

fatty deposits in the coronary arteries which lead directly to heart disease. This was unheard of 20 or 30 years ago. Type 2 diabetes is exploding among our young people. And of course this again is related to being overweight. Many children do not exercise. They watch TV and play video games.

Senate 870 authorizes the extension of a valuable school pilot program. The fruit and vegetable pilot program provides fresh fruit and fresh vegetables to a limited number of schools during the current school year. A recent Department of Agriculture study found that normal-weight children consumed significantly more fruits than overweight children. Studies have shown a positive relationship between consuming a balanced healthful diet of protein, fruits and vegetables and children's performance in the classroom and on the playing fields.

I thank my colleagues from the Committee on Education and the Workforce for bringing this small, yet important, piece of legislation to the floor and urge my colleagues to vote to extend this valuable pilot study.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I also am pleased to join with the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) in support of this important legislation. I commend them for bringing it to the floor.

I have always been told that we are what we eat. And I believe while it might appear that this legislation does not and will not go a great distance, I believe that children, like all of us, learn what they live. If they learn the importance of fruits and vegetables as part of a balanced diet, then I think they will end up making use of that. I think they will end up saying to themselves that they like it. They will end up saying that it makes sense.

We know that in the long run it is going to reduce illness. It will keep people away from the doctor's office, out of the hospital. It will cut down on our health care costs, which are rising all of the time at runaway speeds.

So I think this is a tremendous measure that will pay serious dividends. I am pleased that the Committee on Education and the Workforce has brought it to the floor, and I urge all Members to support it.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 870, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to extend the availability of funds to carry out the fruit and vegetable pilot program.

We hear a great deal about the importance of teaching our children good nutrition as well as about the epidemic of obesity and poor eating habits among American children. This morning's USA Today even had several articles about nutrition and obesity throughout the paper, this is a very important issue and one that is near and dear to my heart and that of

my district. However, for all the press, talk and concern, we do far too little about it. The first year of the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program is nearing its end, but remaining funds need to be used to extend the program until the end of the 2003–2004 school year so we can get the necessary information as we begin to debate child nutrition reauthorization later this year.

The 2002 Farm Bill authorized funds for a pilot project to test the feasibility of offering free fruits and vegetables to students during the school day. One hundred six schools implemented the project this school year in Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan and the Zuni Tribal Organization in New Mexico. The program sought to determine the best practices for increasing both fresh and dried fruit and fresh vegetable consumption in elementary and secondary schools. Schools reported tremendous successes and the final USDA report on the project concluded that 80 percent of students in participating schools were very interested in the program, and 100 of the schools participating believe that it is feasible to continue the pilot if funding is made available. I feel it is incumbent upon Congress to continue this pilot. Consumption of fruits and vegetables increased, while anecdotal evidence showed a decline in soda sales from vending machines in schools. Making existing funding available for pilot schools to use this upcoming school year will extend the success of the project.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge your support for this legislation today, and ask you again to support additional consumption opportunities as we debate child nutrition reauthorization in the upcoming Session. We must do more to encourage their purchase in our schools and to promote their consumption on an individual level.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please support S. 870, a bill by Senator HARKIN that will continue funding the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program until the end of 2003–2004 school year.

This is a great pilot that the Agriculture Committee strongly supported, and I fully intend on fighting to extend this project in the Children's Nutrition Reauthorization.

The pilot provides fresh and dried fruits and fresh vegetables to children in 107 schools. Of the 105 schools that have reported back results, 100 are asking USDA to keep the program.

This program is popular with schools and nutrition advocates, in light of the growing problem of childhood obesity. But, more important, the program is popular with the kids! Eighty percent of the students were very interested. Parents are excited about the program since 71 percent of the students are now more interested in eating vegetables and fruits.

Mr. Speaker, this is a successful program for which we need to extend funding until the end of the next academic year. It would be a pity to take these nutritious and healthy foods away from the children halfway through the school year.

I urge my colleagues to please support S. 870.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 870 which authorizes the extension of a valuable school pilot program included in the 2002 Farm Bill, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Fruit and Vegetable pilot program.

This program has provided an extraordinary opportunity to distribute free fruits and vegetables to students throughout the school day in an effort to increase their consumption of these healthful foods. Because this pilot did not begin until nearly midway through the school year, participating schools have requested that the Congress allow them additional time to complete the pilot program.

I have been pleased with the popularity of this pilot program and the evidence of its success. The USDA recently released a report on the pilot program. Within their evaluation they found that it was popular among most students, parents, State representatives, teachers, principals, pilot managers and food service staff. The USDA's evaluation also found that students consumed over 90 percent of servings offered thus far.

No one can dispute the importance of a healthy diet, especially for growing children. Yet, for a number of reasons, many children don't eat enough fruits and vegetables as recommended by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food Guide Pyramid. This pilot also is critically important to help encourage healthy dietary habits among the growing number of children in this country who are overweight or obese. USDA found that nearly 93 percent of participating schools have provided some nutrition education and promotion activities along with the program.

Identifying ways to encourage children to consume a wide variety of healthful foods will be a major focus of the upcoming reauthorization of the National School Lunch Program and other key child nutrition programs. During the reauthorization process, we will look to this pilot program for some answers regarding how we might help increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables in school by making accessible the types of fruits and vegetables that children most enjoy.

Because research has shown that children develop dietary habits early in life, the increased availability of fruits and vegetables in school can make a lasting impression on the life-long consumption patterns of these youths. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to vote to extend this pilot study.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 870.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KRIS EGGLE MEMORIAL VISITORS' CENTER IN ORGAN PIPE NATIONAL MONUMENT IN ARIZONA

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1577) to designate the visitors' center in Organ Pipe National Monument in Arizona as the "Kris Eggle Memorial Visitors' Center", and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1577

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

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that in August 2002, Kris Eggle, a 28-year-old park ranger in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, was murdered in the line of duty along the border between the United States and Mexico.

(b) DEDICATION.—Congress dedicates the visitor center in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument to Kris Eggle and to promoting awareness of the risks taken each day by all public land management law enforcement officers.

(c) REDESIGNATION.—The visitor center in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona is hereby designated as the “Kris Eggle Visitor Center”.

(d) REFERENCE.—Any reference to the visitor center in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona, in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the “Kris Eggle Visitor Center”.

(e) SIGNAGE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall post interpretive signs at the visitor center and at the trailhead of the Baker Mine-Milton Mine Loop that—

(1) describe the important role of public law enforcement officers in protecting park visitors;

(2) refer to the tragic loss of Kris Eggle in underscoring the importance of these officers;

(3) refer to the dedication of the trail and the visitor center by Congress; and

(4) include a copy of this Act and an image of Kris Eggle.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

□ 1100

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

H.R. 1577, introduced by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) and amended by the Committee on Resources, would designate the visitors' center at the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument as the Kris Eggle Visitor Center. Kris Eggle was a 28-year-old park ranger at the monument who was brutally murdered last year in the line of duty by members of a Mexican drug gang along the Arizona-Mexico border. Kris had served the visitors of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument since the year 2000, and before that he was a park ranger at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in his native Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO), the author of this important legislation.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of H.R. 1577, a

bill that would name the visitors' center in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona for Kris Eggle, a park ranger who lost his life in the line of duty. I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), who has worked tirelessly with me on this legislation, and also Senator MCCAIN, who is carrying the bill in the other body. I would also like to thank Chairman RADANOVICH and Chairman POMBO for their work on the bill and allowing it to be brought to the floor for consideration today.

Mr. Speaker, Kris Eggle was a brilliant young park ranger in one of the most beautiful units of the National Park System when he was killed last summer by a drug smuggler who had crossed into the United States after committing two murders in Mexico. Last August, Kris and three U.S. Border Patrol officers responded after Mexican police reported that two armed fugitives had fled across the border into the U.S. A Border Patrol helicopter directed Eggle and the other officers to where the suspects had abandoned their vehicle. Kris pursued them on foot, apprehending one of the suspects before he was killed. Kris was 28 years old.

I have personally visited Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument on numerous occasions. I also had the opportunity is one way to put it, I guess, the duty, and I certainly accepted that, to go down to Arizona and go to Kris' funeral and speak briefly at his funeral. It was a very moving event, a very emotional event as one can imagine with all of his colleagues and friends there in attendance. The area is certainly one of the most beautiful units in the National Park System. It is, unfortunately, also one of the most dangerous. According to the Fraternal Order of Police, it is a magnet for illegal aliens and drug smugglers. Some 200,000 illegal border-crossers and 700,000 pounds of drugs were intercepted at the park last year, a fact that rangers like Kris who at this very moment are patrolling the vast and remote expanses of Organ Pipe know all too well.

Kris, like many BLM, Park Service and Forest Service law enforcement officers, was on the frontlines of a battlefield we pay far too little attention to. He gave his life in service to this country. We should all be proud of his heroism. We should not forget.

By passing this bill today, I hope we can both memorialize Kris' personal sacrifice to this Nation and remind the American people of the perils faced and sacrifices made by those who work each day to patrol the parks, refuges and forests, particularly those located along our increasingly dangerously porous international borders.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA).

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank Chairman

POMBO and Chairman RADANOVICH for their support in moving this bill, moving it expeditiously, and that we have today the honor of passing this piece of legislation through the House.

This week Kris Eggle will not only be memorialized here on the floor of the House, he will also be memorialized at the memorial for slain police officers, officers who died in the line of duty. His family is in town this week, and his friends from all over the country are here to recognize an outstanding young man whose life was cut short.

H.R. 1577 is a bill to honor National Park Service Ranger Kris Eggle, who was murdered on duty last August in Organ Pipe National Monument, a National Park Service unit deep in the American Southwest. It is absolutely a beautiful and a gorgeous part of the American Southwest. I had the opportunity to visit there earlier this year with Kris' dad, Bob Eggle. This bill designates the visitors' center in Organ Pipe as the Kris Eggle Visitors' Center, dedicated to the legacy and memory of Kris.

Who was Kris Eggle? Let me give a little bit of background about Kris. Kris was a 28-year-old National Park Service ranger. He was assigned to the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument at the time of his death. My colleague has given us a little bit of the details about that, but if we go back, Kris was one of the best of the best. He graduated as valedictorian of Cadillac High School in 1991. He was an accomplished cross-country runner at Cadillac High School. He went on to be a top cross-country runner at the University of Michigan where he graduated with honors in 1995.

After graduation, he chose government service as the field where he was going to commit his life. He joined the National Park Service. He served at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore where he served as a ranger on both the North and South Manitou Islands. He had been stationed in Arizona since 2000. That is a little bit about the background.

The area where Kris served is a magnet for illegal aliens and Mexican smugglers. Some 200,000 illegal border-crossers and 700,000 pounds of drugs were intercepted at the park last year. Nonetheless, Kris embraced his job. He was always cheerful, a model citizen, a quintessential American boy turned ranger. He baked chocolate chip cookies for his fellow rangers and entertained them with songs while on duty.

Bob Eggle said Kris was where he wanted to be and he did what he wanted to do. He grew up on the family farm. He was an Eagle Scout, a devout Baptist and fleet-footed. His speed and his dedication may have been what cost him his life. He and three U.S. Border Patrol officers responded after Mexican police reported that two armed fugitives had fled across the border into the U.S. A Border Patrol helicopter gave chase and directed Kris and the other officers to where three suspects had ditched their vehicle. The

American officers pursued the fugitives on foot. One of the Mexican nationals was caught. The other ambushed Kris. Kris was shot, and he passed away.

Kris, like all of his other fellow employees, took an oath to swear his allegiance to this country. Kris did his job. He did it magnificently. Today we honor his memory by dedicating the visitors' center in Organ Pipe National Monument, but more importantly the responsibility of this Congress is also to deal with the causes of Kris' death. We have a border that looks more like Swiss cheese, allows illegals to cross the border indiscriminately, and allows drugs to flow across the border. This Congress needs to move forward and respond and to recognize that this is a Nation of laws, and that we will respond and enforce the laws and enforce our borders.

Again I thank my colleague for the time and moving this bill forward.

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. 1577, as amended, honors the life and work of a national park ranger killed in the line of duty by renaming the visitors' center at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona as the Kris Eggle Visitors' Center. This wonderful young man whom we just heard about from my colleagues was murdered while on patrol in the national monument in August 2002. His untimely and senseless death reminds us all of the dangers faced daily by Federal employees who protect park resources and visitors.

Unfortunately, Kris Eggle's death was not the only one of a National Park Service employee last year. This afternoon the National Park Service will host a ceremony honoring three national park rangers, including Kris, and one U.S. Park Police officer who died last year in the line of duty in service to the National Park Service and to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we enthusiastically support the adoption of H.R. 1577, as amended, by the House today.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I, too, rise in support of H.R. 1577, the Kris Eggle Memorial Center Designation Act. This bill honors National Park Service Ranger Kris Eggle, who was murdered on August 9, 2002, by an illegal alien and suspected drug smuggler while on duty in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona.

H.R. 1577 designates the visitors' center in Organ Pipe National Monument in Arizona as the Kris Eggle Memorial Visitors' Center. Kris, a native of Cadillac, Michigan, was just 28 years old at

the time of his death. He died doing a job he loved, and his commitment to safeguarding America's natural treasures commands our deepest appreciation. I support this legislation that will pay tribute to his life and ideals.

The legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to post signs at the center and on the trail that describe the important role of public law enforcement officers in protecting park visitors. The signs will also refer to the tragic loss of Kris Eggle, the dedication of the trail and visitors' center by Congress, and will include a copy of this act and Kris' picture. I believe this legislation will succeed in reminding people of the sacrifices made by those who work each day to protect America.

Let me just talk for a moment about Kristopher William Eggle, the man. As I learned more about him, I became even more impressed with his life and, yes, angry at his loss. He was an individual of amazing accomplishments for his young age, Eagle Scout, National Honor Society student, valedictorian of Cadillac High School. An athlete in high school, he went on to run track at the University of Michigan. But I think more importantly his leadership skills and the quality of person that he was makes this even more tragic as we think about it.

I would like to express my deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the friends and family of Kris Eggle for their loss. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) for bringing this legislation to the floor and urge my colleagues to support this measure. As the chairman of Subcommittee on Infrastructure and Border Security, I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure that this never happens again.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, first I, too, want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHAD-EGG) and others who have been down on the border. We held a hearing there in the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources just weeks ago, particularly going down to Organ Pipe, one of our more beautiful national monuments where the cactus, unlike the saguaro, come up, and hence the name, the Organ Pipe. They have saguaro cactus there as well. But unfortunately right now because of all the illegal immigrants and all the drug smuggling moving through that park, one of the most beautiful hiking trails in the country is sealed off because it is too dangerous for people to hike there.

When you walk through the park, you see milk containers all over the place. If they are clear, it means they

were water of people walking into the deserts by the hundreds. You can see them across the line because we basically have little protection on that border. If they are black, it is clear they had narcotics and were moving narcotics through.

The area where this brave ranger was killed is just east of the main crossing point. It was in a wash. As he and seven other agents from Customs and Border Patrol and others were trying to capture this illegal immigrant and drug smuggler, the immigrant, the smuggler, hid in some bushes. The ranger, as he was being guided by a helicopter above him, could not see where the shots came from. They hit him, went through his vest and another protective device, through one side and the other side of his body.

When he committed to work for the National Park Service, he thought he was going to be working with people who were trying to cut down trees or flowers, or who were basically having inner kind of conflicts in the parks. But we have watched our parks and monuments change into places, particularly around our borders or in our national forests and our parks where they are growing marijuana or producing methamphetamine, into far more dangerous places, endangering not only our rangers, but the people that are there.

When you walk through this visitors' center at the Organ Pipe and when you walk through the park headquarters there, you see this young ranger's picture there. You see many pictures of him. You hear from every staff person at that park. They miss Kris. They miss the loss there. All of a sudden it has taken their profession, probably the highest-rated profession in the United States, and any poll shows that park rangers and the people who are serving our public parks are supposed to be a happy place, not a sad place. The parents, when the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) brought them in and I met them, they said, "We don't want our son's loss to be in vain."

By naming this visitors' center, it is a reminder to Members of Congress and the American people that unless we can make our borders more secure, and I also serve on the subcommittee of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) as well as chairing the narcotics committee, we are not going to be secure in this country. We do not know who is going to come across, unless we can do a better job of restricting the narcotics coming in that are also killing people all over our country. Kris was out there trying to protect people in Fort Wayne, Indiana, all over America, by going after this drug dealer.

□ 1115

But unless we can make those borders more secure, unless we are more aggressive, we are putting people in our national parks at risk, we are putting our national forests at risk, everywhere else along the borders.

One last comment. As we start to address the problems of Organ Pipe, we have pushed it over to the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation next door. The Shadow Wolves, who were just highlighted in "Smithsonian Magazine" a couple months ago as well as "People Magazine," are now threatened with disbandment, that what we saw when we did our hearing, we saw four busts while we were doing the hearing of 1,500 pounds more than they seized all of last year in this Indian reservation, and we need to understand that while we are naming this monument after Kris and saying we are going to remember him and the people who sacrificed like him, that we also have to think of the adjacent areas and do not just push it through the next community as we address this. We have to get control, responsible control, of our borders, or we will not be secure in the United States, and hopefully this resolution today will help remind us of that.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG).

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation today to rename the Visitors Center at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in honor of Kris Eggle. And I want to thank its sponsor for his efforts for bringing this measure forward.

As has been mentioned here on the floor, Kris Eggle was an extraordinary, truly extraordinary young man. I regret that I never got to know him personally; but as the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) mentioned, he was a standout by any measure. He was an Eagle Scout, and I know that makes me proud. My son is an Eagle Scout. He was a valedictorian of his class. But if we run into Kris Eggle's family or his friends or the people of service that I have had a chance to meet, we can see that this was an extraordinary young man.

I will tell the Members the story of his death is one that is extraordinary. He was on the border as a park ranger doing his job when a radio call came in. There was no obligation for Kris Eggle to jump into the fray and respond to that radio call. This was a call that should have been responded to by DEA agents or Customs agents because it involved drug smuggling by a drug ring, and yet Kris Eggle did not stay in that border station and do nothing. He left the station and he raced out into the desert with his colleagues. And as the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) just pointed out, he was directed by a helicopter to where the shots had been fired and to where the suspect he was looking for was.

Just a few months ago I visited that scene. I was there with Kris's father,

Bob; and we were taken to the very spot where the murder occurred, and we saw where the gunman stood hiding under a tree and ambushed Kris, firing at him at literally point-blank range and killing him.

It is indeed a fitting honor that we should name this visitors center after him, but there is more to it than that. I met with Kris's parents this morning, Bob and Bonnie Eggle; and while they are thrilled that this bill is passing, they are very much devoted to substance. They care about what happens on the merits. Bob Eggle has spent countless hundreds of hours on that border trying to do what he can to rebuild the fence and to try to aid the people that are caring about it. But just this morning, Bonnie Eggle said to me, Congressman, can we get more Members of Congress to go visit the border to see what is going on there so that more might not die?

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation; but I also urge them to honor Kris Eggle's memory, this extraordinary young man, by helping us strengthen that border; and I join the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) in his comments regarding the Shadow Wolves. The Shadow Wolves are an extraordinary unit which we cannot allow to be disbanded, nor can we allow to be taken off of that border.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1577, 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 was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the visitor center in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona as the 'Kris Eggle Visitor Center', and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GRANTING EASEMENT TO THE LEWIS AND CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 255) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant an easement to facilitate access to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 255

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO GRANT EASEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to grant an easement to Otoe County, Nebraska, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining an access road

between the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska, and each of the following roads:

(1) Nebraska State Highway 2.

(2) Otoe County Road 67.

(b) LOCATION OF ROAD.—The access road referred to in subsection (a) shall not be located, in whole or in part, on private property.

(c) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—No funds from the Department of the Interior may be used for design, construction, maintenance, or operation of the access road referred to in subsection (a).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 255, as introduced by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and amended by the Committee on Resources, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant an easement to Otoe County, Nebraska, to facilitate the construction of a road to access the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The committee amendment simply states that the road will not be located on private property and that no funds from the Department of the Interior will be used for the construction and operation of the access road.

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. 255, introduced by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), is a fairly simple and straightforward piece of legislation. The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center is being developed in Nebraska City, Nebraska; and the local county would like an access road to link the center to the main roads in the area.

H.R. 255 simply authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant such an easement provided that the road is only located on public lands and that road is developed and maintained at no expense to the Federal Government. Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to the consideration of H.R. 255 and support its adoption today.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 255. This legislation is noncontroversial. It is one introduced by this Member.

I very much appreciate the support and assistance of the gentleman from