

every bit as elegant and stately as the capital cities of Europe.

The resolution also recognized the great efforts of the residents of Stafford County to protect Government Island and to safeguard the history surrounding this important contribution to our Nation's Capital.

I commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), for her excellent efforts in introducing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, this House Resolution recognizes, as you have heard, the historical significance of the Aquia sandstone quarries of Government Island in Stafford County, Virginia, for their contributions to the construction of the Capital of the United States and commend the Stafford County commissioners and local residents for their efforts to preserve the quarries.

The stone from these particular quarries dates back to the late 17th century and was chosen by then President George Washington for use at Mt. Vernon as well as the construction of the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the original Treasury building, the Patent office, and the earliest locks and bridges of the C&O Canal.

Over time, the quarries were exhausted and the site has since been through a number of private hands and has entered in and out of public ownership.

We support this resolution commending the local community for their latest efforts to preserve this interesting area.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), the author of this legislation.

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the many historically significant contributions the Commonwealth of Virginia has offered this great Nation. Virginia has given America eight of its distinguished men to the Office of Presidency, three of whom were born in the first district that I represent, and countless other elected officials, military heroes and active citizens to the cause of freedom and democracy.

Today, I rise to pay a specific tribute to the Aquia quarries of Government Island in Stafford, Virginia, for their contributions to the construction of our Nation's Capitol building and the White House, among many other prominent structures.

As our forefathers struggled to create a nation through a Declaration of Inde-

pendence and an enduring revolution, they sought to express permanency in their new-found freedom. Led by Virginia native George Washington, America began to plan a city that would dignify the grandeur of the new United States of America. They chose the land situated geographically centered in the new Nation up the Potomac River and to the top of what was known as Jenkin's Hill, a place Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the city's planner called "a pedestal waiting for a monument."

□ 1445

I could not agree more. Our Capitol has survived over 200 years, through the War of 1812, the Civil War, and more recently, the building was a suspected target of the recent horrific terrorist attack on our country. This building has grown and matured into the great symbol of America. The freedoms that we hold so dear and recent events have only hardened my deep fondness for our Capitol and what it represents.

Although little known, the north section of the north wing of the Capitol and the White House were constructed of Aquia sandstone quarried from Government Island and along the Aquia Creek in Stafford County, Virginia; another proud Virginia contribution.

Stafford County's board of supervisors, County Administrator C.M. Williams, county historian Jane Conner, and the county's citizens should be commended for making the preservation of this island a priority. Their good work will ensure that this area is preserved for future generations to explore and enjoy.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in support of this resolution to honor the enduring construction of this building, the cornerstone of our democracy, and all that it represents.

I would like to thank the entire Virginia delegation for cosponsoring this House resolution commemorating the United States Capitol and the White House, highlighting their humble Virginia beginnings. Additionally, I would like to thank the Committee on Resources chairman, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the ranking member, and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands for moving this important Virginia initiative.

I again encourage my colleagues' support.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 261.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING STUDY OF VIRGINIA KEY BEACH, FLORIDA, FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2109) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Virginia Key Beach, Florida, for possible inclusion in the National Park System, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2109

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

SECTION 1. STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) *STUDY.*—The Secretary of the Interior (in this Act referred to as "the Secretary") shall conduct a study of Virginia Key Beach Park in Biscayne Bay, Florida, which was used for recreation by African Americans at a time when public beaches were racially segregated by law. The study shall evaluate the national significance of the site and the suitability and feasibility of establishing the site as a unit of the National Park System.

(b) *CRITERIA.*—In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall use the criteria for the study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park System contained in section 8 of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5; popularly known as the National Park System General Authorities Act).

(c) *REPORT.*—Upon completion of the study, the Secretary shall transmit to the Congress a report on the findings of the study and the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

H.R. 2109, introduced by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a resource study of Virginia Key Beach Park in Miami, Florida, to determine the suitability and feasibility of including this site as a unit of the National Park System.

Virginia Key Beach Park, located just off the coast of Miami between Key Biscayne and Fisher Island, was for decades the only beach in South Florida where African Americans were permitted during the days of segregation. This beach was very significant in the local community for its numerous gatherings, which included baptisms and religious services, courtship and honeymoons, organizational gatherings, visiting celebrities and family recreation.

However, in 1982 the city of Miami, citing the high cost of maintaining and operating the park, closed the beach. Since that time, the city of Miami has explored various options regarding ownership and the future of the beach, although nothing has yet come to fruition. Nevertheless, it is my understanding that the local community

continues to be very interested in the fate of the park due in large measure to its historical significance.

This bill would authorize the Park Service to conduct a study to examine the possibility of including Virginia Key Beach Park as a unit of the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is supported by both majority and minority, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2109, which was introduced by my friend and our colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), would authorize a special resource study of the historic Virginia Key Beach Park located on Biscayne Bay in Florida.

Virginia Key Beach derives its importance from its history more so than from its natural or recreational qualities, although there are those as well. It was the first beach in south Florida to be opened to African Americans, and for many years it was the only beach available to us. Encompassing just 77 acres, the beach was a popular recreational area for local African American families, churches and other organizations, and as we have heard, it was a site of many important private and public events.

At the hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, the National Park Service testified in support of a park study of this important area.

It is important that we look for ways to commemorate and preserve not only the history of this site but also the natural and recreational qualities as well.

I want to commend the sponsor, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), for her leadership on H.R. 2109. I am pleased to support this study legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), and I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

I rise with great pride, Mr. Speaker, and in strong support of H.R. 2109, my bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Virginia Key Beach in Miami, Florida, for its possible inclusion in the National Park System.

I want to again thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the chairman,

and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the ranking member of the full Committee on Resources, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), the chairman, and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), the ranking member of the subcommittee, and their respective staffs for their assistance and cooperation.

I also want to thank my delegation in south Florida, a bipartisan delegation, for cosponsoring this bill.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia Key Beach is a historically important and environmentally significant place, worthy of being preserved and studied for its inclusion in the National Park System.

Virginia Key was the only beach in Miami where African Americans could go to swim in the 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s. It was called "Virginia Key Beach at that time, a Dade County Park for the exclusive use of Negroes." It opened on August 1, 1945. Until that time, Miami's beaches had been reserved for whites only. In those days of segregation, Virginia Key Beach was the only way blacks could legally enjoy the ocean in Dade County.

Dade County created this park in response to the efforts of the African American community to integrate the beaches in Miami.

The location of this beach was less than ideal, Mr. Speaker. There was no bridge, and the only way to get to it was by taking a boat from the Miami River.

Despite these impediments, African Americans have made Virginia Key Beach a very thriving center for social and cultural activities. The beach became a cherished getaway, a social gathering place and even a sacred site for religious services.

I attended many baptisms at Virginia Key Beach. The beach was the site for many baptisms, courtships, honeymoons, organizational gatherings, visiting celebrities and family recreation. Even after integration granted everyone a free choice of recreation areas, Virginia Key Beach remained the popular preference for many in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is near and dear to my heart because I know the long way we have come because I used this park frequently myself and brought my children there when they were young. The fact that I am a Congresswoman today shows how much society has changed in the intervening years.

Virginia Key Beach is a national treasure that stands as a monument to America's journey toward racial equality. As a reminder of our national heritage, Virginia Key Beach symbolizes the struggle of African Americans in the 20th century during racial segregation in the South and the onset of the civil rights movement.

Mr. Speaker, there are very few sites in the National Park System that recognizes the struggle for civil rights. Out of 385 units currently in the park

system, only 4 have been designated to commemorate the civil rights era. We need to do more to recognize the civil rights era. It is important to remember that segregation affected every aspect of our lives, even our leisure time.

In addition to representing an important part of the history of African Americans, it is also an exceptional natural resource characterized by a unique and sensitive natural environment. The beach is a part of an area known as Virginia Key. It is a 1,000 acre barrier island. There has been some limited development, but the island is non-residential and includes ponds and waterways, a tropical hardwood hammocks and a large wildlife conservation area.

The Key is home to more than 25 species of birds during the winter, while its shallow waters contain extensive grass beds that support manatees, young sea turtles and many juvenile fishes. The United States Army Corps of Engineers, through their shoreline damage program, is currently restoring the beach and native plants on the islands.

Finally, let me note, thanking this committee and my colleagues, the chairman and the ranking member, Virginia Key Beach is an excellent location and it is very accessible. Other national attractions in south Florida, such as Everglades National Park, Big Cypress and Biscayne National Park, have extraordinary resources, but they are not readily accessible for individuals without personal transportation; Virginia Key Park is. There is a good Miami-Dade bus connection there, and it is further enhanced by a link to south Florida's rail system.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia Key Beach occupies a special place in the heart of all of us from south Florida. It is a wonderful reminder of the struggle of African Americans for civil rights and social justice.

Inclusion in the National Park System would help ensure that Virginia Key Beach is preserved and protected for future generations. A special resource study is the first step.

This committee has taken the first step to bring this to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2109, a bill which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of historic Virginia Key Beach, FL, for the inclusion into the National Park System. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support a very important bill which will allow Congress to preserve and protect this beautiful beach site area.

This legislation allows for the beautiful palm-studded old Florida beach located on a 1,000-acre barrier island, one of Miami's real treasures, to be recognized as a National Park. Miami's historical Virginia Key Beach has been one of Florida's most beautiful and unique areas since 1896. When I was growing up, Virginia Key was at one time one of Miami's most popular beaches for African-Americans

to enjoy. With its scant four-tenths of a mile of actual shoreline, the park was the only bathing beach in the county legally available to African-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does not add to the national debt, therefore I urge my colleagues to realize there is no need to oppose it for economic reasons. This bill does not change any of the requirements for the inclusion process for national parks. All this bill calls for is the recognition of the 77-acre historic Virginia Key Beach site in Miami, FL. Passing this bill would be a reasonable and responsible approach in recognizing the significant value of this former "colored beach."

Florida needs a place that is recognized for its historical significance, a place that can be enjoyed today for both recreational purposes and so that people can learn about the history of this extraordinary scenic recreational site that was once cherished as a "Paradise."

I respectfully ask that my colleagues in this Congress vote in favor of H.R. 2109 which would induct historic Virginia Key Beach into the National Park System.

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

Mr. HANSEN. 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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2109, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Virginia Key Beach Park in Biscayne Bay, Florida, for possible inclusion in the National Park System."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MUSCLE SHOALS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, ALABAMA

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2628) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area in Alabama, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2628

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 "Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area Study Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. STUDY.

The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with appropriate State historic preservation officers, States historical societies, and other appropriate organizations, shall conduct a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area described in section 3 as the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area. The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determination regarding whether the study area—

(1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed through partnerships among public and private entities and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;

(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklore that are a valuable part of the national story;

(3) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features;

(4) provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;

(5) contains resources important to the identified theme or themes of the study area that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(6) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments that are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants (including the Federal Government), and have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area;

(7) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments to develop a national heritage area consistent with continued local and State economic activity; and

(8) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY AREA.

The study area referred to in section 2 shall be comprised of the following:

(1) The part of the Tennessee River's watershed in northern Alabama.

(2) The cities of Florence, Sheffield, Tusculumbia, and Muscle Shoals City, Alabama.

(3) The towns of Anderson, Cherokee, Courtland, Leighton, Lexington, Littleville, Red Bay, Rogersville, Russellville, Town Creek, and Waterloo, Alabama, and their environs.

(4) Colbert, Lauderdale, Franklin, and Lawrence Counties, Alabama.

(5) Other areas that have heritage aspects that are similar to those aspects that are in the areas described in paragraphs (1) through (4) and which are adjacent to or in the vicinity of those areas.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are first made available for this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2628, introduced by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER) would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area in northwest Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Muscle Shoals and the surrounding area of

northwest Alabama has played an integral part in shaping many aspects of Alabama and southern culture.

□ 1500

It is the birthplace of Helen Keller, setting for Henry Ford's utopian 75-Mile City, which inspired Frank Lloyd Wright's Broadacre City, a number of Victorian arts and crafts residences, and plays host to the annual music festival named for blues musician W. C. Handy. It is also the home of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the first piece of the New Deal legislation. A number of historic trails also transverse the area, including the Natchez Trail and the Trail of Tears.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2628 is supported by both the majority and the minority of the committee and the administration. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2628.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2628, introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER), would direct the Secretary of the Interior to do a National Heritage Area study of the Muscle Shoals area of northern Alabama. The Muscle Shoals area has a long history of industry, transportation and music, among other things.

When the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 2628 earlier this year, the National Park Service testified in support of the study. Our other witnesses, including the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER), also detailed and expanded upon the history of the Muscle Shoals area for the subcommittee. It is obvious that the communities of the Muscle Shoals area value their heritage and are looking for ways to maintain and enhance the historical and natural resources of the area.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2628 is a good bill. It is also noncontroversial. I support the passage of the legislation and urge its favorable consideration by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER), the sponsor of this measure.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Committee on Resources and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands for moving H.R. 2628, which is my bill, as well as the chairman, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), very much for their consideration.

Both the chairman and the ranking member have made reference to this unique area of Alabama that has an extraordinary history. H.R. 2628 would allow us to do a study to determine the feasibility of collecting that history and naming our area a national heritage study area. It was passed by the