

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H.R. 2133 which would establish a commission for the purpose of encouraging and providing for the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary on May 17, 2004 of the Supreme Court's unanimous and landmark 1954 decision in *Brown v. the Board of Education*.

While the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution outlawed slavery, guaranteed rights of citizenship to naturalized citizens and due process, equal protection and voting rights, nearly a century would pass before the last vestiges of "legalized" discrimination and inequality would be effectively revoked. The right of equal protection under the law for African-Americans was dealt a heavy blow with the Supreme Court's 1875 decision to uphold a lower court in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. The *Plessy* decision created the infamous "separate but equal" doctrine that made segregation "constitutional" for almost 80 years.

It was not until the 1950's, when the NAACP defense team led by the Honorable Thurgood Marshall as general counsel, launched a national campaign to challenge segregation at the elementary school level that effective and lasting change was achieved. In five individually unique cases filed in four states and the District of Columbia, the NAACP defense team not only claimed that segregated schools told Black children they were inferior to White children, but that the "separate by equal" ruling in *Plessy* violated equal protection. Although all five lost in the lower courts, the U.S. Supreme Court accepted each case in turn, hearing them collectively in what became *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The *Brown* decision brought a decisive end to segregation and discrimination in our public school systems, and gradually our national, cultural and social consciousness as well.

The first, however, did not end there. We may have overcome segregation and racism, but now the fight is economic, one in which some of our schools are inferior to others because of inadequate funding, overcrowded classrooms, dilapidated school buildings and a nationwide lack of teachers. We only have to look at the high levels of crime, drug use, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy and unemployment to know the value of a good education. If *Brown* taught us anything, it is that without the proper educational tools, young people lose hope for the future.

No one challenges the concept of investing in human capital, but it is a well-known fact that we spend ten times as much to incarcerate then we do to educate. If we can find the resources to fund a tax cut and for a U.S. prison system with nearly 2 million inmates, we can give our public schools the repairs and facilities they desperately need, we can reduce class sizes and provide adequate pay to attract the best and brightest into the teaching profession.

I urge my colleagues here in the House to join me in remembering the lessons of *Brown v. Board of Education* when we consider our national priorities, by committing ourselves to addressing the unfulfilled promises of equality and opportunity contained in the *Brown* decision.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2133.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONVEYANCE OF ARMY RESERVE CENTER IN KEWAUNEE, WISCONSIN TO CITY OF KEWAUNEE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 788) to provide for the conveyance of the excess Army Reserve Center in Kewaunee, Wisconsin, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 788

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

#### SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE, ARMY RESERVE CENTER, KEWAUNEE, WISCONSIN.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—The Administrator of General Services shall convey, without consideration, to the City of Kewaunee, Wisconsin (in this section referred to as the "City"), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of Federal real property, including improvements thereon, that is located at 401 5th Street in Kewaunee, Wisconsin, and contains an excess Army Reserve Center. After such conveyance, the property may be used and occupied only by the City, or by another local or State government entity approved by the City.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Administrator. The cost of the survey shall be borne by the City.

(c) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—During the 20-year period beginning on the date the Administrator makes the conveyance under subsection (a), if the Administrator determines that the conveyed property is not being used and occupied in accordance with such subsection, all right, title, and interest in and to the property, including any improvements thereon, shall revert to the United States. Upon reversion, the United States shall immediately proceed to a public sale of the property.

(d) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—(1) The property shall not be used for commercial purposes.

(2) The Administrator may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Administrator considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(e) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Any net proceeds received by the United States as payment under subsection (c) shall be deposited into the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 788 would require the General Services Administration to convey to the City of Kewaunee, Wisconsin at no cost a parcel of property containing an Army Reserve Center located in northwest Kewaunee. The property consists of two buildings with approximately 17,000 square feet of space constructed on 4.4 acres of land.

The property is excess to the needs of the Army and surplus to the needs of the Federal Government. It has been vacant since 1996.

Currently, the City of Kewaunee's municipal services are located at different sites around the city. Kewaunee city hall, police department, ambulance service and community center/senior center have outgrown their present facilities. They require room to expand. The City of Kewaunee intends to consolidate these services at the vacant Army Reserve center.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us, as has been pointed out, directs the administrator of the General Services Administration to convey an excess Army Reserve Center to the City of Kewaunee, Wisconsin. It consists of about four-and-a-half acres of lands. It is a piece of property that the City plans to use only for governmental purposes. It is going to be a very important building to this small community of less than 3,000 people by providing a place for a city hall, a city council meeting place. It may also house police, emergency rescue personnel, and other municipal functions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) for his efforts in putting this bill together as it pertains to his district. I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for accommodating concerns raised about the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the bill on the floor is a better bill than we started out with and protects the interests of the Federal Government by specifying that the property must be used exclusively for a government purpose for not less than 20 years or title would revert to the United States Government.

At the same time the legislation will provide the City of Kewaunee with a suitable municipal building which it otherwise would be unable to afford. It is important to note that not only does this legislation bypass normal committee procedures, it is considered "special legislation" because it is not being considered under the normal Federal property disposal procedures. Under normal Federal property disposal procedures, a transfer of this kind would not be currently permitted.

We are pleased to join today in accommodating the interest which has been shared with our committee by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) to enable the City of Kewaunee to have this building which is no longer needed by the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that even though this building does not fit within any of the traditional exceptions for transfer, that the circumstances of this case will speak for themselves and that Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle will join with us in supporting the passage of this legislation.

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

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN), the bill sponsor, a strong fighter for the citizens of Kewaunee, Wisconsin.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the committee staff and the staff of the gentleman from Virginia and, in particular, the minority staff. As the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) alluded to, the extra help and assistance and cooperation they gave us, we appreciate very much.

Mr. Speaker, Kewaunee is a small city of about 3,000 people located on the shores of Lake Michigan. It is filled with good people with big dreams. Kewaunee also faces, like a number of small cities, a number of financial challenges. For several years, Kewaunee has been without the financial resources to sufficiently house basic municipal services in its city hall and police station and fire station.

Mr. Speaker, when the U.S. Army abandoned its reserve center in 1996, it created the opportunity for meeting those challenges. Since 1996, the Kewaunee Reserve Center has worked through the GSA disposal process. It was declared excess in 1998; and since then, there has been no expression of interest by any Federal agency. Currently, only the City of Kewaunee has any interest in this property.

Right now the setup for municipal services in the City of Kewaunee is, to put it kindly, less than ideal. The city hall is in the old bank building with no parking or office space. The council shares office space with the business office. The police department is in the water treatment plant. The senior citizens center is on the second floor of the fire station, and the ambulance service is in the public works garage. Obviously, this is not ideal.

Mr. Speaker, people in America, especially from small towns, want government to work for them. They are looking for common sense and partnerships. This is not a big deal to the Federal Government. This building is vacant, and it will need lots of work to bring it up to suitable standards. However, it is a big deal to the City of Kewaunee. It opens new doors to the future, and allows them to reach out and capture some of those good opportunities and big dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the minority staff for all of their assistance in this special situation.

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

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this 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 Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 788, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### STAN PARRIS POST OFFICE BUILDING DESIGNATION ACT

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1766) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4270 John Marr Drive in Annandale, Virginia, as the "Stan Parris Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1766

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

#### SECTION 1. STAN PARRIS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4270 John Marr Drive in Annandale, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Stan Parris Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Stan Parris Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. 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. 1766.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1766 sponsored by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) would rename the Post Office at 4270 John Marr Drive in Annandale, Virginia, to honor Stan Parris, a distinguished and dedicated Republican representative from Northern Virginia.

Stan's career in public service began as a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors representing the Mason district. He later served the people of Virginia as Secretary of the Commonwealth and Director of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Washington Liaison Office.

Stan went on to represent the Eighth Congressional District of Virginia from 1973 to 1975, and more recently from 1981 to 1991. While in Congress he was a member of the Committee on Banking, the Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs, and the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control.

As the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, Stan was a vocal critic of D.C. Government policies in the 1980s and recognized the early signs of the City's financial and organizational mismanagement, which eventually escalated to crisis level by the mid-1990s. Additionally, he was among the first congressional Members calling for the closure of Lorton Prison, a process that finally began as part of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1977. Stan was ahead of his time.

While serving in Congress, Stan successfully pursued measures to alleviate traffic congestion in Northern Virginia. A strong advocate for the residents of Virginia's Eighth Congressional District, he worked tirelessly on behalf of Federal employees and military retirees to help them obtain better salaries and benefits.

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After leaving Congress, Stan was appointed by the President to serve as the administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, and since 1996 he has worked with the law firm of Dickstein, Shapiro, Moore and Oshinsky, LLP. He now resides in Hudgins, Virginia.

I urge all my colleagues to join in supporting this legislation honoring Stan Parris.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join with my friend and colleague (Chairman DAVIS) in supporting H.R. 1766, legislation sponsored by our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

This legislation honors a distinguished former member of this House, Stan Parris, by naming the post office in Annandale, Virginia, after him.