

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce today the Golden Gate National Parks and Technical Corrections bill. Our National Parks are some of America's greatest treasures, and they have been designated that way to ensure they are preserved for our future generations. In California, we are very proud of our Golden Gate National Recreation Area, with parks spanning across San Mateo, San Francisco and Marin Counties. They are a national treasure deserving of the highest National Park Service designation which this legislation will ensure. The Golden Gate National Parks offer a unique historical perspective on the story of California and the Nation, and unparalleled natural beauty in an unlikely setting close to a major metropolitan area.

One hundred years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt declared Muir Woods the Nation's tenth National Monument to honor the conservationist John Muir and preserve a beautiful natural space. Today, I would like to recognize the establishment of the Golden Gate National Parks, which will contain the Muir Woods National Monument, as the 59th National Park. In honor of renowned environmentalist Edgar Waybum, and my friend and predecessor in Congress, the late Congressman Phillip Burton, who dedicated their careers and lives to preserving these remarkable natural and historical spaces for our and future generations to enjoy, I dedicate this bill.

The Golden Gate National Parks offer residents of and visitors to the San Francisco Bay Area the opportunity to escape from the city and connect with nature and our Nation's history. The Golden Gate National Parks are home to sites utilized by the Coastal Miwok and Ohlone people, the Spanish missionaries and military, Mexican settlers, Gold Rush prospectors, and Civil War military units. There remain many historic sites preserved within the Parks, including the Cliff House Restaurant and the Suto Baths in San Francisco, as well as decommissioned army bases and fortifications dating back to 1776 and used by our Nation from the Civil War to the Cold War. This bill will strengthen the ability of the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and the Presidio, two of the Golden Gate National Parks, most historic areas, to preserve historic spaces and provide world-class services to visitors from throughout the world.

The Golden Gate National Parks also offer visitors access to an amazingly diverse natural area. Encompassing almost 60 miles of bay and ocean shoreline, the Golden Gate National Parks contain windswept beaches, salt-water marshes, stunning cliffs, and the world's only coastal old-growth redwood forest. The Parks contain expansive forests and coastal

lands, such as Sweeney Ridge in San Mateo County and Muir Woods in Marin. There is also an abundance of plant and animal life in the Parks with over 1,200 identified plant and animal species, including 33 threatened and endangered species.

In the years since the establishment of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area almost 40 years ago, the park units have collectively been referred to as Golden Gate National Parks. As natural and historic sites have been added to this park system the need has grown to recognize the system of parks for what they are, which is one of our Nation's great natural treasures. This bill recognizes the importance of Golden Gate National Parks to the history and future of our Nation and rewards it with a designation befitting its place among the most spectacular National Parks in our Nation.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF LEESBURG

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the historic Town of Leesburg in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia.

Leesburg was established in September 1758 by an act of the Virginia House of Burgesses who appointed Nicolas Minor to design the initial layout of the town. The Town of Leesburg quickly grew from a quiet town of sleepy streets to a bustling epicenter in the early 18th century. Settlers flocked to the town for its strong sense of community and numerous market-to-town opportunities. The agriculture and transportation industries grew as Leesburg became the center of commerce in Loudoun County and other regions of northern Virginia.

Leesburg was the temporary capital of the United States during the War of 1812 and also served as a battleground during the American Civil War in the Battle of Balls Bluff. Leesburg has been home to many prominent Americans including President James Monroe, noted African-American attorney Charles Houston, General George C. Marshall and entertainer Arthur Godfrey.

In 1970, Leesburg received a place in the National Register of Historic Places and was cited as one of the best and most picturesque downtowns in Virginia. Today, Leesburg maintains its status as the center of the crossroads of northern Virginia and is the largest town in northern Virginia. I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating this historic event by driving 40 miles northwest from the Capitol to visit historic Leesburg and partake in some of the town's year-long festivities in honor of the anniversary. The town is holding a flag-design contest in honor of this historic event, to design an official flag for the town. On September 14, 2008, the town will celebrate her

250th birthday and I invite all to attend to commemorate history and enjoy the distinctly Americana spirit of the day's activities.

I have been proud to serve the people of Leesburg since the start of my terms in the House and I share in the town's celebration of this significant anniversary.

TRANS-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS DIALOGUE—64TH MEETING OF DELEGATIONS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEET UNDER LEADERSHIP OF THE HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to another successful meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) that was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from May 24–26, 2008. The United States delegation continues to flourish under the outstanding leadership of Chairwoman SHELLEY BERKLEY, the gentlelady from Nevada. She has injected energy and enthusiasm into this interparliamentary dialogue, while further strengthening American relationships with a wide range of European parliamentarians. The Republican vice-chairman, Representative CLIFF STEARNS from Florida, has also maintained an effective voice in European affairs and the TLD.

Representatives BERKLEY and STEARNS should be praised for their efforts to recruit members to participate in the Slovenia session, with the delegation of 10 members being the largest and by all reports most well informed in recent years. I commend the members of this bipartisan delegation—Rep. GARY ACKERMAN (D-NY), Rep. JOE BARTON (R-TX), Rep. RUSS CARNAHAN (D-MO), Rep. ELIOT ENGEL (D-NY), Rep. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE (D-TX), Rep. PHIL GINGREY (R-GA), Rep. STEVE ISRAEL (D-NY), and Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ (D-CA)—for contributing to a rich and meaningful exchange of views.

The TLD serves as the formal response of the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress to the commitment in the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) of 1995 to enhance legislative ties between the European Union and the United States. Building on the existing interparliamentary relationship, the TLD involves bi-annual meetings between American and European legislators in order to discuss topics of mutual interest and foster transatlantic discourse.

The most recent session in Slovenia addressed a wide range of foreign policy challenges, including the Middle East, China, Russia, and Kosovo. Members discussed regulatory initiatives being undertaken by the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), with American members reinforcing Administration

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

concerns about European initiatives on poultry and chemicals used to manufacture cosmetics that have a detrimental effect on American farmers and producers. American members also responded to European concerns about the visa waiver program and legislation requiring 100% cargo scanning to ensure port security. In addition, the delegates discussed the challenge of climate change, the importance of energy security, and the current global financial crisis.

Madam Speaker, I would like to place in the RECORD the joint statement that was agreed upon by American and European legislators at the 64th TLD meeting in Ljubljana. It underscores the rich agenda of this meeting and highlights the many areas in which there was strong transatlantic agreement.

TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATOR'S DIALOGUE—
64TH MEETING OF DELEGATIONS FROM THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE UNITED
STATES, LJUBLJANA, 24–26 MAY 2008 JOINT
STATEMENT

We, Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 64th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 24–26 May 2008.

Building on the joint statement issued following our last meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 5–8 October 2007, we stressed the importance of regular dialogue on a range of political, social and economic issues that affect all of our citizens. We agreed to report back to our parent bodies on the content and outcome of our discussions, particularly in the areas where joint efforts are likely to result in positive outcomes. We agreed that legislators in both sides of the Atlantic should increase dialogue and consultation amongst themselves in order to prevent possible conflicts of legislation. Direct and timely contacts between specialist committees from Congress and the European Parliament—such as those that have occurred within the TLD framework—have been valuable means of reinforcing cooperation; this exchange of information should be continued and enhanced.

We examined a wide array of foreign policy issues, agreeing that joint action by the European Union and the United States is the most effective way to approach problems that affect both sides of the Atlantic. We took stock of recent developments with regard to the Middle East Peace process, the nuclear threat posed by Iran and the situation in Iraq. On Afghanistan, we recognized the need for a joint long-term strategy aimed at stabilizing the internal situation and reducing risks for regional security. We noted a proposal to develop a joint fund for humanitarian services and infrastructure development in Afghanistan. We discussed the future political and economical development in Kosovo, and recognized that joint efforts were essential in order to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for the Western Balkans, including an EU perspective. We analyzed development in Russia's domestic and foreign policies, including the U.S. Administration's proposed missile defense plans as well as European efforts to diversify their energy supply and ensure their energy security. We also assessed our economic and political relationship with China, expressing concern over recent events in Tibet.

The dialogue focused on the ongoing discussions between the U.S. and the EU in order to extend access to the U.S. Visa Waiver programme in the future to all EU Member States, as well as to the importance of ensuring safe trade and port security.

We also discussed the current global financial crisis. We agreed on the need for contin-

ued discussion and joint actions to address the effects of climate change.

With regard to the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), we noted with satisfaction the engagement of the TLD on 13 May 2008 with TEC Co-Chairs Gunther Verheugen and Dan Price in the framework of the 'Advisory group'. The European Parliament Resolution on the TEC and the letter by the U.S. TLD leadership to the TEC formed the basis for this dialogue. We took note of the EU–U.S. High Level Regulatory Forum, the joint reports on strengthening cooperation regarding the safety of imported products, and the impact assessment guidelines. We advocated stronger involvement of legislators in contributing to and overseeing these initiatives. We supported the identification of compatible biofuels standards in order to achieve international harmonization at the level of international standards organizations. We also welcomed the joint statement on open investment, as well as the start of the second phase of negotiations for the air services agreement.

We welcome the fact that the TEC has become a permanent feature of the EU/U.S. relations. We also welcome the decision taken on 13 May 2008 to develop a short term agenda and long term roadmap for TEC activities, and consider that this represents an important step towards ensuring the continuity of the process. As we have done throughout the establishment and initial meetings of the TEC, we continue to assert that the TEC initiative should be characterized by transparency and consultation of stakeholders and we call on the EU and U.S. Administration to reinforce the flow of information to the TLD in advance of the TEC meetings. Awareness of the transatlantic impact of proposed legislation and regulations should be developed in the relevant legislative and regulatory bodies, as well as information about the benefits of rapid advancements towards a barrier-free regulatory environment.

Several items have been identified within the TEC agenda that require further legislative consideration: While achieving reciprocity and mutual recognition of security standards remains critically important, we call on the U.S. Congress to review their legislation requiring 100 percent cargo scanning in recognition of European concerns regarding this legislation. We call on the European Parliament to facilitate an early solution to the ongoing discussions on the ban on imports into the EU of U.S. poultry which has undergone pathogen reduction treatment. In regards to the EU's regulation on the registration of chemicals (REACH) we call on the European Commission to bring forward legislation ensuring that European and U.S. producers of cosmetics are treated equitably in their requirement to register substances used in their products with the EU's chemical agency.

Finally, we welcome progress on items contained in the 'lighthouse projects' and related initiatives included in the 2007 Summit declaration. In particular, we call for: Steps towards allowing the use in the United States of suppliers' declarations of conformity for electrical, electronic and ICT products; Further progress towards the mutual recognition of U.S. GAAP and EU IFRS accounting standards; Discussion of U.S. and EU regulatory issues in the insurance sector, in order to enhance market access for brokers-dealers, exchanges and other trading systems; and Progress in other areas of regulatory cooperation, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and animal testing.

In conclusion, both sides renewed their commitment to make the TLD's work more relevant to the European Parliament and to the United States House of Representatives.

We agreed to identify ways by which to reinforce the involvement of the TLD and our legislatures in the preparation of the EU/U.S. Summit. We also agreed to further improve the effectiveness of our dialogue in order to realize the full potential of our interparliamentary relationship.

JONATHAN EVANS, MEP,
*Chairman, European
Parliament Delegation.*

BENOIT HAMON, MEP,
*Vice Chairman, European
Parliament Delegation.*

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY,
*Chairwoman, U.S.
Congress Delegation.*

HON. CLIFF STEARNS,
*Vice Chairman (Ranking
Republican),
U.S. Congress Delegation.*

HON. GARY ACKERMAN,
*Vice Chairman, U.S.
Congress Delegation.*

HONORING JACK DOWNEY, UNITED
STATES COAST GUARD MASTER
CHIEF BOATSWAIN'S MATE

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the exemplary career of a distinguished member of the United States Coast Guard, and a good friend of mine—Master Chief Boatswain's Mate John E. "Jack" Downey, Ancient Keeper.

Jack Downey has led an exemplary career, having served in the United States Coast Guard for over 40 years. His familiarity with the treacherous local waters around Cape Cod is legendary. He has brought that knowledge to a wide variety of operational, command, and staff assignments over the years, including five Officer-In-Charge multi-mission ashore assignments, two Officer-In-Charge afloat assignments, and a position as a rescue boat crewman for water take-offs and landings.

In 1984, he served as Officer-In-Charge at Station Woods Hole. After a stint in command of Coast Guard Cutter *Towline*, a 65-foot harbor tug/icebreaker, Jack returned to the Cape to take control of Coast Guard Station Chatham, which is located on the elbow of Cape Cod. In Chatham, as my friend and colleague Mr. OBERSTAR already noted, upon taking command, Jack faced a fishing community that had lost faith in the Coast Guard. In a very short period of time, Jack made the Chatham station one of the finest in the Coast Guard and quickly won the respect of the entire Cape Cod fishing community. Downey would also serve as Officer-In-Charge of Station Brant Point in Nantucket and would eventually return to Woods Hole in 2005 to take command of Coast Guard Cutter *Hammerhead*.

It is without question that Jack has served honorably in all of his assignments and has been given numerous awards. Most notably, Jack became the first recipient of the Joshua James Keeper Award—the "Ancient Keeper", which is given to Coast Guard members in recognition of their longevity of service and their outstanding performance in boat forces