

proposed at the beginning of the 109th Congress made sense, and should have been implemented.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE—50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. NATIONAL SKI HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United States National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum that honors the birthplace of the national sport of skiing in Ishpeming, Michigan. The National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum is celebrating 50 years of honoring the history and the sport of skiing along with the athletes, coaches and supporters of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA).

The USSA, originally known as the National Ski Association (NSA), first considered a national ski museum in 1938 during a national convention. With great support, historian Harold Grinden thought it was appropriate for Ishpeming to be the site for the building because in 1904 the local Ishpeming Ski Club founded the national group making it the birthplace of organized skiing in the United States. However, due to World War II, the NSA could not begin building the museum until 1947. After 6 years of organizing, designing and construction, the museum was finally dedicated in February 1954.

It was that year that Grinden proposed honoring the "greats" of their sport through an induction into a "Hall of Fame" as many other national sports were doing at the time. Then in 1955, the National Ski Museum's name was changed to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum. To date, the Hall of Fame proudly displays photos and short bios of 342 inductees.

In the 1980's space became a problem for the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum. In 1992, the group opened their doors to a new structure over 6 times larger than the original building. With the additional space, the Museum was able to feature newly designed depictions of such historic events as Norwegian "ski troopers" carrying infant Prince Haakon over mountains to safety in 1206 and a mural by local artist Roger Junak of the American 10th Mountain Division in WWII during the ferocious battles of the Italian Campaign. It also displays a WWII "weasel", used as a groomer in its early years, as well as various forms of uphill transportation and a historic timeline of the development of skiing.

The current building with its "ski-hill" sloped roof remains in Ishpeming, Michigan and encompasses a gift shop, library of more than 1,300 books, magazines and videos, as well as an auditorium featuring a 20-minute orientation for visitors. Early medals won by famous athletes of the sport are displayed with pride along with the most modern of ski equipment emphasizing the growth of the sport through the years. The most historic reference in the collection is a replica of a ski and pole dug out of a Swedish bog dating back to some 4000 years.

The U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum rightly honors the legacy and athletic

greatness that has graced this sport through history. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum on their first 50 years and in wishing them success in the future as they continue to honor the past.

REINTRODUCTION OF BILL TO FACILITATE ACQUISITION OF MINERAL RIGHTS AT ROCKY FLATS

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today reintroducing a bill to facilitate the acquisition by the federal government of mineral rights or other non-Federal interests in lands that are located within the boundaries of the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

The bill is cosponsored by my Colorado colleague, Representative BEAUPREZ. It is identical to a bill we cosponsored in the 108th Congress.

BACKGROUND

In the 1950s, the Federal Government bought land at Rocky Flats for use as a production facility for nuclear-weapon components. However, the purchase did not include all the mineral rights, some of which remained in private ownership.

Production at Rocky Flats ended more than a decade ago. Since then, the Department of Energy, through its contractors, has been working to have the site cleaned up and closed.

ROCKY FLATS WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

In 2001, Congress passed legislation I sponsored with Senator WAYNE ALLARD to guide the future of Rocky Flats. Under that legislation—the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001—once the cleanup and closure are accomplished, most of the land at Rocky Flats will be transferred from the Department of Energy to the Department of the Interior and will be managed as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge act includes some provisions related to the non-Federal minerals—primarily sand and gravel—at Rocky Flats. It says "nothing in this [law] limits any valid, existing . . . mineral right" except for "such reasonable conditions on access . . . as are appropriate for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats and for the management of the refuge." And it says that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOE and Interior is to "address the impacts" mineral rights "may have on the management of the refuge, and provide strategies for resolving or mitigating these impacts."

These provisions were included in the refuge act in order to make clear that while these mineral rights are to be respected as private property, future development of the minerals could have adverse effects on the land, wildlife habitat, and other values of the future wildlife refuge. That is why Congress directed the agencies to consider these potential future effects and work to find ways to mitigate those impacts.

So far, however, the Energy and Interior Departments have not been able to agree on what to do about the minerals.

I think the best way to handle this would be for the federal government to acquire the minerals. However, neither DOE nor Interior has made this a priority, and the current budgetary situation places constraints on such acquisitions.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The Udall-Beauprez bill is intended to make it more feasible for the Interior Department to acquire some or all of the minerals. It would do that by giving the Secretary of the Interior two additional methods (either instead of or in addition to purchase for cash) for completing such acquisitions—

(1) by giving "credits" that could be used instead of cash to pay for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) by allowing federal lands or minerals anywhere in the country to be exchanged for the Rocky Flats minerals (under current law, such exchanges can only occur within the same state—Colorado lands/minerals for other Colorado lands/minerals).

The bill has no compulsory provisions. It would not require that any of the non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats be acquired by the government. It also would not require anyone to accept anything other than cash for any interests that the government may acquire—any transaction involving the new "credits" or any exchange could take place only with the concurrence of the party selling minerals to the United States. It would merely provide the Interior Department with new tools—in addition to those it already has—for such acquisitions.

In addition, the bill includes a provision to make clear that the Federal government cannot expand the Rocky Flats site by obtaining any non-Federal lands or interests in lands that are outside the site's boundaries except with the consent of the owners of those lands or interests.

In developing the original bill, I sought and obtained technical assistance from the Interior Department, gave careful consideration to comments from local governments and others in Colorado, and made revisions to earlier drafts of the legislation in response to points raised in those comments.

Mr. Speaker, this bill—the "Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act"—is narrow in scope. However, I think it can assist in successful implementation of something that is very important for all Coloradans—the establishment of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. I think it deserves the support of every Member of the House.

For the information of our colleagues, here is a short outline of the revised bill:

OUTLINE OF ROCKY FLATS MINERALS ACQUISITION BILL  
BACKGROUND

When the ongoing cleanup of the Rocky Flats site is completed, it will be closed and most of the site will be transferred to the Interior Department for management as a National Wildlife Refuge. Within the site's boundaries there are some privately-owned mineral rights (primarily sand and gravel). Federal acquisition of at least some of these mineral rights would further sound management of the site as a wildlife refuge. However, the current budgetary situation makes it difficult to complete such acquisition.

The purpose of the bill is to provide the Interior Department with two additional tools to assist in the acquisition of mineral rights or other non-Federal property at Rocky Flats: authority to provide "credits" (instead of or in addition to cash) that could be

used for bonus bids or royalties for mineral leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and authority to provide eligible BLM lands (or interests) anywhere in the country in exchange for the interests acquired at Rocky Flats (waiving the current requirement that exchanges must be within the same state).

## SECTION-BY-SECTION OUTLINE

## Section 1—

(1) provides a short title: "Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act."

(2) includes findings regarding the status of Rocky Flats and the desirability of federal acquisition of mineral interests within its boundaries

(3) states the bill's purpose as being to facilitate acquisition of non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats by authorizing the Interior Department to use credits or interests in certain public lands—provided that the owners of the acquired lands or interests concur—instead of or in addition to cash.

## Section 2—

(1) authorizes the Interior Department to use appropriated funds, credits (with the concurrence of the party transferring lands or interests to the United States), exchanged lands or interests therein, or any combination of these, to acquire mineral interests or other non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats,

(2) defines "credits," making clear that they can only be used for bonus bids or royalty payments for oil or gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, can be transferred, and must be used within 10 years of their issuance;

(3) specifies that while exchanges can involve BLM lands or interests in any State, only lands or interests identified as suitable for disposal under current law can be transferred to private ownership through such an exchange;

(4) specifies that no lands or interests therein outside the exterior boundaries of Rocky Flats can be acquired by the United States for the purposes of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act except with the consent of the owners of such lands or interests.

(5) provides that interests acquired by the United States under the bill will be managed as part of the wildlife refuge and cannot be developed or transferred out of Federal ownership; and

(6) specifies that the bill adds to the Interior Department's existing authority and does not reduce any authority the Department already has.

CONGRATULATING LOGAN  
MANKINS ON BEING DRAFTED  
BY NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logan Mankins on his selection by the New England Patriots in the 2005 NFL Draft. Mr. Mankins was selected by the Patriots in the first round of the Draft on April 23, 2005.

Mr. Mankins is a native of my hometown, Cathey's Valley, in Mariposa County. He attended Mariposa County High School, where he excelled in football and basketball. He was a two-year, two-way starter at linebacker and tight end for the Grizzly football team and was the team MVP, as well as an all-league selection.

In 2001 Mr. Mankins began a three-year career at Fresno State. During his career he

played as a left tackle on the offensive line, protecting the quarterback from opposing defenses. In 2004 he was a second-team All-American selection and was also named to Sports Illustrated's All-Bowl team. He was the first offensive lineman ever to be named team MVP for Fresno State. In his final 387 passing plays, he did not allow a single sack.

Mr. Mankins is the first football player ever drafted by the NFL from Mariposa County. He was selected by the Patriots to play guard on the offensive line. I am sure pro-football will be more exciting this year for the people of Mariposa County, as they watch a friend and neighbor playing for one of the most prestigious teams in America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logan Mankins on his well-earned success. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating his remarkable accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING ALS AWARENESS  
MONTH AND THE ALS ASSOCIATION  
OF GEORGIA

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often known as Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS is a progressive disorder that occurs when motor nerve cells in the central nervous system cease functioning and die. Each year, over 5,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with this illness. There are 600 patients in Georgia alone. Sadly, there is no known cause, cure, or means of control in the advanced stages, ALS care can cost up to \$200,000 per year, depleting the financial resources of patients and relatives.

In Georgia, families impacted by ALS are blessed to have the support of The ALS Association of Georgia, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against ALS and the support of patients and their caregivers. Over 80% of all monies raised goes directly to patient services. Services offered include information and referrals, home nursing visits, support groups, coordination of medical care, equipment loan, children's counseling, respite care, public education and awareness, and research support. The suffering of patients and the anguish and struggle of caregivers must be supported and alleviated as much as possible.

I commend The ALS Association of Georgia for all of their good work in serving patients with this devastating disease. During the month of May, which is ALS Awareness Month, I urge all citizens and my colleagues here in Congress to become educated about ALS and to lend their aid to combating this disease.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE (V-E) DAY DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2005*

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, sixty years ago the guns and bombs in Europe fell silent, and President Truman announced victory over Europe to a proud and free world.

I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of this great and very important day, and to recognize the sacrifices and accomplishments of the men and women who so bravely served to defeat hate and aggression.

I join millions of people participating in thousands of events, in New York City, all across the United States, and around the world, in observing and honoring the courage of American service-members, allied soldiers, and homefront workers.

During April 1945, allied forces led by the United States overran Nazi Germany from the west while Russian forces advanced from the east. On April 25, American and Russian troops met at the Elbe River. After 6 years of war, suffering, and devastation, Nazi Germany was formally defeated a few days later on May 8, 1945.

It was a bittersweet victory. Over 400,000 American soldiers died in World War II; 350,000 British soldiers gave their lives; and a staggering 20 million Russian soldiers and civilians perished in the war fighting German aggression on their home soil. The war also brought about the most horrendous systematic murder which humanity has ever known, the Holocaust.

In memory of all the victims of World War II, it is our duty to raise our voices as one and say to the present and future generations that no one has the right to remain indifferent to anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racial or religious intolerance.

This is an occasion to remember and commemorate. We must remember why the war was fought, remember the victims and heroes, and thank those who fought so hard and sacrificed so much.

V-E Day marked the promise of a peaceful future for a Europe ravaged by unspeakable horror and war. Although freedom did not come to every European nation following the defeat of Nazi Germany, today we stand at the threshold of a very hopeful future based on sovereignty, democracy, freedom and cooperation.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor those individuals who gave their lives during the liberation of Europe, to thank the veterans of World War II, and to commemorate the defeat of Nazism and Fascism by freedom-loving people.

HONORING DR. PORTIA HOLMES  
SHIELDS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise in recognition of a true leader,