

National Recreational Area," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ANDREWS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 159

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

SECTION 1. ROBERT T. STAFFORD WHITE ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The White Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of Vermont, as established by section 202 of the Vermont Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 460nn-1), is redesignated as the "Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the recreation area referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed emotions that I stand here on my first full day as a Member of Congress to say good bye to a great Vermont statesman. Senator Bob Stafford passed away last December at the age of 93. I feel a deep sense of pride to have the first Bill I introduce be one that honors Bob Stafford's commitment to Vermont by redesignating the White Rocks National Recreation Area as the "Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area".

Senator Stafford was born in Rutland in 1913. He had a long and distinguished career as a civil servant to the state, serving the state for nearly 30 years first as Governor, Representative, and Senator. Robert Stafford was a man who knew Vermont, and understood how to best serve Vermonters.

It was through his many public service positions around the state that he learned the importance of moderation and bipartisanship. He served as Rutland County State's attorney, as Deputy State Attorney General, and then as State Attorney General. In the late 1950's he was elected Lieutenant Governor, and in 1959 he became Governor.

In 1960, Bob Stafford was elected to Vermont's sole seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. He won five successive re-elections. In September 1971, he resigned his House seat to accept appointment to the U.S. Senate following the death of Senator Winston Prouty. After winning a special election in 1972, he proceeded to represent Vermont in the Senate for the next 17 years.

When he came to Washington, a member of the Republican Party, he formed many close relationships with members of both parties. Senator Stafford was able to be effective because of his reliance on moderation and compromise. He was a leader among his peers, and became an advocate for issues that were close to him and to Vermont. Affordable education and his dedication to the environment became his most important issues. The Stafford Student Loan program has made higher education more accessible for millions of Americans.

While his achievements in the areas of education and federal disaster relief were very important, it is the legacy he has left behind for the work he did in protecting the environment that he was most proud of. Bob Stafford shared Vermonters' belief that we have a moral obligation to leave for our children a cleaner environment than the one we inherited. He was a leader and visionary who helped shape and strengthen some of our Nation's most critical environmental laws for over two decades. Serving as Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee from 1981-1986, he led the charge to expand and strengthen the Superfund toxic waste cleanup law in the mid 1980's.

Please join me today in honoring the tremendous life and service of Senator Bob Stafford. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and pass the Congress by unanimous consent.

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.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, first I want to congratulate our new Member for getting a bill passed in the first week. That is an incredible thing to get done.

Then I would like to inquire of my good friend and new majority leader, Mr. HOYER, about the schedule for next week.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

First of all, I want to say, Mr. Whip, we congratulate you on your reelection as the whip. I have an affection for whips, as you know, the position, and I am personally advantaged by our close working relationship and respect for one another. And I think the American public hopefully will be advantaged by that. I think this House will be advantaged by that, and I look forward to working with my good friend, ROY BLUNT.

In addition, all of us on our side appreciated the very gracious remarks of your leader, Mr. BOEHNER, when introducing Speaker PELOSI and passing the gavel to her. We know that is a difficult role. It was a difficult role for Mr. Gephardt when in 1995 he had that responsibility, and it was a difficult role for Ms. PELOSI on the two occasions she had to do it. Your leader was extraordinarily gracious and positive in that role, and we appreciate that and we want you to know that.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 10:30 a.m. for morning hour and at noon for legislative business. Under the suspension calendar, we will consider a resolution mourning the passing of President Gerald Ford. That resolution, I would tell the Members, the

principal sponsor of which is Mr. VERN EHLERS, our colleague on your side of the aisle, who represents the district which was so ably and effectively represented by President Ford for such a long period of time, a quarter of a century.

Mr. Speaker, we will also consider H.R. 1, a bill to implement the 9/11 Commission recommendations, and a resolution to establish a select intelligence oversight panel.

I will tell Mr. BLUNT we expect votes to be not before 3 to 4 p.m. We had originally, as you know, thought we might come in Monday. There was a schedule conflict and we wanted to accommodate that. We are glad we did. We will try to hold votes until 3 or 4, but west coast Members will have a difficult time getting back so they ought to plan on being here on Monday unless they have an important engagement they have to attend.

On Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. We will consider H.R. 2, a bill to increase the minimum wage.

On Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. We will consider H.R. 3, a bill regarding stem cell research.

And on Friday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. We will consider H.R. 4, a bill regarding the Medicare prescription drug program. We expect the last votes to be hopefully no later than 2 p.m.

The practice, as you know, will be that we will come in at 6:30 on Mondays and adjourn no later than 2 p.m. on the day of adjournment. Many times that will be Friday, sometimes it will be Thursday. We understand the need for Members to get out. If it is on Thursday, the expectation is we may go a little later than that, but that will be generally the practice we will try to pursue.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my colleague for responding. As he mentioned, we have had a great working relationship as the whips of the two parties and look forward to working with him in his new job as the leader of the majority.

I, too, thought yesterday was an historic day for the House, and a day that our Members all appreciated the historic nature of the day. Particularly on this side of the aisle, we appreciated the Speaker's comments about moving towards partnership as opposed to partisanship; and we, of course, are eager to see a little more of that partnership again.

We paid close attention during the election and after the election to the commitments to the new majority to have bills available in an earlier way and to have committee and subcommittee markup. I assume the work next week is work the majority decided will not be able to go through the subcommittee process or the committee process, and I yield to my friend to respond to that.

Mr. HOYER. The gentleman's assumption is correct. Pursuant to the rule that was adopted today, we will be moving the six items that we obviously

campaigned on, told the American public that we would move on within the first 100 hours.

We believe almost all of those items have been broadly discussed, considered, not only in the election process of approximately 6 months in duration or longer, but also, for instance, the 9/11 Commission report which we will consider in the first order of business next week, vetted by the bipartisan commission, the 9/11 Commission, chaired by Governor Kean and co-chaired by Mr. Hamilton, so that the gentleman's assumption is correct.

But that does not mean, I want to make it very clear, that does not mean that when we get through those items which essentially were the items focused on during the course of the election, that we will not hew to what we believe to be a positive step forward in including both sides in deliberations, in conference reports, in committees and on the floor.

Mr. BLUNT. As you know, most of our Members voted against the rule which brings these issues to the floor without the chance to offer an alternative. We believe there is a desire to create more opportunities for alternatives, but the sooner that can happen, I think the more effectively we will show to the American people that we are finding ways to work together.

We had a pledge also of at least 24 hours of notice on the specifics of legislation. It doesn't seem to me that is quite as onerous a pledge to meet in the context of what my friend just said as going through a subcommittee, going through a committee. We didn't feel like we had that 24-hour access to information this week. We would hope next week to have the specifics of the legislation as early as possible. If in fact this is legislation that doesn't need to go through the committees because it has been so widely discussed and vetted, it would not seem to be unreasonable for everybody in the body, every Member to have a chance to see it even as early as Monday.

Mr. HOYER. I think the gentleman is correct and I am glad the gentleman said "as early as Monday." It is my understanding those bills will be available to you this afternoon, and properly so. We want you to have the opportunity and the American public to have an opportunity to read and see those bills.

It is my understanding that all of those bills will be introduced by the close of business today so they will be available to be read over the weekend and before Monday, and certainly before we come back on Tuesday.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend for the response. Seeing the legislation is obviously helpful. We are really regretful we don't have a chance to offer an alternative in the real-time. We will look at the legislation. We will see if we can find a suggestion that will help meet the goals that we agree with in a more effective way. That 24-hour notice from now on we would hope would

be a pledge that the majority will be able to retain.

My good friend Mr. HOYER mentioned the 9/11 Commission report. One of the recommendations of that commission was a realignment of committees. We didn't make that realignment of committees in the rules package. I wonder if there is any plan for that kind of realignment, and I would yield to the leader for that response.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the whip for that observation. That was one of the important recommendations that the commission made. Those recommendations were made, of course, over a year ago, I think. I am not sure of the exact date, but over a year ago. Your side did not implement that particular recommendation.

The gentleman is correct, we have not implemented the recommendation as recommended. What Speaker PELOSI has done, she has discussed with Leader BOEHNER what I would refer to as a hybrid of that, not perfect from I think the Commission standpoint, but meeting in spirit what the Commission wanted to do. What the Commission wanted to do was empower the Intelligence Committee with a participation in the appropriations process, which the Commission perceived would give them a greater relevance and greater influence.

We agree with that; so as you know, we have suggested and are implementing a hybrid where the members of the Intelligence Committee and members of the Defense Appropriations Committee will meet and work together to accomplish that objective. We hope that will move towards effecting what the Commission wanted to achieve, while, at the same time, maintaining the jurisdictional issues which, as you know, in this body can become very, very acutely debated.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend for the response.

You may very well have said and I may not have heard, in terms of us seeing the bills for next week, would you expect that to happen by what time today?

Mr. HOYER. They are being introduced today and very frankly, Mr. Whip, I can't give you a time because I don't know. If I knew, I would give it to you.

Mr. BLUNT. Do you expect them to be introduced all at once, or will some be available earlier than others?

Mr. HOYER. I am told H.R. 3 was just introduced, is already in the hopper, and obviously others will come. It is my belief, it has been represented to me that all of the bills that will be considered next week will be introduced as of close of business today so that you will have the balance of today, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and most of Tuesday to review those bills.

Mr. BLUNT. Certainly seeing the legislation is a step in the right direction. We believe another step in the right direction will be to be able to offer the amendments and go through the proc-

ess that the majority assured us in the recent campaign will be part of their procedure.

On the Tuesday schedule, I have had one Member come up to me during our discussion and wanted me to ask if there is any possibility that 3 to 4 votes could slip closer to 5 just because of a number of travel concerns that Members have, particularly west coast members.

Mr. HOYER. We could try. But let me say in all fairness, our original intent was to meet and have votes at 6:30 on Monday. There is a very important event happening Monday night, particularly for those who live in Ohio and Florida.

In the spirit of comity, and I know if Maryland were playing, I would want to be accommodated and I want to accommodate my friend, Mr. BOEHNER. So we have done that; but it has put us in a position where we thought we would have come back Monday. That is not the case. We will have votes as late as possible, but we cannot guarantee. That leaves us a shorter period of time to do the work we have scheduled. So I cannot guarantee, but we are going to try to keep it for your Members' sake, for our Members' sake, and we understand the west coast travel issue, as late as we can in the day, but cannot guarantee later than 3:30 or 4 o'clock.

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Mr. BLUNT. Well, I would suggest to my good friend, having tried to put these schedules together for a while, that particularly for our west coast Members, if they get here on Monday to be here for a 3:30 vote on Tuesday and then find that that Tuesday vote doesn't occur until 5:30 or 6 o'clock, there is always real anxiety about the day that costs their families, and I know my good friend is going to try his very best to give us the best schedule. My only suggestion would be if you do see that it might slip into that later time that that will be helpful to Members who, frankly, are having to decide when to leave their districts and to come a day early just to be here for that 3:30 vote as opposed to a 5:30 vote or 5 o'clock vote that might have allowed them to leave that day.

And with that, does my friend have any response to that?

Mr. HOYER. The good news is I know that I will get great empathy from you and Mr. BOEHNER on this challenge. The second response would be I want you to know, and you know this from our personal relationship, we will work very closely with you and Mr. BOEHNER to try to accommodate our Members. If we are going to be a civil body, if we are going to have civility, that means that we are going to have an understanding of the challenges facing each and every one of our Members irrespective of party and we intend to do that. I personally intend to do that, and we will work towards that. Obviously, there are times when Members are inconvenienced because we have 435, and

it is just tough to accommodate everybody's interests; but to the extent we can do so, it is our absolute intent to do so. And I thank the gentleman.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for his response. I would say that there clearly will be days in this Congress when we just simply don't agree with the goal that we are trying to achieve on the two sides of the aisle, but I think we can find many more days when we do agree. We are optimistic about the concept of partnership as opposed to partisanship and look forward to having the bills today for next week and an extended debate in the future beyond the debate that we feel we will be allowed to have next week.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
JANUARY 8, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ANDREWS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

STAFF SERGEANT EDWARD C.
REYNOLDS, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, "To be born free is an accident, to live free is a privilege, and to die free is a responsibility." Powerful words spoken by Brigadier General James Sehorn that are embedded into the minds of our valiant soldiers protecting nations from a cowardly enemy that burrows beneath the Iraqi desert sands, those individuals that seek to annihilate our freedoms that all people should have.

The American soldier believes in freedom more than any other individual on Earth because they witness the inhumanity of tyranny. They see it in the fierce trenches of battle. Our soldiers secure life and liberty, and they

give it to those folks in Afghanistan and Iraq.

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Edward Charles Reynolds, Jr. was one of these soldiers. He was an 8-year Army veteran. Staff Sergeant Reynolds had been stationed among the terrorist Iraqi insurgents, fighting against them to ensure a free nation of Iraq.

He is a native of Port Arthur, Texas, and he was a 1997 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, where he was a star tight-end and middle linebacker on the football team. As a Texan, Staff Sergeant Reynolds spent fall football seasons cheering for one of the greatest teams in college football, the University of Texas Longhorns. Those who knew him knew a man who took care of others, whether it be his family, his friends, or his country. Staff Sergeant Reynolds was their protector.

Family was the most important thing to Staff Sergeant Reynolds. He was a devoted father to his children, two daughters and a son. He was dedicated to his fiancée. He was the guardian of his older sister. Friends knew him as the man that kept them out of trouble, pushing them to succeed in life. And his country knew him as a defender of our freedoms.

In December 2005, Staff Sergeant Reynolds was deployed to Iraq, worlds away, but he remained a constant presence in the life of his family and all of his friends. He sent out cards and letters, constantly reminding his fiancée of their New Year's Eve wedding date. During the next 10 months, assigned to the U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Staff Sergeant Reynolds dodged bullets, IEDs, and Iraqi outlaws throughout the Baghdad desert.

But on September 26, less than 2 months from coming home to Texas, Staff Sergeant Reynolds and a fellow soldier were crossing a Baghdad bridge in a military convoy when that bridge collapsed, plunging their vehicle underwater, trapping both soldiers inside. 27-year-old Staff Sergeant Reynolds and his colleague were killed in action, becoming victims in the struggle for Iraqi freedom.

A decorated soldier, Staff Sergeant Reynolds was the recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge, the Kosovo Campaign Medal. He was also awarded the Iraqi Combat Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Bronze Star. He was a lifelong member of the Borden Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. And like his mother and father, Staff Sergeant Reynolds had a devout faith in his Almighty God, believing that everything he was given was a gift by Him.

On October 7, the Borden Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas, and the Reverend Airon Reynolds, Jr., gave this brave soldier a hero's memorial and homecoming. Family and friends were not the only

ones who memorialized and honored Staff Sergeant Reynolds. The Patriot Guard Riders and the Southeast Texas Veterans Service thanked him for his valor. More than 200 Patriot Guard Riders, with flags of tribute raised, stood in honor of Staff Sergeant Reynolds, the son of Texas, an American soldier, as he reached his eternal resting place.

Mr. Speaker, I have a photograph of Sergeant Reynolds, the way that he was when he was protecting freedom across the desert sands of Iraq. American citizens are born into the privilege of freedom, and we must remember that the sacrifice given by Staff Sergeant Reynolds and all American warriors is responsible for the continuation of this great Nation.

Staff Sergeant Reynolds chose to protect the freedom that he was born into from the violent militants robbing nations of life and liberty. So God bless Staff Sergeant Reynolds and his family.

In the words of George Orwell: "We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RUTGERS
SCARLET KNIGHTS FOOTBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to say that my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. ANDREWS, is the Speaker this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to congratulate the Rutgers Scarlet Knights on their recent victory over Kansas State in the Texas Bowl. Last Thursday the Scarlet Knights cruised to a 37-10 victory over the Kansas State Wildcats, capping their memorable season with the first bowl win in school history.

Running back Ray Rice led the winning effort with 170 yards rushing and a touchdown. Wide receiver Tim Brown scored two touchdowns, which, combined with Rutgers' stifling defense, was more than enough to put away Kansas State. The defense held Kansas State under 200 total yards and did not allow an offensive touchdown.

Coach Greg Schiano led his team to an 11-win season this year for only the second time in Rutgers' history. In his five short years since becoming head coach at Rutgers, Coach Schiano has turned the program around from a 2-9