

among governmental and nongovernmental partners to protect and restore the international treasure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for his outstanding and tireless leadership in proposing the creation of this new, exciting international wildlife refuge. The gentleman from Michigan has been a conservation giant in this country, and this bill is a testament to his ongoing commitment to that effort.

I am pleased to support this measure, and I urge my colleagues to vote aye on this bill.

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the sponsor of this legislation and the distinguished dean of the House of Representatives, and a very dear friend of mine.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL). I want to thank him and commend him and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), as well as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), who has just spoken so eloquently on this matter, and of course the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) and my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), for their support.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation. It has bipartisan support. It is supported by every State, local, and governmental agency within the area that would be served by this refuge. It is also supported by all of the private conservation organizations in the area, including the list that was read by my dear friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), whose leadership I want to expressly commend and congratulate, and I want to thank him again for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this is a piece of legislation which is going to do a great deal of good, and in some surprising ways. There will be very little additional cost to the Federal Government. It will rely largely upon donations and largely upon management agreements, easements, and cooperative undertakings between State, Federal, and local organizations in the area.

It will make it possible for us to have a lot of land, which will be of enormous value to fish and wildlife, set aside without impairing the ownership or the industrial or commercial activities in the area.

It is a proposal which will afford enormous opportunity for us to increase the conservation values of the area, and to do much to preserve the fish and wildlife values of the Detroit River.

It will have the full cooperation of our Canadian friends because the Detroit River is a national heritage river here in the United States and also in Canada, and cooperation is being given at this time by the two distinguished

members of Parliament on the Canadian side of the river, the Honorable Herb Gray, the deputy prime minister, and also the Honorable Susan Whelan, who is working closely with me on these matters.

This is a good piece of legislation which will afford great opportunity for us to make a significant contribution to preservation of the 5 million ducks and geese that fly up and down this river every spring and fall, and to achieve significant additional advances with the support of the people and a cooperative program in the administration of that area.

I give thanks to my dear friend, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

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Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), a member of our Committee on Resources.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, Michigan is blessed with many wonderful rivers. The Detroit River is rich in prehistoric, historic and ecological wonders. This wildlife refuge near a large metropolitan area will truly be a blessing for our State and our Nation. This is an opportunity where you can go from a city and see this beauty, this historical wonder and this prehistorical wonder.

The Canadian government is also embarking on a similar endeavor on their side of this international river, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) has worked very closely with them on that. I want to commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for his very patient and persistent work on this bill. The bill passed out of the Committee on Resources unanimously. It is a bill that we can all be proud of.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, during his career in this body, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) has sponsored innumerable measures that have benefitted our entire Nation and he truly has fought hard for many of those. However, I believe the bill before us today that he is sponsoring is truly the stuff of legacy. It is landmark legislation that will stand as lasting testimony to the gentleman's foresight when it comes to enhancing the wildlife resources of our country.

I say this is landmark legislation because it provides for the first time an international wildlife refuge designation. This designation, as the gentleman has explained, would occur along an 18-mile length of the Detroit River between the cities of Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Canada.

In this regard, the portion on the U.S. side of this river has already been designated as an American Heritage River. In addition, the new inter-

national refuge proposed by this bill incorporates into its boundaries the existing Wyandotte National Wildlife Refuge.

Obviously, fish and wildlife do not recognize political boundaries. This legislation recognizes that fact, and it does so in a fashion that vastly enhances the ecosystem of the Detroit River in both the United States and Canada for the benefit of not only the current but future generations of citizens of these respective countries.

Again, I commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for his foresight in proposing this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to compliment the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) on his work in developing this refuge, in one sense in an international way and in another sense setting a precedent that can be replicated countless numbers of times across the Nation where you can bring in an urban landscape and provide habitat for numerous waterfowl, birds, migrating neo-tropical birds and an abundance of marine life.

Mr. Speaker, I live off the Chesapeake Bay, and along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay there are numerous little tidal basins and estuaries. One of the waterfowl that rests there comes from Alaska, the tundra swan, with a beautiful whistling sound. But between Alaska and the Chesapeake Bay, where they spend their winter months, they need a number of places to stop to provide rest and food for themselves and their young. And now we can be assured that one of those places that those tundra swans will stop and rest along their thousands of miles of journey to the tidal basins of the Chesapeake Bay will be this refuge. So we in Maryland thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the staff for putting this together.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional 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 Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1230, 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the three bills just considered, H. Con. Res. 270, H.R. 1913, and H.R. 1230.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 294) expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives to the General Accounting Office and its employees for enabling the House to continue its work while the House office buildings were closed due to the presence of Anthrax.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 294

Whereas the House of Representatives recently found it necessary to close its office buildings to Members, staff, and the public due to the presence of Anthrax;

Whereas the Comptroller General made an offer to the House of Representatives to make the General Accounting Office's building and equipment available to the Members and staff of the House of Representatives during the period in which the House office buildings were closed, an offer the House gratefully accepted;

Whereas the House's subsequent temporary use of General Accounting Office workspaces, telephones, computers, and other equipment imposed an inconvenience on the employees of the Office, who graciously vacated their worksites; and

Whereas the sacrifices made by employees of the General Accounting Office during this period enabled the House of Representatives to continue its legislative work on behalf of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives expresses its gratitude to the General Accounting Office for accommodating the House during the recent closure of the House office buildings, and sincerely thanks the hundreds of General Accounting Office employees who generously vacated their workspaces and otherwise helped to make it possible for the work of the House to continue during this period.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Comptroller General of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise here today on behalf of my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), of the Committee on House Administration for consideration of H. Res. 294. This resolution expresses the gratitude of the House of Representatives to the General Accounting Office and its employees for enabling the House to continue its work while the House office buildings were closed due to the presence of anthrax.

Mr. Speaker, I want the citizens of the United States to know that later

on representatives on behalf of all employees of the GAO will be present in the Capitol in Statuary Hall so that we may speak with them and personally express our gratitude.

On October 18, 2001, the House office buildings closed their doors; and we arrived at the GAO on October 22, 2001. The General Accounting Office graciously accommodated Members and their staff through November 5, 2001. With their help, use of phones and work space, we were able to continue our legislative work on behalf of the United States.

I want to personally thank the GAO for the logistical support they provided to the United States House of Representatives while we occupied two floors of their agency. The professionalism and can-do attitude they exhibited is a credit to the agency. The GAO's hard work made a difficult situation manageable, and it will be long remembered.

All facets of the government working together for the common good will only overcome the trying times that face this Nation.

The GAO's efforts demonstrated that resolve. The GAO's partnership throughout this process not only proves their loyalty to this great Nation but also their kindness as employees and as an agency.

Mr. Speaker, when this country was formed, from the first veteran who fought to make this the greatest democracy ever on planet Earth, they envisioned that their efforts would always continue and that there would be an energetic give and take on the floor of the House and the Senate. And let me just say that during this trying time, when it was difficult for employees of the House and the staff and the Members, we got through it by allowing this floor to be able to continue and by our employees, our staff, of the House being able to communicate with the constituents across the United States and to do their job to keep alive the debate that is so important to our democracy. The GAO was an integral part of allowing us to go forth.

I also want to thank the House staff, who transcended through this move under also a very difficult situation. Particularly I would also like to commend our Clerk, Jeff Trandahl; the Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill Livingood; and especially our CAO, Jay Eagen; and their staffs for making all of this possible, again, for us to continue to do our job; also, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), Speaker of the House; the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader; and the Committee on House Administration staff; Members, both majority and minority, who all put in their time in order that this transition was made to be as good as it could get.

Once again, the purpose of this resolution is to thank GAO for their unselfish generosity and partnership, and on behalf of the entire House of Representatives, we commend them for

doing such a tremendous job, sacrificing of their time and their offices to make sure that we continue.

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am delighted to rise in support of House Resolution 294 and to stand in tonight as co-manager of this bill for my friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the ranking member of the Committee on House Administration. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is a cosponsor of this bill, as indeed are the other Democratic members of the Committee on House Administration, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. Speaker, it is not common for the Members of the House and their staffs to need to vacate the House office buildings due to the presence of a potentially lethal health hazard, and let us hope it never happens again. Steps are certainly being taken to protect the people's House from future anthrax threats, to defend our country and freedom-loving peoples around the world from the scourge of terrorism.

Pending achievement of that goal, this House indeed owes its thanks to the General Accounting Office for enabling it to continue its work for two critical weeks at the end of October and beginning of November.

The gentleman from Ohio's resolution simply expresses the House's gratitude, and I hope it will pass without dissent.

I want to thank David Walker, the Comptroller General of the United States, for so graciously offering GAO's assistance to the House in our time of need.

I also want to thank Dick Brown, the GAO's Comptroller and Chief Administrative Officer, for his tireless efforts to ensure that the enterprise went smoothly.

I certainly want to thank the dedicated employees of the General Accounting Office who were uprooted and relocated and otherwise inconvenienced to accommodate Members and their staffs.

Mr. Speaker, despite hundreds of us descending upon the GAO headquarters, thereby allowing our legislative work to continue, GAO's important work got continued as well. This is a great tribute to the professionalism of the GAO staff and their ability to adjust to rapidly changing circumstances.

The GAO, in fact, has been an essential support agency for Congress since its creation in 1921. Mr. Speaker, for 2 weeks at the end of October, 2001, and beginning of November, it was more than that. It was serving as the House's home away from home.

The leadership and the staff of the GAO can now say that they have supported the work of the Congress as never before. This episode belongs in