

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 folklife 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, Tuscumbia, 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

committee itself by unanimous consent, so it is a very uncontroversial piece.

This area of northwest Alabama is adjacent to the State of Tennessee and the State of Mississippi as well, so my colleagues in the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), both are cosponsors of this piece of legislation.

As the chairman referred to and the ranking member referred to in their remarks about H.R. 2628, this area of northwest Alabama has an extraordinary history of involvement. Native Americans were active in this particular area, and we have an Indian Mound Museum there that is one of the most extraordinary museums in the country.

As we move on through history, the Tennessee River has defined our area culturally as well as in terms of transportation issues as well. In the early 1920s, the Wilson Locks and Dam was built there even before TVA came into existence. At the time it was the largest lock and dam on the Tennessee River and one of the largest dams in the country as well.

President Roosevelt visited that area and was so impressed by the potential that he saw there that he was inspired to form the Tennessee Valley Authority, which has given us a significant part of our prosperity there, not only in the State of Alabama but in Tennessee and the entire region as well.

But as the chairman referred to, we are the home of the W. C. Handy Festival. That is a blues festival. W. C. Handy, unbeknownst to a lot of people in the country, is the "Father of the blues." He was born in Florence, Alabama, which is located in northwest Alabama. This festival has existed for 20 years and has brought thousands of music specialists from all over the country.

We have a verbal history that is available in our area of the music tradition that is there. Now, the Muscle Shoals Studio was a recent era of music that really was born out of the blues era. It is a sound recording studio that has been used by many musicians around the world. All of that kind of heritage was started back in the early 1920s and built on from there as well. So this feasibility study would give us the chance to catalogue a lot of that information.

Helen Keller was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama. That is within 5 miles of this Tennessee River, and within 10 miles of Florence, Alabama as well. Her home, Ivy Green, was preserved as a museum. There is a Helen Keller Festival there as well. A lot of Helen Keller relatives come back to that area to this particular festival.

Jesse Owens was born in Lawrence County, again, another 7 miles from the very center of the area we are talking about. There is a museum to celebrate his contributions to American history there as well.

The Frank Lloyd Wright structures we have in this area all combine to give our area of Alabama a unique history which we think is deserving of this declaration as a National Heritage Area study place.

I want to thank again the committee for giving us this opportunity, and I urge my colleagues to pass this important bill, H.R. 2628.

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, 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 pass the bill, H.R. 2628.

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. HANSEN. 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 the five bills just considered, H.R. 3421, H.R. 3909, H. Res. 261, H.R. 2109, and H.R. 2628.

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

There was no objection.

STRENGTHENING SCIENCE AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACT

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 64) to provide for the establishment of the position of Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 64

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 "Strengthening Science at the Environmental Protection Agency Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agency;

(2) the term "Agency" means the Environmental Protection Agency;

(3) the term "Deputy" means the Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology appointed under section 4; and

(4) the term "research" means research, development, and demonstration.

SEC. 3. RESEARCH MISSION OF AGENCY.

Conducting, sponsoring, and evaluating environmental science and technology research shall be a central mission of the Agency. The results of such research shall be used to help initiate, formulate, and carry out the Agency's agenda, and the Agency shall seek to increase the public's understanding of environmental science and technology by making those research results available to the public.

SEC. 4. DEPUTY.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology, who shall coordinate and oversee the science and technology activities of the Agency and ensure that Agency decisions are informed by the results of appropriate and relevant research.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Deputy shall—

(1) provide advice to the Administrator regarding science and technology issues and their relationship to Agency policies, procedures, and decisions;

(2) participate in developing the Agency's strategic plans and policies and review the science and technology aspects of those plans and policies;

(3) coordinate the acquisition and compilation of relevant science and technology information available from academic sources, government agencies, and the private sector;

(4) develop and oversee guidelines for the dissemination of research results conducted, sponsored, or cited by the Agency to the public, including historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, minority communities, and rural communities; and

(5) develop and oversee guidelines for peer review of science and technology research.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual appointed under subsection (a) shall be a person who has an outstanding science and technology background, including research accomplishments, scientific reputation, and public policy experience.

(d) CONSULTATION.—Before appointing an individual under subsection (a), the President shall consult with the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Science Advisory Board of the Agency, and other appropriate scientific organizations.

(e) COMPENSATION.—The Deputy shall be compensated at the rate provided for level III of the Executive Schedule pursuant to section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology of the Environmental Protection Agency."

SEC. 5. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) TITLE AND TERM.—There shall be an Assistant Administrator for Research and Development of the Agency, who shall also have the title of Chief Scientist of the Agency. Appointments to such position made after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be for a term of 5 years unless sooner removed by the President.

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual appointed under subsection (a) shall be a person who has an outstanding science and technology background, including research accomplishments, scientific reputation, and experience in leading a research and development organization.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members