

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1932, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal to Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., in recognition of his contributions to civil rights, higher education, the Catholic Church, the Nation, and the global community. Before saying more, I would like to commend the bill's author, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER), for his leadership on this bill.

Father Hesburgh was the 15th president of the University of Notre Dame, holding that position from 1952 until 1987, and has been president emeritus since 1987. For half a century, Father Hesburgh has been one of our Nation's greatest public servants and his enormous humanitarian contributions have been widely recognized. In 1964, President Johnson awarded Father Hesburgh the Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor.

He has held fifteen U.S. presidential appointments in such areas as the peaceful use of atomic energy, Third World development, immigration (having chaired the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy from 1979 to 1981), and civil rights (having chaired the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1969 to 1972). In each case, Father Hesburgh has served with distinction.

It is not surprising, given this record of principled, dedicated public service, that the University of Notre Dame founded the Hesburgh Program in Public Service in 1987. The Hesburgh Program seeks to prepare Notre Dame students for an active life devoted to the pursuit of effective and just responses to issues in American society. In short, it encourages young men and women to emulate Father Hesburgh's years of selfless, devoted service.

Moreover, two buildings on the Notre Dame campus bear the Hesburgh name. In 1987, the Memorial Library was renamed the Hesburgh Library in recognition of his active role in the establishment of the library in 1959, the fulfillment of its goals in the years since, and the personal example he has set for Americans young and old as a lifelong learner.

The second building honored with his name is the Hesburgh Center for International Studies. Home to the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Hesburgh Center reflects Father Hesburgh's vital contribution and desire to expand our understanding of the world around us, improve the resolution of violent conflicts, and promote human rights, equitable development, and social justice here and abroad.

It is with the utmost respect and admiration for Father Hesburgh and his life's work that I support today's recognition of his accomplishments which have benefitted our nation and urge unanimous passage of H.R. 1932.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1932.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1932.

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

There was no objection.

UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER MONGAUP VISITOR CENTER ACT OF 1999

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 20) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct and operate a visitor center for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on the land owned by the State of New York.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 20

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 "Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Mongaup Visitor Center Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Secretary of the Interior approved a management plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, as required by section 704 of Public Law 95-625 (16 U.S.C. 1274 note), on September 29, 1987.

(2) The river management plan called for the development of a primary visitor contact facility located at the southern end of the river corridor.

(3) The river management plan determined that the visitor center would be built and operated by the National Park Service.

(4) The Act that designated the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the approved river management plan limits the Secretary of the Interior's authority to acquire land within the boundary of the river corridor.

(5) The State of New York authorized on June 21, 1993, a 99-year lease between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the National Park Service for the construction and operation of a visitor center by the Federal Government on State-owned land in the Town of Deerpark, Orange County, New York, in the vicinity of Mongaup, which is the preferred site for the visitor center.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF VISITOR CENTER FOR UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER.

For the purpose of constructing and operating a visitor center for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior may—

(1) enter into a lease with the State of New York, for a term of 99 years, for State-owned land within the boundaries of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River located at an area known as Mongaup near the confluence of the Mongaup and Upper Delaware Rivers in the State of New York; and

(2) construct and operate such a visitor center on land leased under paragraph (2).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. RO-

MERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 20.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 20, introduced by my esteemed colleague from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

H.R. 20 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a 99-year lease for State-owned land within the boundaries of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River located at Mongaup, New York.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) is to be commended for his hard work on this needed bill, which initiates construction of a visitor center for the Upper Delaware which will serve as an information point for area services and attractions, as well as supply basic traveler needs.

Because the act which established this recreational river limits the Federal authority to acquire lands, Congressional action is needed to authorize the expenditure of appropriated funds for the construction and subsequent operation of a visitor center on leased land.

H.R. 20 is supported by both the National Park Service and the minority. Besides being a necessary addition to an increasingly busy component of the National Park Service, the Mongaup Visitor Center is also important to my constituents because the Congressional district that I represent is bounded on the east by the Upper Delaware River.

I again commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for his hard work in getting this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 20.

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, in 1978, the Congress designated the Upper Delaware River in New York State as a Wild and Scenic River. Since then, hundreds of thousands of visitors from the New York/New Jersey area and around the world have visited the river to enjoy the natural beauty and recreational opportunities of the area.

H.R. 20, submitted and sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), would authorize the construction and the operation of a visitor center for the Upper Delaware. Currently,

the area has no such facility and a visitor's center would enable the National Park Service to offer visitors important information and services much more effectively.

The River Management plan, approved by the Department of the Interior a decade ago, calls for the construction and the operation by the National Park Service of such a facility; and the State of New York has agreed to a long-term lease of a State-owned, 55-acre tract for this purpose.

Construction of the facility will make a visit to this area more enjoyable and more educational, and we urge our colleagues to support H.R. 20.

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) for bringing this measure to the floor at this time and for their supporting remarks.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues may know, in 1978, along with our good friend and former colleagues, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCDADE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BINGHAM), I introduced legislation establishing the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System. It is one of the few wild rivers in the Northeast for which so many people enjoy recreation.

The property proposed for the location of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's primary visitors' facility, the Mongaup Visitor Center, is owned by the State of New York's Department of Environmental Conservation. That property was acquired by the State in 1990 as part of a much larger purchase of an 11,000-acre tract intended to provide habitat for a population of wintering bald eagles.

New York State legislation authorizing Federal development of the property as a visitors center by means of a long-term lease was adopted in 1993. A legislative support data package was prepared in 1994 for Federal legislation authorizing development of that site and authorizing appropriation of funds for development and to increase the Upper Delaware's operational base to provide for year-round operation.

The site for the Mongaup Visitor Center contains abundant natural and cultural resources, and this proposal will identify and develop strategies to protect the Mongaup area's natural resources, including the expanding bald eagle population, the half million migrating American shad, 200 species of birds, upland and flood plain forests, hemlock and laurel gorges, and a mile of river front with natural sand beaches.

Mr. Speaker, the visitor center will benefit the community in many respects. It will serve as an educational asset, a local museum, a classroom, and as a driving force in a promotion of the natural and historical resources of the entire region.

Moreover, with 85 percent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River under private ownership, the region's struggles to maintain a balance between private property and recreation continues.

Bordered by the Delaware River, the Mongaup River, and New York State Highway Route 97, the visitors center would provide a central location to promote all the services and natural beauty that the region has to offer. The only center of its kind within an hour's drive of New York City, the Mongaup visitor center would open the Upper Delaware Valley to both the local and visiting public.

The National Park Service has been overseeing this area for some 20 years without any base of operations. The State of New York has dedicated funding to purchase the land for this project, to upgrade river services, and to restore the bald eagle population to the region.

As a final phase of the river management plan, the citizens of the Upper Delaware Valley have been apparently awaiting the commencement of this long overdue project.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this worthy measure.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Upper Delaware is a national treasure. Through the efforts of the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), there will be thousands of people each year that will be able to view it and to kayak in it and to enjoy this beautiful scenic river.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 20.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LAMPREY WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EXTENSION ACT

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1615) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to extend the designation of a portion of the Lamprey River in New Hampshire as a recreational river to include an additional river segment.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1615

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 "Lamprey Wild and Scenic River Extension Act".

SEC. 2. LAMPREY RECREATIONAL RIVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

(a) ADDITIONAL SEGMENT.—The paragraph entitled "LAMPREY RIVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE" in section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "11.5-mile segment extending from the southern Lee town line" and inserting "23.5-mile segment extending from the Bunker Pond Dam in Epping"; and

(2) by striking "towns of" and inserting "towns of Epping,".

(b) MANAGEMENT.—Section 405 of division I of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333; 110 Stat. 4149; 16 U.S.C. 1274 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting "Epping," before "Durham"; and

(2) by striking subsection (c).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1615.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of 1615, introduced by my colleague the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU). The gentleman is to be congratulated for his work in protecting a valuable and picturesque river.

Specifically, H.R. 1615 amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to extend the Wild and Scenic River designation to a 12-mile segment of the Lamprey River running through New Hampshire. This new addition would be designated as a recreational river in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

As part of the Omnibus Parks and Public Land Management Act of 1996, an 11½ mile segment of the Lamprey River was designated at that time as a recreational river. The study done for this segment also found that an additional 12-mile segment upstream warrants a like designation. Now that there is overwhelming local support, this section of the Lamprey River is ready for the designation.

This bill is supported by the National Park Service, and I urge my colleagues also to support H.R. 1615.

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, in 1991, the Congress directed the