

It is my pleasure to commend the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Mr. KATKO and former Chairman of the Subcommittee, Mr. HUDSON, for their efforts in addressing this issue, as well as, working to foster bipartisan cooperation. I also wish to commend the bipartisan efforts of both the Ranking Member of the Full Committee, Mr. THOMPSON, and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Ms. RICE, whose support of this legislation is greatly appreciated. Additionally, I would like to thank the other bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation, as well as Chairman THUNE and our Senate colleagues for moving this important bill through the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support the final passage of H.R. 720 and strengthen the security of U.S. transportation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 720, The Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015, which improves intergovernmental planning and communication during security incidents at domestic airports.

As a former chair and ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee Transportation Security Subcommittee, I understand how important this bill will be in enhancing safety and protection in the air transit industry, not just for our citizens but for our Transportation Security Officers working in the line of duty.

This legislation, which requires the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to devote more resources for planning and communication during and in case of threats or emergencies, is prompted by the tragic death of Gerardo I. Hernandez, a Transportation Security Officer who was killed in the line of duty at Los Angeles International Airport on November 1, 2013.

In a senseless act of violence, the love and care TSA Officer Gerardo Ismael Hernandez gave to his wife, Ana Machuca, his 14-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter, and the community he served, ended entirely too soon.

Mr. Speaker, Gerardo Hernandez was what we want in an American, he is in spirit and deed the type of person we want in our Transportation Security Officers (TSOs).

At just 39 years old, Gerardo Hernandez was the first TSA officer to lose his life in the line of duty in the 12-year history of the agency.

He died from several gunshot wounds inflicted by an assailant while on duty at the Los Angeles International Airport.

Gerardo Hernandez was among those thousands of TSA employees carrying out their mission to keep the airways safe for traveling citizens, and their work across the nation cannot be understated.

On average, TSA officers screen 1.7 million air passengers at more than 450 airports across the nation, which averaged over 637.5 million passengers in 2012.

In 2014, the TSA screened more than 653 million passengers, or nearly 1.8 million persons per day.

The Bush International and the William P. Hobby Airports that serve the Houston metropolitan area are essential hubs for domestic and international air travel for Houston and the region:

Nearly 40 million passengers traveled through Bush International Airport (IAH) and an additional 10 million traveled through William P. Hobby (HOU).

More than 650 daily departures occur at IAH.

IAH is the 11th busiest airport in the U.S. for total passenger traffic.

IAH has 12 all-cargo airlines handling more than 419,205 metric tons of cargo in 2012.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the implementation of H.R. 720 would cost about \$2.5 million in 2015. Of the \$2.5 million, an estimated \$1.5 million would serve to provide additional technical assistance to airports, and the remaining \$1 million would be used to evaluate the interoperability of communication systems used by emergency response teams.

Mr. Speaker, this month marked the 14th anniversary of the tragedy of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

We will never forget how that day changed our lives, and the lives of every American generation to follow.

Security measures in airports across the country have been enhanced dramatically, and the resulting inconvenience is a small price to pay for the protective measures needed to keep the travelling public safe.

It is people like Gerardo Hernandez who do their best to make the necessary screening as least intrusive and burdensome as possible, consistent with the mission of ensuring the security of all members of the flying public.

TSA officers willingly risk their lives to make sure the job gets done, and for that we owe these men and women a debt of gratitude.

In honor of Gerardo Hernandez's contribution to his country, I strongly support this bill and urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 720.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA LAND LEASE OR TRANSFER

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 487) to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 487

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

SECTION 1. APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED TO VALIDATE LAND TRANSACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, without further approval, ratification, or authorization by the United States, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma may lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise transfer all or any part of its interests in any real property that is not held in trust by the United States for the benefit of such tribe.

(b) TRUST LAND NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall—

(1) authorize the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise

transfer all or any part of an interest in any real property that is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of such tribe; or

(2) affect the operation of any law governing leasing, selling, conveying, warranting, or otherwise transferring any interest in such trust land.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 487 is a non-controversial, one-page bill that would exempt lands held in fee by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma from the limitations imposed by the Indian Nonintercourse Act. According to the tribe, these limitations may hinder economic development.

Specifically, H.R. 487 would allow the tribe to lease, sell, convey, warrant, or transfer all or any portion of interest in any real property not held in trust for the tribe. The bill also states that the legislation does not authorize the tribe to lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise transfer all or any portion of any interest in any real property that is held in trust.

In accordance with the expressed wishes of the tribe's leadership, Congressman MARKWAYNE MULLIN, who represents the tribe in the House, sponsored H.R. 487. The Department of the Interior supports this bill, which passed the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent earlier this year.

I commend my colleague from Oklahoma for his hard work, and I urge my colleagues to pass the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 487 will allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to effectively manage their nontrust lands by providing relief from the Indian Nonintercourse Act. The Indian Nonintercourse Act was intended to protect Indian tribes by preventing the loss of their lands, except by treaty. Historically, the act has generally not interfered with the tribe's ability to buy, sell, or lease land that it owns in fee simple.

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But uncertainties raised by the act can be a hindrance when securing purchase agreements from outside parties.

Therefore, relief from the act is at times necessary for a tribe to successfully manage their lands and to sell fee

parcels that are determined to be in excess of the tribe's needs or were purchased for investment purposes.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 487 would simply allow the Miami Tribe to convey all the land that the tribe holds in fee simple without further Federal approval to facilitate those future transactions. I agree with the goals of this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the author of this measure.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing us to bring this to the floor. This is one of those common-sense bills that, unfortunately, requires Congress to act. Several tribes before us have obtained legislation like this from Congress to authorize them to sell or mortgage specific lands. The lands we are talking about are lands that aren't needed anymore; it is outside of the trust. But in order for the tribes such as the Miami and other tribes that are out there to effectively manage their lands, Congress is required to act.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairmen BISHOP and YOUNG for advancing this legislation, and I urge support for the passage of H.R. 487.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. MULLIN for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge all Members to support H.R. 487, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would urge adoption of the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 487.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEDGAR EVERS HOUSE STUDY ACT

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 959) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 959

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 "Medgar Evers House Study Act".

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a special resource study of the

home of the late civil rights activist Medgar Evers, located at 2332 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive in Jackson, Mississippi.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the site;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the site by Federal, State, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations or any other interested individuals;

(5) determine the effect of the designation of the site as a unit of the National Park System on existing commercial and recreational uses, and the effect on State and local governments to manage those activities;

(6) identify any authorities, including condemnation, that will compel or permit the Secretary to influence or participate in local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal land if the site is designated a unit of the National Park System; and

(7) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(d) STUDY RESULTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate the results of the study and any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 959 authorizes a special resource study to be conducted by the Department of the Interior on the home of the late civil rights activist Medgar Evers. This bill requires the Secretary to determine the national significance of the home and the feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park Service.

The National Park Service does not have any objections to this bill, and it was reported out of the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous con-

sent. Once results of the study are available, Congress would have to act to create any new unit of the National Park system.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, 52 years ago, on June 12, 1963, Medgar Evers, a native Mississippian and the first field officer in that State for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which we have come to know as the NAACP, was shot in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi. This horrific event occurred hours after President Kennedy made a televised speech in support of civil rights. This was a critical moment in the modern civil rights movement as it moved towards the seminal March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Evers was a World War II veteran, fighting in the Battle of Normandy. He returned home to find his path to the voting booth literally blocked at gunpoint. He personally fought to integrate the University of Mississippi Law School and was integral in assisting James Meredith successfully enroll as an undergraduate.

Evers was an activist, an organizer, a loving father, a husband, and, finally, a martyr. He is a true American hero whose time came too soon, yet his name and what he stood for continues to inspire so many. It is time that his service and loss be properly recognized by our Nation.

H.R. 959, the Medgar Evers House Study Act, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House in Jackson, Mississippi, for potential inclusion in the National Park system. We estimate that this study will cost approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000. Funding for this proposed study would need to be allocated from the set amount of funding that Congress appropriates for all special resource studies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON of Mississippi, for his very hard work on this legislation and for his leadership on this critical issue. The Medgar Evers House is a piece of American history that must be preserved, which is why this legislation is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of H.R. 959.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for yielding me the necessary time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge our colleagues to support H.R. 959, the Medgar Evers House Study Act.

Medgar Wiley Evers was born in the small town of Decatur, Mississippi, in 1925. Medgar would go on to serve in our country's Army in France and in