

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.