

of us perhaps share some blame for 9-11, and I am partly to blame. Yes, Mr. Clark, indeed you are, and those should have been the first words out of your mouth. While you are at it, how about Mogadishu? How about the first World Trade Center bombing? What about our servicemen at the Kobar Towers? What about the two embassy bombings in Iraq? And, Mr. Clark, what about the Cole?

COUNCIL OF GREAT CITY SCHOOLS REPORT

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a report recently issued by the Council of Great City Schools that showed solid improvement in test scores among the most disadvantaged students. Fourth graders scored an impressive 4.9 points higher in reading and 6.8 points higher in math than in previous years. Eighth grade reading and math scores increased by 1.1 and 3 points respectively.

No Child Left Behind is working. Before the act, many of these disadvantaged children might have been allowed to slip through the cracks. Now schools are accountable; no one can slip behind.

These successes and others like it are due to massive increases in education funding and an additional \$1 billion in title 1 money in fiscal year 2004, and we hope another \$1 billion increase this year.

Congratulations to these students and their teachers who demonstrate that with the increased accountability and funding under No Child Left Behind, every child can succeed.

NEW MEDICARE BILL PROVIDES MORE OPTIONS FOR SENIORS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I opened up Roll Call and among the first things to catch my attention was an article about the Democrats' message and their effort to get out the message on Medicare reform. I thought, well, better late than never. Perhaps they would now start talking about the plan this Congress and the President passed to help our seniors with their prescription drug costs for the first time ever. I thought that maybe the Democrats were finally ready to talk to our seniors about the inclusion of preventive care that starts with a free physical when the seniors enter Medicare. I thought that maybe Democrats would join us in talking about how we will, through the Medicare reform bill, begin working toward a 21st-century health care system for our seniors so that their prescription drug usage is better coordinated to pre-

vent overusage and harmful interventions.

I should have known better.

Democrats continue to resist informing seniors about the new options available. This Medicare reform is law, and it will provide seniors with more options and more choices than ever. I hope my colleagues across the aisle will reconsider their tactics.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AMENDMENTS OF 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 958) to authorize certain hydrographic services programs, to name a cove in Alaska in honor of the late Able Bodied Seaman Eric Steiner Koss, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 958

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 "Hydrographic Services Amendments of 2004".

TITLE I—NOAA HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES IMPROVEMENT

SEC. 101. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892 et seq.).

SEC. 102. FUNCTIONS OF ADMINISTRATOR.

(a) REGIONAL NAVIGATION RESPONSE TEAMS.—Section 303(a) (33 U.S.C. 892a(a)) is amended by striking paragraphs (7) and (8) and inserting the following:

"(7) establish, equip, and maintain up to 4 Regional Navigation Response teams in priority coastal areas identified by the Secretary, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, to conduct activities related to navigational safety and the validation of hydrographic data;

"(8) to the greatest extent practicable and cost-effective, fulfill the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (7) through contracts or other agreements with private sector entities; and

"(9) participate in the development of, and implement for the United States in cooperation with other appropriate Federal agencies, international standards for hydrographic data and hydrographic services."

(b) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Section 303 (33 U.S.C. 892a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To help fulfill the duties of the Administrator, including authorities under the Act of 1947 (33 U.S.C. 883a et seq.), this Act, or in response to a maritime emergency, the Administrator may—

"(A) establish a volunteer program; and

"(B) enter into special agreements with qualified organizations to assist in the implementation of a volunteer program.

"(2) LEGAL STATUS OF VOLUNTEERS.—

"(A) Paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 7(c) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(c)) shall apply to volunteers who provide services to the Administrator under a volunteer program established under paragraph (1).

"(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), any reference in section 7(c) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(c)) to the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Commerce is deemed to refer to the Administrator.

"(3) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.—In this subsection, the term 'qualified organization' means a nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization, determined by the Administrator to have demonstrated expertise in boating safety and a commitment to improving the quality of hydrographic services and related oceanographic and meteorological information that is made available to mariners.

"(e) PARTICIPATION IN JOINT INSTITUTE.—The Secretary may participate in a joint institute that develops new hydrographic technology and conducts academic, educational, and outreach activities that assist the Administrator in fulfilling the functions of the Administrator under this section."

SEC. 103. KOSS COVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or existing policy, the cove described in subsection (b) shall be known and designated as "Koss Cove", in honor of the late Able Bodied Seaman Eric Steiner Koss of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessel RAINIER who died in the performance of a nautical charting mission off the Alaskan coast.

(b) COVE DESCRIBED.—The cove referred to in subsection (a) is—

(1) adjacent to and southeast of Point Elrington, Alaska, and forms a portion of the southern coast of Elrington Island;

(2) ¾ mile across the mouth;

(3) centered at 59 degrees 56.1 minutes North, 148 degrees 14 minutes West; and

(4) 45 miles of Seward, Alaska.

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the cove described in subsection (b) is deemed to be a reference to Koss Cove.

SEC. 104. DEPICTION OF SAME SHORELINES ON CHARTS AND MAPPING PRODUCTS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Act, the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall provide to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan to depict the same shorelines on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nautical charts and United States Geological Survey mapping products.

SEC. 105. AMENDMENTS TO THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES PANEL.

Section 305 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "Secretary" and inserting "Secretary of Commerce"; and

(2) in subsection (c)(3), subsection (d), and subsection (e), by striking "Secretary" each place it appears and inserting "Administrator".

SEC. 106. GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS.

Section 306(5) of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892d(5)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (E) as clauses (i) through (v), respectively;

(2) by striking “(5)” and inserting “(5)(A)”;

and

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

“(B) Of the amounts authorized under subparagraph (A), \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year is authorized for the Great Lakes Water Level Observation Network.”.

TITLE II—FISHERY SURVEY VESSELS**SEC. 201. FISHERY SURVEY VESSELS.**

Section 302(c) of the Fisheries Survey Vessel Authorization Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 891b note) is amended by striking “\$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003” and inserting “\$51,000,000 for fiscal year 2005 and \$39,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.”

SEC. 202. ACQUISITION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY VESSEL.

No later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

(1) a detailed requirements package and cost estimate for the construction and equipping of a hydrographic survey vessel that is capable of—

(A) staying at sea continuously for at least 30 days;

(B) carrying at least 4 hydrographic survey launches;

(C) conducting hydrographic surveys; and

(D) conducting other work necessary to provide mariners with the accurate and timely data needed to conduct safe and efficient maritime commerce;

(2) an explanation of what vessel or vessels would be retired if a vessel described in paragraph (1) were to become operational; and

(3) a comparison of the 10-year estimated costs of operation and maintenance of a new vessel described in paragraph (1) versus such costs for a vessel or vessels proposed for retirement under paragraph (2).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 958.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, is responsible for the United States navigation services programs. These include the collection of hydrographic data, the production and distribution of nautical charts, the maintenance of geodetic reference systems, and the measurement and prediction of tides and currents.

In the 1990s, years of budget cuts and a revolution in technology left NOAA decades behind in meeting its mission goals and made it unable to provide the up-to-date products needed to assure safe and efficient marine transportation. In response to this problem, Congress enacted the Hydrographic Services Act of 1998. Coupled with increased appropriations, the 1998 act has reduced the nautical charting backlog for areas critical to navigation and modernized NOAA hydrographic, geodetic, and tide and current measurement programs.

To build on that reauthorization, H.R. 958 creates four regional navigation response teams which will conduct activities related to navigational safety and the validation of hydrographic data. The bill allows the Secretary of Commerce to accept volunteer services and create a volunteer program.

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Section 103 of the bill names a cove in Alaska for a sailor who drowned while on a nautical charting mission. The bill requires the Secretary to provide Congress with a plan to depict shorelines consistently on NOAA and the United States Geographical Survey maps. It makes technical modifications to the Hydrographic Services Panel. It also clarifies that \$2 million of the funds authorized each fiscal year are for the Great Lakes Water Level Observation Network.

Finally, Title II of the bill reauthorizes the Fishery Survey Vessel Authorization Act of 2000 for 2 years and authorizes the Secretary to provide Congress with a plan detailing requirements for the cost for the construction and equipping of the hydrographic survey vessel.

H.R. 958 will continue the progress we have made to get our coastline surveys up to date and to make our ports and waterways safer. This is a noncontroversial bill and I urge all Members to support it.

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

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

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, the programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, especially NOAA's hydrographic survey, current and tide measurements, and nautical charts are extremely important to ensure safe marine commerce and navigation.

H.R. 958 is noncontroversial legislation that would make helpful amendments to the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act to clarify authority and address recognized gaps in operations.

I am pleased that this legislation would authorize emergency response survey teams to go in and resurvey coastal areas after catastrophic storms which will enhance safe navigation for

both commercial mariners and recreational boaters. I am also very much appreciative that this legislation includes my amendment adopted by the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans to authorize specific annual funding for water level observations important to my State of Michigan.

Great Lakes water level measurements constitute one of the longest, high-quality hydrological data sets in North America. Reference gauge records begin as far back as 1860 and some sporadic records date back to the early 1800s.

We will learn from these observations that the water levels of the Great Lakes can and do fluctuate greatly from year to year. These fluctuations can have dramatic negative consequences for shipping, port and marine operations, and lakeshore erosion throughout the Great Lakes Basin.

My amendment will ensure that adequate funding is allocated by NOAA to carry out those important observations in the future.

In closing, NOAA's navigation and hydrographic services are vital to the economic and environmental well-being of our Nation, and I urge all Members to support this noncontroversial bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 958, 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. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2408) to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize volunteer programs and community partnerships for national wildlife refuges, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2408

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 “National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Act of 2003”.