

national treasure. This 16th century fortress is the most complete and historic fortification in the United States. The star-shaped fort, surrounding moat, and earthworks were constructed between 1672 and 1756 to protect Spanish territory in Florida and the shipping routes along the coast.

This National Monument was the site of a British garrison during the American Revolution and was last employed for defense purposes in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.

Madam Speaker, more than 1.5 million tourists visit this National Monument each year. This 16th century fortress, while it has never been conquered in battle, is straining under the modern-day requirements to accommodate its growing visitors' population.

I have been working with the Colonial St. Augustine Preservation Foundation, the City of St. Augustine and the National Park Service to improve and expand educational resources and public accommodations at this national park site.

As Members can imagine, adapting a four-century old structure with adequate public facilities, meeting handicap and disability standards and visitor educational facility requirements is not an easy task. This bill authorizes funding for both the museum, education and visitor center facilities to compliment and serve this important 16th century structure.

For the first time, this legislation appropriately authorizes the use of Federal funds to construct this visitor center and educational resource center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument. Not only will this new visitor center assist the fort in maintaining its historical integrity, but it will also accommodate visitors' needs and provide a great educational experience.

The Park Service is expected to complete a general management plan in the following months which will include design, planning and construction options at the facility. This legislation will properly authorize a major infrastructure improvement for our National Park Service.

Finally, this bill will preserve for future generations this historic site, and will add to the enjoyment and education for both visitors and local citizens.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO), and others on both sides of the aisle for their help in pushing this legislation forward and urge its adoption.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, a new general management plan which will guide this National Monument called the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument for the next 10 to 15

years is currently being developed. As with the development of any new GMP, this is an extensive process which relies heavily on input from local communities as well as interested parties from around our country. Clearly, one of the most important issues to be resolved in this new GMP is the need for a visitor facility at the monument.

As introduced, we were concerned that H.R. 2457 effectively prejudged the issue of a visitor facility by mandating that one of the options on the table would be selected before the GMP process identified a preferred alternative. However, working with the sponsor of the legislation and the National Park Service, the bill before us today has been amended to simply provide the NPS with the funding and authorization necessary to implement whatever the GMP identifies as the best option.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate the cooperation of everyone involved, and urge our colleagues to support H.R. 2457.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam 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 California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2457, 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.

AVAILABILITY OF NOAA REAL PROPERTY ON VIRGINIA KEY, FLORIDA

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4027) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make available to the University of Miami property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for use by the University for a Marine Life Sciences Center, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4027

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

SECTION 1. AVAILABILITY OF NOAA REAL PROPERTY ON VIRGINIA KEY, FLORIDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may make available to the University of Miami real property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for development by the University of a Marine Life Science Center.

(b) MANNER OF AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary may make property available under this section by easement, lease, license, or long-term agreement with the University.

(c) AUTHORIZED USES BY UNIVERSITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Property made available under this section may be used by the Uni-

versity (subject to paragraph (2)) to develop and operate facilities for multidisciplinary environmental and fisheries research, assessment, management, and educational activities.

(2) AGREEMENT.—Property made available under this section may not be used by the University (including any affiliate of the University) except in accordance with an agreement with the Secretary that—

(A) specifies—

(i) the conditions for non-Federal use of the property; and

(ii) the retained Federal interests in the property, including interests in access to and egress from the property by Federal personnel and preservation of existing rights-of-way;

(B) establishes conditions for joint occupancy of buildings and other facilities on the property by the University and Federal agencies; and

(C) includes provisions that ensure—

(i) that there is no diminishment of existing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs and services at Virginia Key; and

(ii) the availability of the property for planning, development, and construction of future Federal buildings and facilities.

(3) TERMINATION OF AVAILABILITY.—The availability of property under this section shall terminate immediately upon use of the property by the University—

(A) for any purpose other than as described in paragraph (1); or

(B) in violation of the agreement under paragraph (2).

(d) USE OF FACILITIES BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary may—

(1) subject to the availability of funding, enter into an agreement to occupy facilities constructed by the University on property made available under this section; and

(2) participate with the University in collaborative research at, or administered through, such facilities.

(e) NO CONVEYANCE OF TITLE.—This section shall not be construed to convey or authorize conveyance of any interest of the United States in title to property made available under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4027. This is an important bill to my constituents, indeed to the people of all of south Florida.

Madam Speaker, this bill makes available to the property on Virginia Key, Florida, under the jurisdiction of

NOAA for use by the University of Miami for a marine life science center. This property may be made available to the University via easement, lease, license or long-term agreement.

Madam Speaker, Virginia Key, Florida, which is located just a few miles from downtown Miami, is the site of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric's National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center. It is also the home for NOAA's Office of Atmospheric Research Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, as well as the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences.

Due to their proximity and because they overlap in research interest, NOAA and the Rosenstiel School have had a close working relationship for many years. This legislation is designed to maintain and strengthen that relationship.

Located on a 16-acre campus on Virginia Key in Miami, the Rosenstiel School is the only subtropical applied and basic marine and atmospheric research institute of its kind in the continental United States. Rosenstiel's research interests include satellite oceanography, with particular emphasis on remote sensing and satellite imagery, as well as experimental fish hatchery. It also leads in the field of global marine and atmospheric chemistry program, comprehensive oceanic and atmospheric numerical modeling activities, sedimentary geology and marine geophysics groups with considerable expertise in seismic methods, and has an innovative ocean acoustics program.

□ 1630

In short, Madam Speaker, the Rosenstiel School is a proud and indispensable establishment for all of us in south Florida, in the State of Florida and indeed throughout the Nation.

The genesis of a new University of Miami and NOAA marine science complex will bring together expertise in environmental and fisheries research, assessment and management, and facilitate the intellectual exchange of ideas and results. H.R. 4027 is a critical first step in reaching the goal of establishing a new marine science complex.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to have introduced this important legislation and am most appreciative of the consideration and focus of this vital project in my congressional district.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 4027. I compliment the gentlewoman from Florida for her leadership on behalf of her constituents and want to thank the Committee on Science for their assistance in moving this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 4027 is noncontroversial legislation that would encourage cooperative use of Federal land at Virginia Key, Florida under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration between the Federal agency and the University of Miami. The existing long-term relationship between the two NOAA laboratories at Virginia Key and their neighbor, the University's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, has produced an enviable record of scientific achievement.

While this legislation, Madam Speaker, will not authorize the conveyance of any Federal land, it is expected to provide helpful guidance for future collaboration among the institutions as they look to upgrade their respective research facilities at Virginia Key. I urge Members to support this legislation to enhance ocean and coastal scientific research.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). 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. 4027, 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.

WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4481) to amend Public Law 86-434 establishing Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri to expand the boundaries of the park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4481

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 "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES, WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD, MISSOURI.

(a) BOUNDARY EXPANSION; PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTIONS.—The first section of Public Law 86-434 (16 U.S.C. 430kk) is amended—

(1) by striking "That the Secretary" and inserting the following:

"SECTION 1. WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD: ESTABLISHMENT AND ACQUISITION OF LANDS.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT, INITIAL BOUNDARIES.—The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(b) EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES.—(1) The boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Bat-

tlefield are revised to include lands and interests therein consisting of six parcels totaling 615 acres and identified as parcels '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6' on the map entitled 'Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Proposed Boundary', numbered 410/80,037 and dated January 27, 2004. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

"(2) The Secretary is authorized to acquire the lands referred to in paragraph (1) by donation, by purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds, or by exchange. The Secretary may acquire by the same methods personal property associated with, and appropriate for, interpretation of the park.

"(c) ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

"(1) require any private property owner to allow public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to such private property; or

"(2) modify any provision of Federal, State, or local law with regard to public access to or use of private property.

"(d) LIABILITY.—The revision of the boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield by subsection (b) shall not be considered to create any liability for, or to have any effect on any liability under any other law of, any owner of private property with respect to any person injured on that private property.

"(e) RECOGNITION OF AUTHORITY TO CONTROL LAND USE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify the authority of Federal, State, or local governments to regulate land use.

"(f) PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the owner of any private property located within the boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield to participate in, or be associated with, the National Battlefield.

"(g) EFFECT OF EXPANSION.—The boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, as revised by subsection (b), represent the area within which Federal funds appropriated for the purpose of this Act may be expended. The boundary revision shall not be construed to provide any nonexisting regulatory authority on land use within the National Battlefield or its viewshed by the Secretary or the National Park Service."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 3 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 430mm) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out section 1(b)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.