

needed to carry out this directive. I also encourage the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to continue working with the EAC on electronic absentee voting by absent uniformed service and overseas voters casting ballots abroad and others areas where they may have expertise.

The second provision will expand the use of the federal write-in absentee ballot to absent uniformed service voters that have not received voting materials from their state within the deadline prescribed by their state. This will give the absent uniformed service voter the opportunity to participate in the democratic process that they are defending.

Mr. Speaker, I support the inclusion of these provisions in the Conference Report.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4200, the FY 2005 Department of Defense Authorization Conference Report. I commend our Chairman and Ranking Member and all of the conferees for their leadership and hard work.

This is an important bill for troubling times. As I have said often, thank God we live in a nation, which gives us the right to agree with a decision to go to war, the right to disagree with that decision, even the right to remain silent. But no one has any right at all to forget the courageous men and women who answered the call when summoned, who sacrificed by serving.

What is our obligation to them, Mr. Speaker? It is to make them a priority in our hearts as well as our budgets.

We also have an obligation to give them all the tools and resources they need. Not just hardware, but software. Not just situational awareness that tells them where an enemy is and what the enemy's firepower is, but the cultural awareness that tells our troops who the enemy is and what its will power is.

That is why I am especially proud that the conference report included two amendments that I offered.

While the brilliant speed with which our forces toppled the Taliban and the regime of Saddam Hussein demonstrates the unrivaled technological and professional superiority of our military, the current situation on the ground would seem to suggest that we haven't given enough attention to the "full spectrum" of operations that they will face.

My amendment will look at how U.S. military's education and training program is preparing soldiers to meet the challenges of an era when our enemy is just as likely to be a tribal warlord as a trained infantryman and how we deal with the battlefield after the battle.

A second amendment, Mr. Speaker, formally recognizes the courageous actions of Army Specialist Joseph Darby, who was brave enough to notify his superiors about the abuses at Abu Grayb when no one else was. He is a true American hero.

These are truly dangerous times. We are involved in a struggle that we cannot lose. On behalf of our men and women in uniform and all they are doing to keep America safe, I strongly support passage of this conference report.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4200, the "National Defense Authorization Act of 2005." I am pleased that Congress was able to complete work on this important bill prior to recess. As an outside Conferee to H.R. 4200, I am particularly sup-

portive of the education provisions in the bill before us today.

There are a number of provisions in H.R. 4200 that will help local schools better serve students in military families. For example, we ensure that school districts can continue to count federally-connected students who reside on the military base as on-base students for the purposes of calculating Impact Aid payments in cases when federally-connected students temporarily move off-base to live with a relative or family friend and when both of their military parents are deployed for active duty. The provision will also ensure that school districts continue to count federally-connected students who reside on-base as on-base students for the purpose of calculating Impact Aid payments for six months after the death of a military parent.

In addition, we have increased the amount of aid local schools will receive that are impacted by the presence of military installations, as well to increase funding to help school districts provide special education services to certain dependent children with severe disabilities.

Finally, with respect to the education provisions, we were able to establish the National Security Education Program to provide resources for scholarships, fellowships, and institutional grants in higher education. The program's mission is to lead in the development of the national capacity to educate U.S. citizens, understand foreign cultures, strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness, and enhance international cooperation and security. In our ever growing world economy, I believe these provisions are imperative to ensure that U.S. citizens have a solid understanding of other nations.

Mr. Speaker, Congress recognizes the sacrifices and contributions our courageous soldiers have made in the war against terrorism. Hopefully, the "National Defense Authorization Act of 2005" will go far in supporting our military efforts and protecting the freedoms that we all enjoy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HUNTER. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report on H.R. 4200.

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

There was no objection.

DIRECTING THE CLERK TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 4200, RONALD W. REAGAN NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 514) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a technical correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 4200, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 514

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 4200) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction: in section 714(b), strike "Section 1974g(a)(2)(E)(i)" and insert "Section 1074g(a)(2)(E)(i)".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 832 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 832

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported on the legislative day of October 8, 2004, providing for consideration of disposition of a conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4837) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, last night the Committee on Rules met and passed this

resolution, waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The waiver authorized by this resolution applies to any special rule reported on the legislative day of Friday, October 8, 2004, providing for the consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany the bill, H.R. 4837, making appropriations for military construction, family housing and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I would advise my colleagues that adoption of this resolution is made necessary because the work of the conferees has taken longer than anticipated. To that end, I urge my colleagues to support the rule.

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

Mr. FROST. I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding me time, and I yield myself such time as may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in our rush to finish our legislative work in Washington and return to our districts before the election, I fear we are jumping the gun by taking up this rule. While I realize that time is running short and that the House is likely to adjourn today or tomorrow, it is premature for the House to consider a martial law rule for a bill that has not even been completed. Why we are passing a rule to expedite passage of a bill for which we do not even have the final language, I cannot understand.

I am fully aware of the importance of sending as many of the 13 appropriations bills as possible to the President before we adjourn. But it is only reasonable to wait to bring up a martial law rule to expedite the consideration of a conference report, that may or may not be ready today, until we actually have that conference report filed and in hand.

However, given the magnitude and importance of this appropriation for military construction funding, I am not going to oppose this rule. I simply think that it would serve regular order to bring it up when we actually have a final conference report to read.

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2242

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.

AUTHORIZING ILLUMINATION OF GATEWAY ARCH IN HONOR OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 2895) to authorize the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, to be illuminated by pink lights in honor of breast cancer awareness month, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2895

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

SECTION 1. ILLUMINATION OF GATEWAY ARCH IN HONOR OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.

In honor of breast cancer awareness month, the Secretary of the Interior shall authorize the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, to be illuminated by pink lights for a certain period of time in October, to be designated by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORT DONELSON NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD EXPANSION ACT OF 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Resources be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 524) to expand the boundaries of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield to authorize the acquisition and interpretation of lands associated with the campaign that resulted in the capture of the fort in 1862, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill as follows:

S. 524

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 "Fort Donelson National Battlefield Expansion Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. FORT DONELSON NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD.

(a) DESIGNATION; PURPOSE.—There exists as a unit of the National Park System the Fort Donelson National Battlefield to commemorate—

(1) the Battle of Fort Donelson in February 1862; and

(2) the campaign conducted by General Ulysses S. Grant and Admiral Andrew H. Foote that resulted in the capture of Fort Donelson by Union forces.

(b) BOUNDARIES.—The boundary of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield is revised to include the site of Fort Donelson and associated land that has been acquired by the Secretary of the Interior for administration by the National Park Service, including Fort Donelson National Cemetery, in Stewart County, Tennessee and the site of Fort Heiman and associated land in Calloway County, Kentucky, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Fort Donelson National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment" numbered 328/80024, and dated September 2003. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES.—The Fort Donelson National Battlefield shall also include any land acquired pursuant to section 3.

SEC. 3. LAND ACQUISITION RELATED TO FORT DONELSON NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD.

(a) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary of the Interior may acquire land, interests in land, and improvements thereon for inclusion in the Fort Donelson National Battlefield. Such land, interests in land, and improvements may be acquired by the Secretary only by purchase from willing sellers with appropriated or donated funds, by donation, or by exchange with willing owners.

(b) LAND ELIGIBLE FOR ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of the Interior may acquire land, interests in land, and improvements thereon under subsection (a)—

(1) within the boundaries of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield described in section 2(b); and

(2) outside such boundaries if the land has been identified by the American Battlefield Protection Program as part of the battlefield associated with Fort Donelson or if the Secretary otherwise determines that acquisition under subsection (a) will protect critical resources associated with the Battle of Fort Donelson in 1862 and the Union campaign that resulted in the capture of Fort Donelson.

(c) BOUNDARY REVISION.—Upon acquisition of land or interests in land described in subsection (b)(2), the Secretary of the Interior shall revise the boundaries of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield to include the acquired property.

(d) LIMITATION ON TOTAL ACREAGE OF PARK.—The total area encompassed by the Fort Donelson National Battlefield may not exceed 2,000 acres.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF FORT DONELSON NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD.

The Secretary of the Interior shall administer the Fort Donelson National Battlefield in accordance with this Act and the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (commonly known as the National Park Service Organic Act; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (commonly known as the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

SEC. 5. RELATION TO LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall enter into a