

There are two issues that had to be resolved with the Bureau of Reclamation in order to facilitate a successful transfer. These included property appraisal and the number of lots that would be sold.

My bill, H.R. 706, addresses each of these issues in a fair and equitable manner. In effect, all current leaseholders would have the opportunity to purchase the land on which their homes currently exist as an unimproved, lakefront appraised value.

Finally, the bill guarantees continued public access to the water. I do want to thank the House Committee on Resources for their assistance and especially the Subcommittee on Water and Power chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), and his talented staff for their assistance and patience in working with me on this important bill.

This legislation is carefully crafted to resolve these issues, and we must not lose the sight of the fact that this is really a story about people, their lives, and the role of the government in the settling of the West.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask Members to do what is right by passing this legislation. It is time that we offer these fine people the opportunity to purchase the land that many have leased for over 60 years.

I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) for his kindness.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) as the principal author of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment would transfer title to 43 lakefront lots and improvements within the Bureau of Reclamation's Rio Grande Project in New Mexico and Texas to the Elephant Butte/Caballo Leaseholders Association.

□ 1430

In the late 1940s, reclamation leased one-half acre lakefront sites to visitors using tents, campers or other temporary structures. Over time, permanent structures and other improvements replaced the temporary structures, and many are now used on a full-time basis.

The amendment reflects changes recommended by the Interior and Justice Departments. It requires the leaseholders to pay market value, without regard to improvements made by the lessees.

Certainly there is no question that this legislation is necessary as a relief for these lakefront property owners;

and again, I commend the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), the chairman of our Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Interior. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Though this oft times is far from the roar of the grease paint and the smell of the crowd, this is another commonsense piece of legislation that we will move on today to reaffirm what is really, we call it bipartisan but basically nonpartisan, focusing on results for real people.

The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), the dean of that State's delegation, put it quite succinctly, and I think very poignantly, when he said this legislation ultimately is about people and doing what is right; and it is in that spirit that I would commend this legislation to the full body. I congratulate the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) on a commonsense piece of legislation.

I thank, once again, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for his help on this and the help of all the members of the committee to expedite this process to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to remind my colleagues, this piece of legislation had the full, bipartisan support of the Committee on Resources. It also has the support of the administration, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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 Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 706, 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.

NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1712) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make minor adjustments to the boundary of the National Park of American Samoa to include certain portions of the islands of Ofu and Olosega within the park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1712

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

SECTION 1. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA.

Section 2(b) of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the National Park of American Samoa" (16 U.S.C. 410qq-1(b)), approved October 31, 1988, is amended—

(1) by striking "(1)", "(2)", and "(3)" and inserting "(A)", "(B)", and "(C)", respectively;

(2) by inserting "(1)" after "INCLUDED.—"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) The Secretary may make adjustments to the boundary of the park to include within the park certain portions of the islands of Ofu and Olosega, as depicted on the map entitled 'National Park of American Samoa, Proposed Boundary Adjustment', numbered 82,035 and dated February 2002, pursuant to an agreement with the Governor of American Samoa and contingent upon the lease to the Secretary of the newly added lands. As soon as practicable after a boundary adjustment under this paragraph, the Secretary shall modify the maps referred to in paragraph (1) accordingly."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

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

H.R. 1712, introduced by our committee colleague, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make adjustments to the boundary of the national park of American Samoa to include certain portions of the islands of Ofu and Olosega within the park.

Created in 1988, the national park of American Samoa preserves the tropical forests and archeological and cultural resources of American Samoa and its associated coral reefs. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the national park of American Samoa preserves the only paleotropical rain forest in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, expanding the park's boundaries to include land and water on the islands of Ofu and Olosega would protect additional coral communities that harbor great diversity of species, including the endangered hawksbill, preserve high concentrations of medicinal plants, and offer increased scuba diving and hiking opportunities, while at the same time preserve subsistence fishing, which is protected by the park's enabling legislation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, unlike all other units in our national park system, the National Park Service would lease, rather than purchase, the additional lands. Currently, the park service manages 9,000 acres of land and water on the islands of American Samoa through a 50-year lease. The additional lands and waters would also be leased by the park service.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1712, as amended.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to certainly thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) for his eloquent statement in support of this legislation. I also want to thank the Republican and Democratic House leadership, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), our full committee leaders, and the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), with the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, for their support in bringing this bill to the floor today. H.R. 1712 will make adjustments to the boundary of the national park of American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. territory of American Samoa is located approximately 2,400 miles directly south of Hawaii. The national park in American Samoa is located on three separate islands: Tutuila, Ofu and Ta'u. The islands of Ofu and Olosega, portions of which would be added to the park under this legislation, are small islands which lie adjacent to each other and are connected by a short bridge.

In 1998, I received a request from the village chiefs of Sili and Olosega, on the island of Olosega, to include portions of their village lands within the national park. The chiefs noted the important role the park plays in preserving the natural and cultural resources of the territory, and indicated that the village councils believed there are significant cultural resources on village lands which warrant consideration for addition to the park.

About 2 years ago I had asked the National Park Service to conduct studies to determine if there were cultural and natural resources on the island which warranted inclusion in the park. The park service completed reconnaissance surveys on the islands of Olosega and a portion of the island of Ofu and reported on both.

The National Park Service concluded in part: the archaeological significance of Olosega Island cannot be understated. Sites on the ridgeline and terraces may offer an important opportunity for the study and interpretation of ancient Samoa. The number and density of star mounds (31), the great number of modified terraces, about 46 sites, and homesites of about 14, the subsistence system, and the artifacts available are all important findings. This is particularly significant in that they were recorded in only 3 days of visual surveys on only a portion of the island.

The National Park Service researchers also discovered that on top of this particular island of Olosega, were several acres of medicinal plants that are found nowhere else in the Samoan islands. This leads me to my next point, Mr. Speaker, about the importance of this unique national park.

One of the world's most renowned ethnobotanists, Dr. Paul Cox, who is currently the director of the National Tropical Botanical Garden on the island of Kauai in the State of Hawaii, conducted a series of research and study of several of the ancient Samoan medicinal plants. From one of these plants a substance called prostratin has now been discovered. It has been found that prostratin may have beneficial properties for the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

About two weeks ago, my district was privileged to host one of the world's most renowned marine ocean scientists, Dr. Sylvia Earle. Believe it or not, Dr. Earle continues to explore the ocean as a scuba diver, and in doing so, found that one of the rarest giant clams in the world can only be found in the Samoan islands.

Mr. Speaker, the national park of American Samoa is continuing to develop. Established in 1988 by Public Law 100-571, the park took several years to become operational. Today, however, tourists are visiting and schoolteachers are using the park as an educational resource to help the students learn more about Samoan history and ancient culture, the environment and ecological conservation. The park is preserving the area within its boundaries; but as the population grows, from about 22 percent, considerable pressure has been placed on these undeveloped areas.

The additions proposed by this legislation will preserve important sections of the remaining natural and cultural resources of the territory.

Again, because of the historical significance of this park, I respectfully request and ask my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

I appreciate the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) going into more detail about this unique national park and exactly the treasures there, the opportunities there and things that are worth saving there within the confines of that park and why it is necessary to move forward in this legislation. I would join him in earnest bipartisan support for this because I think it is a scientific treasure for us and one that, as he has pointed out, with the medicinal value of plants and other things there, things that may hold the key to medical miracles and marvels yet to come.

It is in that spirit that I would urge passage of the legislation.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) for his eloquence and his remarks.

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 Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1712, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote, and pending that, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

COMMENDING PENTAGON RENOVATION PROGRAM

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 368) commending the great work that the Pentagon Renovation Program and its contractors have completed thus far, in reconstructing the portion of the Pentagon that was destroyed by the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 368

Whereas the Pentagon was struck by a horrible act of terrorism on September 11, 2001, taking the lives of 125 employees at the Pentagon and 64 hostages on a hijacked airplane;

Whereas a renovation effort, known as Phoenix Project, is underway to restore the damaged portion of the Pentagon, and is pushing to have Pentagon personnel back to work in that portion of the building by September 11, 2002, just 1 short year after the terrorist attack;

Whereas, initially working 24 hours a day and 7 days each week, the outstanding men and women of the Pentagon Renovation Program have demonstrated the Nation's resolve and know-how, and are 6 weeks ahead of schedule in the reconstruction effort;

Whereas the 400,000 square feet of demolition work, which had to be completed before reconstruction work could begin, was completed in just 1 month, when it was estimated to take 4 to 7 months for the job; and

Whereas the renovation effort is comprised of 15 percent government and 85 percent contracted personnel, and these individuals have clearly dedicated themselves to making this important institution whole again: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives commends the great work that the Pentagon Renovation Program and its contractors have completed thus far, in reconstructing the portion of the Pentagon that was destroyed by the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) each will control 20 minutes.