

thing. Each generation must win it, and win it again.

The American Civil War was critical to America's development as a nation and a democracy. The 105th anniversary of the war is an appropriate time for us to reflect on its legacy and its impact on our lives.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER).

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his courtesy in yielding me time. I rise here today to speak to my appreciation for his good work in bringing this matter to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the American Civil War was perhaps the most dramatic forging event in our Nation's history. In a brief period of time, over 600,000 lives were lost. The struggle was immense. But from this incredible event and the huge loss of life, a new nation was forged, with its eye on principle and in practice to afford equal rights to all.

In the course of our history, this Congress has acted with regard to this matter in years past. In fact, there are two institutions. The United States Civil War Center at Louisiana State University and the Civil War Institute at the Gettysburg College have been the only two institutions nationally recognized as Civil War centers. It is my hope and expectation that as the commission itself is appointed and work is commenced, that they will become significant partners with the center at LSU and at the Gettysburg College in coming to the appropriate decisions for the sesquicentennial celebrations of this event.

It is truly an important, formative event in our Nation's history. It is a time when no one should be without education and understanding, for from it we learn much about ourselves and what makes our Nation as great as it is today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I also thank the chairman of my subcommittee of the Committee on Financial Services for his leadership.

I rise in strong support of this resolution. I have been working with several of my colleagues to organize a Civil War Caucus here in the House of Representatives. Outside this building, just on the West Front, is a statue of General Grant at the very footsteps of the Capitol. A few blocks away from that is a statue of General Meade. Beyond that is the Lincoln Memorial, and beyond that in the hills of Arlington is the Custis-Lee Mansion.

Why do we remember? Why do we erect statues? Why is this bill important? It is important because the Civil War is really not about the past; it is

about our present, it is about our future. It is important because what happened in the Civil War will instruct us in how we meet challenges today.

I serve on the Committee on Armed Services and we are dealing with profoundly difficult challenges around the world, in Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, the global war on terror. Sometimes those challenges seem almost insurmountable. What the Civil War teaches all of us is that no challenge is insurmountable.

When I think about the military difficulties that we have in the world today, I also think about the 20th of May on Little Round Top in Gettysburg. It was on that hill that just a small group of men were told to remain in place, to hold that hill at all hazards. They were confronted with enemy in front of them, overwhelming numbers, overwhelming numbers of enemy to their left and above them, and still they held that hill. They repulsed attack after attack after attack, and when they ran out of ammunition and hope, their leader, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, ordered the men to fix bayonets and charge. That is surmounting challenge.

What we were taught from that battle on many battlefields, on many boats, in north and south, is that we are a unique and special country. That fight was for us. That fight was for our future. That fight was to teach a lesson that higher principles guide us, that there are things worth fighting for that are even more important than ourselves.

This bill is not about statues, it is not about commemoration, it is not about the past. It is about the country we are today and the country we will be tomorrow.

For that reason, I strongly support this bill and urge its adoption.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will just end by suggesting that the Civil War was the costliest war that this country has ever been engaged in and perhaps one of the most important wars that this country will ever fight. I urge strong support of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to join my friend from Illinois in his remarks, and I too urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 2449.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2449, 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.

HUDSON-FULTON-CHAMPLAIN 400TH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION ACT OF 2004

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2528) to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemorative Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2528

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 "Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission Act of 2004."

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The first European exploration of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain and the introduction of steam navigation to maritime commerce were events of major historical importance, both in the United States and internationally.

(2) In 1609, Englishman Henry Hudson, acting in service of the Dutch East India Company, was the first European to sail up the river later named for him in the vessel HALF MOON, and French explorer Samuel de Champlain was the first European to see the lake later named for him.

(3) These voyages were two of the most significant passages in the European exploration and discovery of America, and began two of the earliest contacts in the New World between Native Americans and Europeans.

(4) These explorations led to the establishment of Fort Orange, a Dutch (and later English) settlement of what is now the capital city of the State of New York, and settlement of French Quebec settlements as far south as Lake George. From these early settlements came an influence on the Nation's history, culture, law, commerce, and traditions of liberty which extends to the present day, and which is constantly reflected in the position of the United States as the leader of the nations of the free world.

(5) In 1807, Robert Fulton navigated the Hudson River from the city of New York to Albany in the steamboat CLERMONT, successfully inaugurating steam navigation on a commercial basis. This event is one of the most important events in the history of navigation. It revolutionized waterborne commerce on the great rivers of the United States, transformed naval warfare, and fostered international relations through transoceanic travel and trade.

(6) The National Park Service owns and operates significant resources in New York related to the early history of the nation and the Hudson River Valley.

(7) In 2002, the State of New York established a Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission.

(8) In 2003, the State of Vermont established a Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission to—

(1) ensure a suitable national observance of the Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain 2009 anniversaries through

cooperation with and assistance to the programs and activities of New York, New Jersey, Vermont, and the commemorative commissions formed by the States;

(2) assist in ensuring that Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances provide an excellent visitor experience and beneficial interaction between visitors and the natural and cultural resources of the New York, New Jersey, and Vermont sites;

(3) assist in ensuring that Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances are inclusive and appropriately recognize the diverse Hudson River and Lake Champlain communities that developed over four centuries;

(4) facilitate international involvement in the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances;

(5) support and facilitate marketing efforts for a commemorative coin, a commemorative stamp, and related activities for the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances; and

(6) assist in the appropriate development of heritage tourism and economic benefits to the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **COMMEMORATION.**—The term “commemoration” means the commemoration of—

(A) the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton’s voyage in the CLERMONT;

(B) the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s voyage in the HALF MOON; and

(C) the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain’s voyage.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission established by section 4(a).

(3) **GOVERNORS.**—The term “Governors” means the Governors of the States of New York, New Jersey, and Vermont.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) **STATES.**—The term “States”—

(A) means the States of New York, New Jersey, and Vermont; and

(B) includes agencies and entities of each such State.

SEC. 4. HUDSON-FULTON-CHAMPLAIN 400TH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a commission to be known as the “Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission”.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall be composed of 31 members, of whom—

(A) 3 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendations of the Governors;

(B) 13 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendations from the Members of the House of Representatives whose districts encompass the Hudson River Valley and Champlain Valley;

(C) 6 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendations from the Members of the Senate from New York, New Jersey, and Vermont;

(D) 2 members shall be employees of the National Park Service, of whom—

(i) one shall be the Director of the National Park Service (or a designee); and

(ii) one shall be an employee of the National Park Service having experience relevant to the commemoration, who shall be appointed by the Secretary;

(E) one member shall be appointed by the Secretary, and shall be an individual knowledgeable of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area;

(F) 6 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, and shall be individuals that have

an interest in, support for, and expertise appropriate to, the commemoration;

(G) one member shall be the chairperson of any commemorative commission formed by New York, or the designee of the chairperson;

(H) one member shall be the chairperson of any commemorative commission formed by New Jersey, or the designee of the chairperson; and

(I) one member shall be the chairperson of any commemorative commission formed by Vermont, or the designee of the chairperson.

(2) **TERM; VACANCIES.**—

(A) **TERM.**—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) **VACANCIES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(ii) **PARTIAL TERM.**—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of the member was appointed.

(3) **MEETINGS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall meet—

(i) at least twice each year; or

(ii) at the call of the Chairperson or the majority of the members of the Commission.

(B) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(4) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—

(A) The Commission shall elect the chairperson and the vice chairperson of the Commission on an annual basis.

(B) The vice chairperson shall serve as the chairperson in the absence of the chairperson.

(5) **QUORUM.**—A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(6) **VOTING.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members of the Commission.

(B) **NONVOTING MEMBERS.**—The individuals appointed under subparagraphs (G), (H), and (I) of paragraph (1) shall be nonvoting members, and shall serve only in an advisory capacity.

(c) **DUTIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall—

(A) plan, develop, and execute programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson, the first European to sail up the Hudson River, the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton, the first person to use steam navigation on a commercial basis, the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain, the first European to discover and explore Lake Champlain;

(B) facilitate Hudson-Fulton-Champlain-related activities throughout the United States;

(C) coordinate its activities with State commemoration commissions and appropriate Federal Government agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, State, and Transportation, the National Park Service with respect to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Interagency Committee established by Executive Order 13061, dated September 11, 1997;

(D) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the voy-

ages of Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain;

(E) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration;

(F) coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on, publication about, and interpretation of, the voyages of Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain; and

(G) ensure that the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 anniversaries provide a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit by assisting in the development of appropriate programs and facilities.

(2) **STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS.**—The Commission shall prepare a strategic plan in accordance with section 306 of title 5, United States Code, and annual performance plans in accordance with section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, for the activities of the Commission carried out under this Act.

(3) **REPORTS.**—

(A) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Commission shall submit to Congress an annual report that contains a list of each gift, bequest, or devise with a value of more than \$250, together with the identity of the donor of each such gift, bequest, or devise.

(B) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than September 30, 2010, the Commission shall submit to the Secretary a final report that contains—

(i) a summary of the activities of the Commission;

(ii) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission; and

(iii) the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

(d) **POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**—The Commission may—

(1) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other real or personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission;

(2) appoint such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out this Act;

(3) authorize any member or employee of the Commission to take any action that the Commission is authorized to take by this Act;

(4) procure supplies, services, and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements, to carry out this Act (except that any contracts, leases, or other legal agreements made or entered into by the Commission shall not extend beyond the date of the termination of the Commission);

(5) use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal agencies;

(6) subject to approval by the Commission, make grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 to communities, nonprofit organizations, and commemorative commissions formed by the States to develop programs to assist in the commemoration; and

(7) make grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the early history of the voyages of Hudson, Fulton, and Champlain.

(e) **COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**—

(1) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(B) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member

as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(B) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(3) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

(A) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(ii) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of an employee under clause (i) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(B) STATE EMPLOYEES.—The Commission may—

(i) accept the services of personnel detailed from States (including subdivisions of States); and

(ii) reimburse States for services of detailed personnel.

(5) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(6) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Director of the National Park Service shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(f) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(g) FACA NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(h) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section supersedes the authority of the States or the National Park Service concerning the commemoration.

(i) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2010, and shall transfer all documents and materials of the

Commission to the National Archives or other appropriate Federal entity.

SEC. 5. AUDIT OF COMMISSION.

The Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall perform an annual audit of the Commission and shall make the results of the audit available to the public.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2011 to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. 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 H.R. 2528.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2528, a bill that creates another important congressional commission. This measure, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), establishes the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission.

Mr. Speaker, many outside of the northeast may be unfamiliar with the honorees of the commission, Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, Samuel de Champlain. But this commemoration aims to raise awareness of their pioneering contributions.

In 1609, Henry Hudson of England was the first European to sail up the river that would later bear his name. That same year, French explorer Samuel de Champlain was the first European to come across the lake that is named after him. Nearly 200 years later, in 1807, Robert Fulton navigated the Hudson River from the city of New York to Albany aboard the steamboat Clermont. This voyage successfully inaugurated steam navigation, and is one of the most important events in the history of navigation.

These three events that occurred on these significant waterways greatly contributed to western expansion across the New World. I know the distinguished Members from New York, New Jersey and Vermont strongly support the establishment of this commission, and as a student of history, I am pleased to join them today in favor of passage of H.R. 2528.

I want to congratulate the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) for advancing this legislation.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), the author of this legislation.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to also express my appreciation to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the chairman for their work on this legislation and for the way in which it has been brought to the floor. I very much appreciate all the consideration that has been given to it and the attention it has received.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation, as we have heard, will establish a Federal commission to plan, develop and execute programs and activities to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson, the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain, and the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton. These are events of major historical importance both for the United States and for many other nations as well.

In 1609, Englishman Henry Hudson, acting in the service of the Dutch East India Company, was the first European to sail up the river later named for him in the vessel Half Moon, and French explorer Samuel de Champlain was the first European to see the lake that was later named for him. These voyages were two of the most important passages in the European exploration and discovery of North America, and they began two of the earliest contacts in the New World between Europeans and Native Americans.

These explorations led to the establishment of Fort Orange by the Dutch, which later became the English settlement of Albany, which later became the capital of New York State. It also led to French settlements as far south as Lake George in New York. From these early settlements came an influence on our history, law, culture, commerce and traditions of liberty, which extends right down to the present day.

Furthermore, in 1807, Robert Fulton navigated 150 miles of the Hudson River from New York City to Albany in the steamboat Clermont, successfully inaugurating steam navigation on a commercial basis. This is one of the most important events in the history of naval travel. The trip had previously consumed an average of 4 days. The Clermont under Fulton made the same trip in about 32 hours.

Steam navigation revolutionized waterborne commerce on the great rivers of the United States, such as the Hudson, the Missouri and Mississippi River systems; it transformed transoceanic travel and naval warfare and fostered international relations through travel and trade.

The Hudson, Fulton and Champlain anniversaries have a rich tradition of commemoration, as well, by our Nation. In 1909, Americans celebrated the 300th anniversary of these events with maritime celebrations and art exhibitions. New York and New Jersey created a Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission, and there was a Champlain Tercentenary in the Champlain Valley. These celebrations were extensive and international in scope. The Dutch built the first replica of Hudson's ship, the Half Moon, and sent it

up the Hudson River for that observance.

In 1959, Congress created the Hudson-Champlain Celebration Commission to recognize the 350th anniversary and coordinate Federal participation in those commemoration events. New York, New Jersey and Vermont all participated in the anniversaries.

Then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York proclaimed 1959 the Year of History. Events occurred day and night, such as art exhibits, performance of music, drama and historic reenactments. The Netherlands, Canada, Great Britain and France were all enthusiastically involved.

In order for our country to showcase to the world the monumental effect that exploration has had on today's society and to celebrate the beauty, history and culture of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain, Federal planning for the 400th anniversary must start now. The States are already planning for these anniversaries.

In 2002, the State of New York established a State Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission; and in 2003, the State of Vermont established a Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission.

A Federal commission is important to expand the scope of these State celebrations, attracting and organizing a national and indeed an international organization for these celebrations. The commission established by this bill will coordinate educational, cultural and historic projects, while cooperating in assisting the programs and activities conceived by New York, New Jersey and Vermont.

Specifically, the legislation will do the following: It will ensure a suitable national observance of the anniversary through cooperation with and assistance to the programs and activities of New York, New Jersey and Vermont.

It will cultivate international involvement in celebration activities and provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen our historic and cultural ties to nations such as the Netherlands, Canada, Great Britain and France.

It will also coordinate the activities of Federal Government agencies such as the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, State, Transportation, as well as the National Park Service, all of which have significant resources in the Hudson and Champlain Valleys.

It will encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, religious, economic and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities that expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of these voyages.

It will provide technical assistance to States, localities, nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration.

It will coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on publication about and interpretation of the voyages of Henry Hudson, Samuel de Champlain and Robert Fulton.

□ 1400

It will support and facilitate marketing efforts for a commemorative coin, a commemorative stamp, and related activities for the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances. And it will also ensure that the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 anniversaries provide a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit by assisting in the development of appropriate programs and facilities.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this legislation, and again, I express my appreciation to the gentleman here today for bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) in support of this legislation. The Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission, as established in this act, will plan and develop programs in 2009 that will celebrate the voyages of discovery made by Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain.

The programs and activities will mark the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson, the first European to sail up the Hudson River; the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton, the first person to use steam navigation on a commercial basis; and the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain, the first European to discover and to explore Lake Champlain.

The exploration of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain and the introduction of steam navigation in maritime commerce played an important role in shaping New York State. In addition, these early explorers opened a part of North America that was crucial to international trade throughout eastern New York, the North Country and the Lake Champlain region.

The Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission represents a unique opportunity to celebrate New York, its history and its heritage.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission Act, and I thank my colleague MAURICE HINCHEY for his leadership on this issue.

I am pleased that the bill under consideration today will establish a Commission charged with planning, developing and executing programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the voyages of three explorers. From these early explorations and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" to today's waterfront development projects, the Hudson River has enriched life in New York for centuries. Safeguarding the rich historical legacy of these natural resources is a commitment we must all make, and we have an obligation to educate the public on the three explorers and their voyages.

As the co-founder of the Hudson River Caucus, I have worked to help realize the full educational, environmental, and economic potential of the Hudson River and its waterfront. The event that will take place in 2009, commemorating the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage, the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton, and the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain, will help to achieve these goals. This legislation will celebrate and cherish these significant explorers and voyages, and help ensure historic preservation and increase public awareness for generations to come.

I am happy to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2528, 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 489) supporting the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 489

Whereas devastating acts, such as the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, have left many Americans concerned about the possibility of future terrorist incidents and their potential impact;

Whereas terrorists are attempting to acquire or develop weapons of mass destruction, such as biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological weapons;

Whereas terrorist attacks and other emergencies have, and can again, disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives, resulting in significant numbers of casualties, causing serious damage to buildings and our Nation's infrastructure, and costing billions of dollars;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal, State, and local entities have been working diligently to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and other emergencies;

Whereas all Americans can assist in promoting the Nation's overall emergency preparedness by preparing themselves and their families for terrorist attacks and other emergencies;

Whereas Americans can prepare for the unexpected by, among other things, assembling an emergency supply kit, developing a family emergency communications plan, and keeping informed about possible emergencies;

Whereas additional information about citizen preparedness can be obtained through the Department of Homeland Security's Ready campaign, by telephone at 1-800-BE-