afghanistan, it's always been "dust." Dust everywhere, dust all the time. And if it rains, there's dust underneath the little layer of crust that forms if it rains a little bit in Afghanistan. Dust there all the time. But the streets of Kabul being, I think, as stable and orderly as I have seen them and the signs of war have diminished some in Kabul.

Same would go to Kandahar to a certain degree, although Kandahar not being quite as safe in the sense that you get in Kabul itself.

That tells me that we've made some progress. Two-thirds of the population of Afghanistan can be influenced around those urban zones that I have mentioned, the cities in Afghanistan. The balance of that is out there in the countryside: people that live in the valleys and mountains. And those that have an agricultural base and foundation whether they're raising a crop out of the soil or whether they're herding the sheep or their goats, that rural agrarian Afghanistan is the hardest part to reach out to. They have never had a centralized powerful government in Afghanistan. They've never been able to project power out of Kabul out to the corners of Afghanistan. And, today, that's our challenge.

Our challenge, as has been laid out by the President, is to rebuild and in some cases just simply go out and construct the institutions in Afghanistan that are necessary to get government services out to the corners of Afghanistan.

And to provide first for security. We have learned—and it has been true, I believe, for all of human experience—and sometimes we have to relearn that

we can't put down insurrection if we can't provide for stability and security. Security is number one. And then once you establish security, then you can establish the institution of government, the institutions of education, the institutions of a peaceful society.

But without safety, without security, nothing can flow from it when you have only anarchy and that bloody clash of the power struggles that take place, if there's a vacuum for power.

□ 1400

So the charge for President Karzai, for our American people, and for the NATO people is to be able to clear those areas that the Taliban now occupy and control, where the Taliban are providing actually some function of government, including dispute resolution. However brutal it might be, the Taliban are providing some dispute resolution. We need to clear those areas—this is going to sound familiar, Madam Speaker—clear and hold and build, and then transfer.

First we need to clear those areas of the Taliban and to whatever extent al Qaeda might exist in Afghanistan, and we need to hold them. Once we clear a place, we can't leave it. We found out in Iraq that if we would go in and clear al Qaeda, or any of the militia, out of a community in Iraq and then pull our troops out of there, they would just form back again. I don't know why we ever thought that that could be successful.

I remember hearing reports that there was a city or two in Iraq that were controlled by the enemy. And I was astonished that we would go in, liberate a country, and then tolerate the enemy coming into the cities, setting up shop and running the government there, and more or less setting up a fortress and a training camp right there within those cities in Iraq. We learned that lesson the hard way, and we had to go in with the surge and clean out these cities and restabilize.

According to General Petraeus, we brought our own troops in and essentially bunked them right there in the community so they were invested in the security 24/7; not a patrol that just went in and pulled back out again, but Americans that lived right there and provided 24/7 security for the people in those communities. We are going to have to do some of that in Afghanistan as well. But in Iraq we had to go in under the surge, clear and hold those communities and not give that real estate back, clear it and hold it, and then we needed to rebuild some infrastructure.

It's not as big a job to rebuild infrastructure to prewar conditions in Afghanistan as it is probably anywhere else I can think of. We have to rebuild infrastructure, establish the institutions of local government, and any educational institutions that we can set up, outreach to the farmers to try to do the things that we can do with American advisers and whatever comes from

the NATO people, establish a stability of security and the stability of the unity of the institutions and hold that area. And while that is going on, we need to go to other areas and clear and hold and build and set it up so we could transfer then to full Afghan control.

Well, here are some contrasts, again, between Iraq and Afghanistan. Iraq has a population of 28 million. Afghanistan has a population of 28 million. It's the same population, as close as we can count.

The geographical area of Iraq is about the size of California. The geographical area of Afghanistan is about the size of Texas. And so those are the differences. It means the Afghans are stretched out a little more thinly in their population density.

The geography is significantly different in some of the areas. The Iraq geography we know—desert and sand. When you get into the north, then you run into some mountains and some greenness up there in the Kurdish area. But a lot of Iraq looks the same to me when I see it.

In Afghanistan there is a sharper difference in the topography across the country. There are a lot of stark, brutal, bold, stone mountains in the east, around to the south and over towards the west. But also, the further west you go, the more high plains and dust you have out that way. It is a forbidding topography in Afghanistan as compared to that in Iraq.

But on the security side, in Iraq we have managed to, working with our partners and with the full cooperation and support of the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Government, including President Maliki, now provide a number of over 600,000 trained security personnel in Iraq with Iraqi military and Iraqi police forces joined together. I have watched them drill and watched some of their special forces operations. And even though the best that the Iraqis have to offer doesn't match up with the best America has to offer, they look pretty good. There are just over 600,000. The last number I saw was 609,000 Iraqis trained and on line and up and running for the security personnel.

But in Afghanistan, and I'm going to have to work off of memory here, Madam Speaker, because it looks as though my notes don't include these numbers. But in Afghanistan, we are struggling to put together a 100,000 Afghan Army and, at the same time, around 130,000 Afghan police. The Afghan police have significant difficulty in achieving credibility. The people's lack of confidence in the Afghan police comes because of a long history of corruption. The police have been, I will say, not paid a lot, except when it came to bribes. They supplemented their income with bribes. The corruption that has been there in the Afghan police makes it very hard to stand them up and think that they are going to look like, say, New York's Finest, for example. They will never be that. And the culture and the history of the country won't allow that.

But we need to get the Afghan police to be as good as they can be and the Afghan Army to be as good as they can be. And even then, our best hopes are, by the time the President has scheduled a beginning of the drawdown of troops in Afghanistan, the 18 months takes us into the summer of 2011, by that period of time, the goal, the target, is about 230,000 Afghanistan Army and Afghan police that will be providing the security in a country that is spread out more than Iraq is with the same population of Iraq. Where Iraq has 609,000, Afghanistan would have presumably 230,000, a good number of them just trained within the last 18 months.

We know there will be turnover. We know there will be corruption. We know some of them will have to be pulled out by their roots and made an example of, and others will need to be created. And those that have credibility, honor, and integrity will have to be lifted up and promoted.

When we look at an Afghan Army that is perhaps 100,000 strong and an army that has not functioned in a fashion that we would imagine, and we think of the Afghan Army as something that goes out and operates independently, but, truthfully, they are operating with American and NATO advisers in almost every case. An army of 100,000 for a population of 28 million compared to an army of around 400,000, a little more than that in Iraq, for a population of 28 million.

We have many times listened to our military advisers tell us how long it takes to stand up a brigade commander, and they will tell us it takes about 20 years of training and active duty to stand up a brigade commander for our military. And yet, the charge is that we take an army, an Afghan Army that doesn't have the traditions that the United States has nor the knowledge nor the command and control structure, and many times they have illiterate troops that can't read or write. In fact, the literacy rate among Afghans is about 20 percent among the men and 1 or 2 percent among the women. So it's awfully hard to educate someone who can't read and write in their own language. It is hard to identify the best talent in the population if they can't take the written exam. They can only be given an oral exam. It's pretty hard to command troops if you can't read. So, naturally, the literate Afghans will be the ones that will move up through the chain of command. And we have a whole society that needs to be educated and taught to function in a literate fashion.

But to imagine that we can stand up an army in Afghanistan and do so in 18 months by training brigade commanders and on up, officers to do that in an 18-month period of time when it takes 20 years in the United States, and do so in a language that they understand many of them only orally, that they can't read and write in, it boggles the mind to think about how

difficult this task will be to reach this goal where we can start to draw troops down in a year and a half.

I listened to the strategy of clear and hold and build and transfer. I'm not surprised to hear it. I expected that's what I would hear.

I have looked at the numbers of troops that we've committed and the numbers that we hope to recruit out of Afghanistan and the numbers that we hope to be able to convince to come to Afghanistan from the other NATO countries, and it looks like we've got at least a verbal agreement on that, roughly 7,000 additional troops. I have looked at the geography being stretched out the way it is, and I stand and look at the Pakistani border and realize that even though we can control most of the real estate in Afghanistan and probably will control all the real estate in Afghanistan, by the time those additional 30,000 troops arrive, we won't have a license to go into Pakistan. They still have a sanctuary in the neighboring country of Pakistan. Pakistan has a population of, I believe, 173 million. The number indicates a lot of high population in Pakistan and more resources in Pakistan. There are a lot of big mountains there.

The Pakistanis themselves are like people everywhere. They are going to look out for their own interests. Well, their own interests aren't necessarily to put all their resources in defeating the Taliban and rooting out what is left of al Qaeda in the mountains in Pakistan. Their interests are in protecting the Pakistani people. There aren't a lot of them up in the mountains where we think their military needs to go. And their interests are in protecting the Pakistani Government and not overreaching so that the Pakistani Government doesn't get overthrown by the Taliban. That's the struggle that is going on there. So they will take on the Taliban that threatened the Pakistanis, but they don't want to go out and pick a new fight with those elements that are there whose primary objective is to damage the United States and damage the rest of the free world.

So in a lot of the cases, Madam Speaker, it's where you sit is where you stand, that the position that each country takes is a lot like the position that individuals take. We will make our argument at the table for the things that advantage us. And we are pretty creative, and we can self-rationalize and sit down at the table and make the arguments that defend our interests. It's true with people, it's true in this Congress, and it's true when nations negotiate with nations.

So we should always look at what is the interests of Afghanistan; what are the interests of Mohammed Karzai, the President. He would like to stay in power. He would like to serve out his second full term. He is the one that says that he was not reelected, that there was an election. He regrets the corruption, but because his nearest op-

ponent pulled out of the race, he was awarded the election by default. He does regret that, Madam Speaker; at least, those are the words he used to speak to us on this.

But President Karzai has his interests, and the Afghan people that have influence with President Karzai and the Afghan Government have their interests. Taliban have their interests and al Qaeda theirs. There are different groups of the Taliban and other groups that we are fighting as well. It is very complicated, and it is not simple, and it's not at all completely militarily tactical. It's very much how do we put together the solutions of first providing security, maintaining that security, building the institutions and the infrastructure that are necessary so that the central government in Afghanistan can reach out to the corners of the country, such as the place where I was just yesterday at Spin Boldak down on the Pakistani border, and other places.

All of that needs to happen, Madam Speaker. And as General Petraeus said, the enemy gets a vote, too, and they will be working against us and mounting operations where they can. But my general overall impressions are this: I believe that the strategy that has been put together is one where we have to thread the needle. We have the very minimal amount of resources necessary to provide the security. If everything works according to time frame and schedule, there is a chance this can be successful.

But I do not see, when I look at the plan, that there is a redundancy that's built in, that there is a fallback position, that there's an overbuild that comes in. The "just in case" resources don't appear to be there.

Now, I have spent a lot of my life planning logistics and taking on projects. No, not directing wars. But, for example, if I would go into a construction site, and it might be 40 acres of cornfield, and we need to turn it into a school complex, there are a lot of challenges that go on. Things go wrong. The weather works against you. You have people with different interests that are undermining the overall goal. They are breaking up the sequence of the scheduling you set up. Machines break down. And sometimes they throw a wrench in the works, a permit that wasn't required before. You have to plan. You set a schedule. You plan to meet the schedule, and you have to have reserve resources to make sure you can make up for the difference. It might be bring in more men, more workers we say now. It might be bring in more machines. It might be overlap the duties that are assigned from contractor to contractor. It might be go to a different supplier if one of them can't get the materials in time for you. It might be work 7 days a week. It might be work 24/7. It might be double up with crews and go 24/7. But however it is when you have to meet the deadline, when you have the

goal, you have to be planning what you'll do if things don't work out.

□ 1415

Now we have a plan in Afghanistan, 30,000 more troops, starting to insert them in January to get them in position for the beginning of the fighting season, which, I guess, nobody can really tell you when that is—that's when the enemy attacks us in a greater number than it is right now—but roughly mid-to-late March would be what we can anticipate. And that we have 18 months to clear any areas in Afghanistan that are held by our enemy—and I am going to define that enemy as they define the enemy to me, the Taliban; clear and hold, and build the institutions and rebuild the infrastructure, and then transfer in 18 months.

Now, we've been there for 8 years, Madam Speaker, 8 years in Afghanistan. There has been a lot accomplished. And we should not diminish the accomplishments in Afghanistan. They have been significant in that Afghanistan has a Constitution that has been ratified, they have held successful national elections—and some here will object that there was voter fraud in the last election, and there was, no one denies that. And to the extent that the voter fraud was there, I would like to know exactly how many votes were stolen or how many ballot boxes were stuffed by the supporters of either side. And I don't think Karzai would tell us that it didn't happen on his side—I think it's almost certain that it did. Were those numbers great enough to change the result of the election? Probably not.

I will lament any ballot that is not a legitimate one, but the question then becomes: Is this government legitimate? Well, it is among the most legitimate governments that Afghanistan has ever had. We know that the first election electing nationwide offices and leaders on the soil in Afghanistan took place because American and NATO forces allowed that to happen. They provided the security so people could go to the polls.

I remember that there were Iowa National Guard troops on the ground guarding the polling places for the first time in the history on that real estate for people to go to the polls and vote in a national election. It had never happened before. So they have come a long way, Madam Speaker, and we should not diminish the accomplishments.

When you think of the United States of America establishing the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and we fought a war that went on for several years—I'll say 7 years or 8 years—the Treaty of Paris was signed by John Jay in, I think, 1783. By 1787, we produced a Constitution; by 1789 we ratified a Constitution. Thirteen years from the date of the Declaration of Independence until the ratification of the Constitution—which didn't guarantee the centuries-old existence of the United States; it laid down the foundation

where we could continue to fight for liberty and fight for freedom and shape a Nation.

I don't think it was imagined that the United States of America would become the unchallenged greatest Nation in the world. I don't think they knew where the Pacific Ocean was—in, fact I know they didn't. They had to guess how far it was. And Lewis and Clark chartered it in 1803 and 1804, that's when we found out, not in 1789, when the Constitution was ratified.

So this dream of manifest destiny, this dream of this great Nation, wasn't really in the imagination of the Founding Fathers. And yet in 13 years we got where we did with a ratified Constitution from the time of the Declaration. When you look at Iraq and Afghanistan, both of those countries have outpaced the development speed of the United States of America itself, if you measure elections, and even if you measure legitimate elections, and if you measure the ratification of constitutions where there was no tradition before.

So we should be, I think, respectful of the accomplishments that have been made in Iraq and in Afghanistan. It takes a long time to build institutions. We shouldn't just automatically think that because when we opened up the geography book when we were studying eighth-grade geography and looked at the map of the world, and that wooden pointer up there by the chalk board said, here's Pakistan, here's Afghanistan, here's Iran. When we looked at those borders, we envisioned them as borders like we would envision borders of the United States of America, at least. And those borders don't look like I anticipated that they would, Madam Speaker.

But the borders of Afghanistan, especially with Pakistan, are not clearly defined. We have a place that we declare to be the border, but it's not recognized in the same fashion by the people that live near the border. They want to be able to move back and cross across the border and do commerce and trade like they always have. And the agreement on exactly where that is is not a handshake even between Afghanistan and Pakistan; there are still tensions there, there is distrust there. There is the worry that Pakistan focuses towards India with a fear of India as their primary enemy, and they're afraid that Afghanistan will make common cause with India. Those little tensions play out just like they play out between people and neighbors and other countries as well.

But the difficulty of the task in Afghanistan needs to be measured with the reality of what is going on there on the ground and within the historical context of what we are living with today, and that is that a lot of progress has been made, and that the central government in Kabul has never reached out to those borders, those borders that we see on the map that aren't really at all like the borders we would imagine

when we look at Afghanistan and look at the map itself.

We need to understand that many of the enemy are living undisturbed in the mountains in Pakistan. And even though we get a report occasionally that an unmanned drone strayed across the border and dropped a missile into a household that happened to have some al Qaeda terrorists in it, even though we get some reports of that, operations in Pakistan, if they exist, they don't exist formally and they don't exist in any kind of an organized tactical sense.

And so I ask the question, Madam Speaker: Has there ever been an example in the history of the world where a foreign power went into another country and took on an insurgency that operated within that country that also had a sanctuary in a neighboring sovereign nation? In other words, as it was impossible to defeat the Vietnamese as long as they could pull back to North Vietnam or go back up the Ho Chi Minh trail, as long as they could choose the time of engagement and the method of engagement, as long as they had a sanctuary to hide in, a line across which we would not go, it was, I don't believe, possible to defeat the Vietnamese. Same with North Korea. We didn't go after them where they planned their operations, and therefore we ended up with a negotiated settlement.

As I pose this question, I bring it out, Madam Speaker, so we understand here the great difficulty in defeating an enemy that has a sanctuary in a neighboring sovereignty. In other words, if al Qaeda or the Taliban can come into Afghanistan, attack American troops or attack the Afghan people or their military or their police, security personnel, and disengage and go back to Pakistan, and we can chase them to the border, and we've got to stop, and if the Pakistanis are not standing there to meet them, then they can choose the time and the place of their engagement. They can build up and train and gather munitions and then conduct those operations. They can plan operations all over the world, and they have, because they are protected in a sanctuary.

So my argument here, Madam Speaker, is, there needs to be political support for going to the sanctuaries of our enemies, wherever they may be, to take out our enemies that have pledged to kill us. And I remember sitting through a whole weekend of analysis of this—it would have been in January or February of 2003—when we brought in experts. It was a bipartisan retreat weekend, Democrats and Republicans together. And in this retreat weekend, Tom Friedman gave the opening address and raised a series of question. And we sat around all weekend going, What did we ever do to make them hate us? How can we make them like us again so they don't attack us like they did on September 11? What was

wrong with us that caused them to attack us? Who do we repair who we are as Americans?

Madam Speaker, that was the mindset going on here in the United States, especially over on this side of the aisle, and to some degree over on the Republican side of the aisle as well. What if there was nothing wrong with us? What if it was all that was wrong with them? We didn't anticipate in 2001 that there was an enemy that believed as strongly as they did that their path to salvation is in killing Jews, Christians and capitalists, probably in that order. And if they could get a twofer—and they almost always did—they counted that to be a very good thing.

That's why they attacked the economic center of the United States, because they believed that they could kill capitalists at the same time. They despise freedom, they despise liberty, they despise capitalism, they despise Judeo-Christianity. All of that is the enemy of the radical jihadis that we are seeking to psychoanalyze instead of defeat. And believing that we can rebuild institutions in 18 months that we haven't been able to rebuild in 8 years, it smacks of a significant degree of optimism, which I am willing to cautiously buy into provided we provide the resources to do that, and provided we are willing to go where the enemy is.

If that is in Pakistan, I don't want to sit and wait for them to decide to come and attack American troops, or plant IEDs and take out Americans that are there trying to rebuild the institutions and allow the enemy to hide in a neighboring Pakistan. When Pancho Villa came into the United States and murdered about 17 people back in 1912—in fact, Madam Speaker, it might have been the other way around; it might have been 12 people murdered in 1917—we sent our military down there to chase Pancho Villa around because we wouldn't tolerate attacks that came from foreign countries. We knew we couldn't let them have a sanctuary.

If we let our enemies have sanctuaries, they chose the time and the place that they attacked us. We knew that in the early part of the 20th century; we seem to have somehow forgotten that in the early part of the 21st century. We've got to go take the enemy on where they live, where they train, where they lay up, where their munitions are, where their equipment is. We've got to be willing to do that.

And any country that will harbor terrorists doesn't deserve the support of the United States of America. I remember President Bush saying words to the effect of, If you harbor terrorists, you're a terrorist. You are either with us or against us. He made it very clear at the onset of this, and now we seem to be reluctant to even declare who our enemies are.

Another component that I think is significant, Madam Speaker, for the American people to know is that there has been a significant diminishment in

the focus on Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda. It seems as though the position today of the White House and the military is that al Qaeda no longer exists in any significant way in Afghanistan. I remember about two weeks ago or a little more, General Jones—a general handpicked by President Obama—said that the numbers of al Qaeda in Afghanistan are less than 100, less than 100 al Qaeda in Afghanistan. Now, maybe that's true, I don't know. I don't think we have a way of knowing. But if that is the best intelligence that we have, and that is the intelligence that's been delivered in public to the American people by General Jones, then I have to say I don't have any supplemental intelligence that trumps that number.

It just doesn't seem plausible to me that we would mobilize all of this effort and focus ourselves on an enemy called al Qaeda, and have the President of the United States repeatedly, at least 40 times, declare his dedication to going after Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda and defeating them where they are. That was at least 40 times as candidate Obama, then United States Senator Obama, sold himself to the American people and sold his national security credentials to the American people. Forty times, at least, he said he would go after Osama bin Laden, and that he would defeat al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden, and occasionally he added the Taliban to it.

Now, al Qaeda has been pulled out of the dialogue with Afghanistan, Osama bin Laden's name has only been uttered four times by the President of the United States in the year and a month and 3 days since he has been elected President, and those four times, three of them were in response to direct questions asked by the press, and the other time he brought it into another discussion. But at no time has the President said, since he was elected in 1 year and 1 month and 3 days, I will go get Osama bin Laden, I will defeat bin Laden and al Qaeda in Afghanistan. That stopped. That rhetoric stopped abruptly. The 3rd of November, 2008 was the last time Barack Obama spoke of taking out Osama bin Laden. So that actually makes it 1 year, 1 month, and 4 days, to be precise, since the President has said he is going to take out Osama bin Laden.

And now here we are with a minimum number of troops, minus about 25 percent of the minimum number, to go in and stand up the security forces in Afghanistan, take those numbers up to around 230,000, and then have a goal to take that number up higher than that, but to get that recruitment done and the training done with the commanding officers necessary. Even though we know it takes 20 years to get them ready, we are going to do it in 18 months, with a minimum number of resources, and we are going to rebuild the institutions, we are going to clear, we are going to hold, we are going to build, and we are going to transfer.

□ 1430

All of that sounds right, and it sounds good to me. I know a plan when I read one. I understand when I read the contingency plans the redundancies that are built in. I look for that because, for part of a success in a mission, it is necessary to make the contingency plans because things never go the way you plan them to be. There are always pitfalls along the way. There are always things that don't work well. Sometimes it's just bad luck.

I know from my own experience, when I plan logistics as precisely as I can and when I build in the contingency plans and build in the redundancy, then things fall apart anyway. I have to go back and put together a new plan and present that new approach; but about the third time I do that, I finally get to that point where I realize I can keep throwing resources at this over and over again and always add just the minimum to get it done.

Sometimes just the minimum to get it done is just enough to guarantee it isn't going to work. At a certain point, you have to pour enough resources in where you can say, by golly, this will fix it, and I'm done re-devising the plan, and I'm done dragging this out through days and months and weeks and years. We're going to solve this problem.

We're going to solve it with enough resources. If we don't do that, we can't move on to the next thing, the next mission, the next challenge for America.

So I'm going to stand here, proposing that we provide not only the resources that are necessary for our military to protect and to advance the destiny of America but that we provide backup plans, contingency plans, redundancy and that we're ready to alter this plan with more resources, if necessary, in order to achieve or to set about achieving in both Iraq and in Afghanistan a definable victory. We have done so in Iraq. We seek to do that in Afghanistan.

President Karzai recognizes that the Bush doctrine remains intact, that promoting freedom and a stable self-governing country in Afghanistan lays out the foundation consistent with the Bush doctrine, which is to provide for that foundation of legitimate government. If that happens, the voice of the people is heard. When the voice of the people is heard through the ballot box and through other means of self-expression—freedom of the press will be another one—then the tension diminishes.

We don't have to have revolutions in America because we have elections in America. They don't have to have terrorists and revolutions in places like Iraq or Afghanistan if they have elections there, if the voice of the people is heard and if there is dispute resolution by a legitimate means under the rule of law.

President Karzai understands the Bush doctrine is not dead. The Bush

doctrine is very much alive. The directive of the strategy that was laid out by President Obama actually maintains and holds the Bush doctrine intact. It just does so with a minimum number of resources, and we're going to have to look forward to, I'll say, the utter excellence of our noble American troops to bring about an accomplishment there that, I think, could use more resources to ensure a successful result in Afghanistan.

While this is going on, I want to, Madam Speaker, continue to press the President of the United States and the people in America to look at a strategy that goes beyond this amorphous line around through the mountains and between Afghanistan and Pakistan that we cannot defeat an enemy that has a sovereign sanctuary, an enemy that can choose its time to attack us and to lay up and hold up and train.

Furthermore, we'd better start paying attention to this global war on terror. It is not a police action. It is a war against people who ideologically oppose us. We are now raising in the United States terrorists from within the United States who are attacking free people in other parts of the world. We had five terrorist operations that emerged in a single day.

There was one in Dallas, two in New York, one in Chicago, and another one in North Carolina. I think that covers most of them, homegrown to some extent. We have the Somali terrorists out of Minneapolis—homegrown. We have the individual who was just arrested today, or charged today, with helping to plan the massacre that took place a little over a year ago in Mumbai. These are Americans who are now projecting terror around other parts of the world.

We need to get with this and understand the enemy that we are fighting. We need to put a plan in place to clean this up in the United States of America, to eradicate the habitat that breeds terrorists like that, to defeat the culture that breeds people who believe their path to salvation is in killing freedom-loving, God-fearing people like we are here in the United States of America.

This is not just a little bit of an engagement of our law enforcement. This is a clash of ideologies. They are committed. We need to be. We need to understand our enemy, Madam Speaker.

That has been the purpose of my discussion here this afternoon. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

To all of the Members of Congress, as you tune in and listen and to the American people who have the benefit of this open dialogue, I urge our attention to the matter, to the educational upgrade of all of the people in this country.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. BORDALLO) to revise and

extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of South Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, December 11 and 14.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, December 11 and 14.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today, December 8, 9 and 10.

Mr. HALL of New York, for 5 minutes, December 8.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia, for 5 minutes, December 8.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4877. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of three officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of Rear Admiral; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4878. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems and the Joint Tactical Radio System procurements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4879. A letter from the Chair, Congressional Oversight Panel, transmitting the Panel's monthly report pursuant to Section 125(b)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-343; to the Committee on Financial Services.

4880. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2008-0020; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-8101] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4881. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2008-0020; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-B-1067] received November 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4882. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2008-0020; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-B-1070] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4883. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports

to United Kingdom pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

4884. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Institutional Eligibility under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and the Secretary's Recognition of Accrediting Agencies [Docket ID: ED-2009-OPE-0009] (RIN: 1840-AD00) received October 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4885. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Non-Loan Programmatic Issues [Docket ID: ED-2009-OPE-0005] (RIN:1840-AC99) received October 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4886. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID: ED-2009-OPE-0004] (RIN: 1840-AC98) received October 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4887. A letter from the Director, Office of Policy, Reports and Disclosure, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Labor Organizations Annual Financial Reports (RIN: 1215-AB62) received November 2, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4888. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4889. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 18-09 informing of an intent to sign a Project Agreement with Czech Republic; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4890. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4891. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4892. A letter from the Associate Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4893. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2009; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4894. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Colored Federal Airway; Washington [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0970; Airspace Docket No. 09-ANM-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to

the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4895. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of VOR Federal Airway B-626; UT [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0311; Airspace Docket No. 09-ANM-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4896. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model ERJ 170 and ERJ 190 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0687; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-033; Amendment 39-16080; AD 2009-23-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4897. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 407 and 427 Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1003; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-25-AD; Amendment 39-16064; AD 2009-22-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4898. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Reims Aviation S.A. Model F406 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2007-0115; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-080-AD; Amendment 39-16067; AD 2009-22-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4899. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.27 Mark 050, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, and 700 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1024; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-182-AD; Amendment 39-16083; AD 2008-05-18 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4900. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH Dornier Model 328-300 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1023; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-176-AD; Amendment 39-16082; AD 2009-01-06 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4901. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30694; Amdt. No 3346] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4902. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-500 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1039; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-059-AD; Amendment 39-16085; AD 2009-23-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4903. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule — Modification of Restricted Areas and Other Special Use Airspace; Fallon, NV [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0700; Airspace Docket No. 09-AWP-4] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4904. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Noorwik, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0318; Airspace Docket No. 09-AAL-8] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4905. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Federal Airways V-163 and V-358 in the Lampasas, TX, Area [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0128; Airspace Docket No. 08-ASW-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4906. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Topeka, KS [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0404; Airspace Docket No. 09-ACE-5] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4907. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; New Orleans NAS, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0405; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASW-12] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4908. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Midlothian-Waxahachie, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0513; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASW-13] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4909. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Many, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0536; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASW-14] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4910. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; St. Louis, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0541; Airspace Docket No. 09-ACE-7] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4911. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Peoria, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0511; Airspace Docket No. 09-AGL-8] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4912. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Minden, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0542; Airspace Docket No. 09-ACE-8] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4913. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Spencer, WV [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0602; Airspace Docket No. 09-

AEA-13] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4914. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Winona, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0539; Airspace Docket No. 09-AGL-14] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4915. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Beckley, WV [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0651; Airspace Docket No. 09-AEA-00] received November 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1672. A bill to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act to promote the protection of the resources of the Northwest Straits, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111-354). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2062. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to provide for penalties and enforcement for intentionally taking protected avian species, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111-355). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3603. A bill to rename the Ocmulgee National Monument; with an amendment (Rept. 111-356). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3940. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend grants and other assistance to facilitate a political status public education program for the people of Guam; with amendments (Rept. 111-357). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1454. A bill to provide for the issuance of a Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp; with an amendment (Rept. 111-358, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3388. A bill to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111-359, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3804. A bill to make technical corrections to various Acts affecting the National Park Service, to extend, amend, or establish certain National Park Service authorities, and for other purposes (Rept. 111-360, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

[The following action occurred on December 4, 2009]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committees on Financial Services and Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2194.

[Submitted December 7, 2009]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1454 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3388 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3804 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

[The following action occurred on December 4, 2009]

H.R. 2194. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than December 11, 2009.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4213. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BONO MACK:

H.R. 4214. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45300 Portola Avenue in Palm Desert, California, as the "Roy Wilson Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. REHBERG:

H.R. 4215. A bill to prohibit the inclusion of brucella abortus in certain lists of dangerous biological agents and toxins; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 4216. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to establish guidelines to enhance the meaningful use and interoperability of electronic medical records with personal health records, including for purposes of Medicare and Medicaid payment incentives; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of Rule XXII,

222. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 108 affirming Tennessee's sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 211: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. SULLIVAN.
 H.R. 571: Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 930: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 953: Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 1177: Mr. TEAGUE.
 H.R. 1193: Mr. NADLER of New York.
 H.R. 1378: Mr. WOLF, Mr. HODES, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 1495: Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 1549: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 1770: Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. LATOURETTE.
 H.R. 1778: Mr. HODES.
 H.R. 1844: Ms. HIRONO.
 H.R. 1895: Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 2043: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 2057: Ms. RICHARDSON and Mr. BILBRAY.
 H.R. 2149: Mr. KAGEN.
 H.R. 2194: Ms. SPEIER and Ms. RICHARDSON.
 H.R. 2278: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 2408: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
 H.R. 2568: Mr. KAGEN.
 H.R. 2629: Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 2811: Mr. MASSA.
 H.R. 2866: Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 3012: Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 3017: Mrs. HALVORSON.
 H.R. 3020: Mr. SCHOCK.
 H.R. 3129: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
 H.R. 3355: Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 3381: Mr. RUSH.
 H.R. 3589: Mr. LANCE.
 H.R. 3592: Mr. SCHRADER.
 H.R. 3710: Mr. POLIS, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
 H.R. 3715: Mr. BONNER.
 H.R. 3745: Mr. DRIEHAUS.
 H.R. 3758: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Ms. WATSON.
 H.R. 3783: Mr. COLE, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, and Mr. BARTLETT.
 H.R. 3790: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. AKIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. TEAGUE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DENT, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. CAO, Mr. COBLE, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 3924: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
 H.R. 4075: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
 H.R. 4090: Mr. UPTON and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
 H.R. 4138: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
 H.R. 4140: Mr. BACA.
 H.R. 4183: Mr. STARK, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. SUTTON.
 H. Con. Res. 137: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. CAPUANO.

H. Con. Res. 194: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. COURTNEY.

H. Con. Res. 200: Mr. WU.

H. Res. 35: Mr. BURGESS.

H. Res. 200: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.

H. Res. 862: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H. Res. 898: Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 900: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. PLATTS.

H. Res. 949: Mr. DUNCAN and Mrs. CAPITO.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY Mr. RANGEL

H.R. 4213, the Tax Extenders Act of 2009, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 1 of Rule XXII, petitions and papers were laid on the Clerk's desk and referred as follows:

87. The SPEAKER presented a petition of The Legislature of Rockland County, New York, relative to petitioning the U.S. Congress to pass the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

88. Also, a petition of The Legislature of Rockland County, New York, relative to petitioning the U.S. Congress to pass H.R. 3545; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

89. Also, a petition of Croatian Parliament, Croatia, relative to expressing the condolences of the Croatian Parliament for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami that struck American Samoa; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

[Omitted from the Record of December 3, 2009]

Petition 8, December 2, 2009, by Mr. DEVIN NUNES on H.R. 3105, was signed by the following Members: Devin Nunes, Kevin McCarthy, Daniel E. Lungren, Patrick J. Tiberi, John Boozman, Peter J. Roskam, Wally Herger, Henry E. Brown, Jr., Tom McClintock, Lee Terry, Edward R. Royce, Dean Heller, Darrell E. Issa, John Campbell, Steve King, Paul C. Broun, Duncan Hunter, Thaddeus G. McCotter, Pete Sessions, Ken Calvert, Brian P. Bilbray, Doug Lamborn, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Dana Rohrabacher, Doc Hastings, George Radanovich, Jason Chaffetz, Paul Ryan, Trent Franks, Mary Bono Mack, Jim Costa, Gary G. Miller, Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Jerry Lewis, John Sullivan, J. Gresham Barrett, David P. Roe, Peter Hoekstra, Adrian Smith, Jo Ann Emerson, Steve Austria, Ander Crenshaw, Louie Gohmert, Glenn Thompson, Cynthia M. Lummis, John Shimkus, Geoff Davis, Tom Cole, and Gregg Harper.