

which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 66 and H.R. 791, the two bills just passed.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE TO HAVE UNTIL FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1999 TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 1995, TEACHER EMPOWERMENT ACT

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and the Workforce may have until 3 p.m. on Friday, July 9, to file a report on the bill, H.R. 1995, the Teacher Empowerment Act, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

WORLD WAR VETERANS PARK AT MILLER FIELD GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to House Resolution 231 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 592.

□ 1514

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 592) to designate Great Kills Park in the Gateway National Recreation Area as "World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills", with Mr. BONILLA in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

□ 1515

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 592 introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA). H.R. 592 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate a portion of Gateway National Recreation Area in New York as World War Veterans Park at Miller Field. H.R. 592 would change the name of this park to recognize and honor the veterans of our world wars who fought to protect and defend democracy and freedom.

During markup of this bill, we accommodated concerns by the administration. This bill is now supported by

the National Park Service and the minority. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 592.

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 592.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 592 as introduced would have amended the act designating the Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City to change the name of Great Kills Park to World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills.

The National Park Service testified at the hearing of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands on May 11 that it opposed this name change because there is no known connection between Great Kills Park and World War II activities or historical figures, nor do veteran groups have any known connection with the area. It was also noted that NPS already administers several entire national park units that are historically tied to World War II veterans.

However, we learned at the hearing that there is general agreement to provide some sort of recognition to veterans at a more suitable location, known as Miller Field, within the Gateway National Recreation Area.

While the NPS appears to have administrative authority to make such a change, the Committee on Resources adopted an amendment, drafted by the NPS, to designate the location as World War Veterans Park at Miller Field. Based on the representations made to us by the NPS, this change appears to be in keeping with NPS policies and as such we support the bill as amended.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), the sponsor of this legislation.

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 592 is a simple bill. If passed, it would rename a portion of the Staten Island Unit of the Gateway National Recreation Area as World War Veterans Park at Miller Field. The purpose of this bill is simply to honor the brave men who served in World War I and World War II. Staten Island has a long and proud tradition of honoring our veterans, and this bill merely adds to that tradition.

First, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) of the Committee on Resources and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands for their assistance in moving this bill through the committee process, and, on my staff, Travers Garvin, for really carrying the load.

Originally, as the ranking member indicated, H.R. 592 was intended to rename the Great Kills portion of the Gateway National Recreation Area. H.R. 592 would have renamed that park World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills. The National Park Service was concerned that the park being renamed should have a historical connection to the new name. Nevertheless in response to those concerns, we agreed to a compromise. H.R. 592 will now rename another portion of the Gateway National Recreation Area, known as Miller Field.

Miller Field was originally named after a World War I aviator and was used as a military airstrip during World War II. In order to recognize veterans from both World War I and World War II, the bill seeks to rename the park World War Veterans Park at Miller Field. This change satisfies the National Park Service concerns and, more importantly, still recognizes veterans from Staten Island, Brooklyn and our Nation. I have spoken with veterans who had supported the original bill and they have agreed to the change.

I believe strongly that without our veterans' dedication and sacrifice, we would not have the freedoms that we enjoy to this day. My concern is that as time goes by, perhaps the memories, particularly those in the World War I and World War II generation, may fade. The renaming of this park will stand as a timeless reminder of the heroism of the brave men and women who served our Nation. It is my wish that for generations to come, the thousands of people who use this park will stop for a moment and remember the heroism of these men and women.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that enactment of H.R. 592 will have no significant impact on the Federal budget. It is simple, again non-controversial and bipartisan. The bill has 13 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle and all parts of the country. H.R. 592 is legislation that takes pride in America. Because of this, I expect it will be an easy vote for. I think it would be especially appropriate to pass this bill for our veterans as we head into the Fourth of July weekend.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I support the gentleman from New York's legislation to honor veterans of World War I and World War II by renaming Miller's Field in honor of our veterans. As the only New York member on the Committee on Resources, I was happy to support this legislation in committee. I believe that this park will not only honor veterans in the New York-New Jersey area but veterans throughout our country.

Recently, I had the honor to join the French Consul General in New York to present the French Medal of Honor to a World War I veteran who lives in Flushing, New York. Tragically this

gentleman is one of only a few veterans of the World War I era who are still with us today. Men and women who served in World War II are rapidly passing away as well. This park will help honor their deeds and their fight for freedom which brought an end to tyranny and injustice, not once but twice in this century.

I am proud to join the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) in support of this proposal to honor our veterans. As the largest metropolitan area in the United States with one of the largest concentrations of veterans, I can think of no better place to honor the memories of these men and women who fought for freedom and to remind future generations of the valor and heroism of our American soldiers.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA).

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY). I know he was a great help at the committee in steering it through. We have 56,000 veterans in the 13th Congressional District. Again I can only hope and pray that we can do all we can to recognize their efforts. This bill would go a long way. I encourage its strong support.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCNULTY).

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I want to commend both the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and all of those who are supporting this legislation. It is appropriate that we take this up at this particular time as we approach another celebration of our Independence Day and remember to keep our priorities straight. Had it not been for the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States military through the years, we would not have the privilege of going around bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the earth. Freedom is not free. We paid a tremendous price for it. Not a day goes by that I do not remember all of those who, like my brother Bill, made the supreme sacrifice and all of the many veterans who served our country and then came back home and rendered such outstanding service in our communities and raised wonderful families to carry on their great traditions.

I enthusiastically support this legislation. I thank the sponsors. I urge my colleagues to approve it unanimously.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill is considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and is considered read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 592

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF PORTION OF GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AS WORLD WAR VETERANS PARK AT MILLER FIELD.

Section 3(b) of Public Law 92-592 (16 U.S.C. 460cc-2(b)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" after "(b)"; and
(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) The portion of the Staten Island Unit of the recreation area known as Miller Field is hereby designated as 'World War Veterans Park at Miller Field'. Any reference to such Miller Field in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to 'World War Veterans Park at Miller Field'."

The CHAIRMAN. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone a request for a recorded vote on any amendment and may reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the time for voting on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote, provided that the time for voting on the first question shall be a minimum of 15 minutes.

Are there any amendments to the bill?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) having assumed the chair, Mr. BONILLA, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 592) to redesignate Great Kills Park in the Gateway National Recreation Area as "World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills", pursuant to House Resolution 231, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate a portion of Gateway National Recreation Area as 'World War Veterans Park at Miller Field'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 592, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

RURAL NEVADA AGAIN UNDER SIEGE BY U.S. FOREST SERVICE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, once again, the absolute greed of the Federal bureaucracy is pushing aside the common sense of local people on an issue in my district.

I would like to share with my colleagues what can only be termed as an insensitive approach to a very personal and private situation of the Federal Agency Forest Service in my home State of Nevada.

In its seemingly endless battle over public lands in rural Nevada, once again we are under siege by the Forest Service. But it is not commercial real estate or high market value land interests that we are after, it is about a mere two-acre cemetery.

The Forest Service wants to sell the small town of Jarbidge, Nevada, two acres to buy its own cemetery where the parents and grandparents of this small rural town have been laid to rest since the beginning of this century.

The Federal Government already owns nearly 90,000 square miles of Nevada's lands. Nevadans are not asking for much, a mere two acres to be exact, a two-acre cemetery already occupied for nearly a century by parents and grandparents of many Nevadans.

On behalf of the families of Jarbidge, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1231 to convey these two acres out of the millions they own.

WHERE I STAND—MIKE O'CALLAGHAN: USFS PICKS NEW FIGHT

(Mike O'Callaghan is the Las Vegas Sun executive editor)

About the time it appears there is some justice and common sense ruling north-eastern Nevada, along comes another goofy act.

A couple of weeks ago this column praised the Nevada Supreme Court for settling a dispute started three years ago by a few Elko County residents who saw a conspiracy under every rock in that huge area. After using and abusing the power of a local grand jury the district judge was slapped and four state employees were given back their lives by the Supreme Court.