

thoughtful and hard-working staff for the two committees, including Meghan Conklin, Dave Watkins, and David Sienicki, and my own legislative director, Ben Miller.

The Port Chicago memorial, which is in my district, commemorates a very important story in American history.

The deadly munitions explosion there on the night of July 17, 1944, killed more than 300 people—the worst homefront disaster of World War II.

When sailors were ordered to resume work a few weeks later, most of them refused to return to their dangerous tasks until supervision, training, and working conditions were improved.

In response, the Navy charged 50 men with conspiring to mutiny—all were convicted.

The majority of the men killed while handling ordnance at Port Chicago, and all of those convicted of mutiny, were African-American.

The Port Chicago story was a turning point in American history. The injustice strongly influenced the Navy's move toward desegregation in 1945.

The Port Chicago memorial tells that story, and I am proud to have authored the legislation designating the memorial, as I am proud to be involved in enhancing it with this legislation.

At our hearing in Mr. GRIJALVA's subcommittee last fall, we heard from the National Park Service, in support of this bill; from Dr. Robert Allen, who literally wrote the book on Port Chicago and is a board member of the Friends of Port Chicago; and Mr. Eugene Sayles, who was a seaman first class at Port Chicago and helped to get injured men out of the barracks after the explosion.

As they and others have said, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial tells a critical story in our civil rights and military history, and with this legislation, we are ensuring that more Americans will hear the Port Chicago story.

The National Parks Conservation Association has also strongly supported this legislation, pointing to the "broad local and national support" for the effort, and noting that the Port Chicago memorial deserves elevation to its "rightful place as a fully-fledged unit of the National Park System."

The new designation under this bill brings with it increased stature—and more importantly, the Park Service will be able to budget for the memorial's needs.

In addition, the bill provides for an interpretive center for the Memorial—this facility will allow school groups, families, and other visitors to learn about Port Chicago even if they can't access the site, which is located within the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

Again, I want to thank Chairman GRIJALVA, Chairman RAHALL, Chairman SKELTON, and their staff for helping us bring this important legislation to the floor today.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3111, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HUNTING IN NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5137) to ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5137

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

SECTION 1. HUNTING IN NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER.

Section 1106 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460m-20) is amended in the first sentence by striking "may" and inserting "shall".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the New River Gorge National River in southern West Virginia was designated as a unit of the National Park System in 1978. At times referred to as the "Grand Canyon of the East," we in West Virginia refer to the Grand Canyon as the "New River Gorge of the West."

The national river is comprised of over 70,000 acres of mostly rugged terrain and is renowned as a destination for its world-class whitewater recreation, rock climbing, and other outdoor activities. But it is also a place where generations of West Virginians have hunted and fished.

Unfortunately, the National Park Service, as part of the development of a new general management plan for the park unit, has included a no-hunting alternative. It is doing so because legislation which establishes the New River Gorge National River states that hunting "may" be permitted.

The enabling statute for the nearby Gauley River National Recreation Area, on the other hand, states that hunting "shall" be allowed. In fact, this is the case for the vast majority of the 62 units of the National Park System in which hunting is permitted.

The bill we are considering today simply changes the "may" to a "shall"

in the law which established the New River Gorge National River. While there is no doubt in my mind that the current superintendent of this park unit will do the right thing and allow hunting to continue in the final general management plan, this is too important of an issue to remain at the discretion of future managers of the park unit.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 5137, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

When credit is earned, credit needs to be given where it is due, and Chairman RAHALL has a wonderful bill. I am totally supportive of his efforts, and it's an excellent bill.

This ensures that hunting rights will continue in this great area, the New River Gorge National River. I am encouraged to see that many of my colleagues on the other side appreciate the importance of hunting and the benefit it has on public lands even within the Park Service System. And I hope that the chairman will join with us as we work to ensure second amendment hunting rights on Federal lands are secured in the other 49 States as well. I am confident that we can build a consensus around State and local control of hunting and deliver the rights that this legislation ensures to the Federal land around this particular entity.

As I said, I am totally in support of this bill. I think it's an excellent bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5137.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 845) recognizing the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 845

Whereas Everglades National Park celebrated its 60th anniversary on December 6, 2007;

Whereas when President Harry S. Truman dedicated Everglades National Park on December 6, 1947, he stated: "Here is land, tranquil in its quiet beauty, serving not as the source of water, but as the last receiver of it."

To its natural abundance we owe the spectacular plant and animal life that distinguishes this place from all others in our country”;

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas gave the Everglades the name “River of Grass” stating, “There are no other Everglades in the world”;

Whereas Everglades National Park has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of International Importance, in recognition of its significance to all the people of the world;

Whereas the Everglades ecosystem encompasses 3,000,000 acres of wetlands and is the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States featuring slow-moving freshwater that flows south from Lake Okeechobee through sawgrass and tree islands to the mangroves and seagrasses of Florida Bay;

Whereas Everglades National Park is home to rare and endangered species, such as the American crocodile, the Florida panther, and the West Indian manatee, and more than 350 species of birds, including the Great Egret, Wood Stork, Swallow-tailed Kite, and Roseate Spoonbill;

Whereas the Central and South Florida region is an international center for business, agriculture, and tourism, with a rapidly growing population of varied ethnic, economic, and social values, all of which are dependent on a sustainable framework for the water resources of the region to restore the Everglades ecosystem, provide adequate freshwater supplies, and promote a healthy and sustainable economy and overall quality of life;

Whereas Everglades National Park is an essential component of a larger ecosystem restoration effort, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, which has been described as the world’s largest ecosystem restoration project; and

Whereas this restoration effort must succeed in order to restore the natural Everglades ecosystem and ensure that the treasures of Everglades National Park can be passed on to our children and grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park; and

(2) dedicates itself to the success of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the pending resolution, introduced by our colleague from Florida, Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, recognizes the 60th anniversary of the Everglades National Park. It is the first of two resolutions the House is considering this afternoon in tribute to the Everglades.

The landscape of the Everglades is completely unique, a grassy river 40

miles wide and 100 miles long. While half of this wonderful landscape has been lost to agriculture, much of the remaining portions of this famed “River of Grass” are now protected by the Everglades National Park.

I commend and congratulate our colleague, Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, for keeping the issues facing the Everglades in the spotlight. I fully support passage of H. Res. 845 and urge its adoption by the House today.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on House Resolution 845, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill, once again, has been adequately explained by Chairman RAHALL, and I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 845, as amended, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Everglades National Park.

Former Florida Governor Reubin Askew once stated, “We must build a peace in south Florida—a peace between the people and their place, between the natural environment and man-made settlement, between the creek and the canal, between the works of man and the life of mankind itself.”

Indeed, the natural areas surrounding and encompassing Everglades National Park represent the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States featuring slow-moving freshwater. The Everglades are naturally unique and provide tremendous benefits to south Florida in many capacities, but the park is also one of the most endangered national parks in our country.

The Park totals more than 1 million acres, and the Everglade ecosystem itself encompasses 3 million acres of wetlands. More than 1 million visitors come to the Everglades each year, learning of the Everglades environmental importance while igniting the State’s tourism industry.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a long history of oversight of the Everglades restoration. The Water Resources Development Act of 2007, P.L. 110–114, authorized the first three projects in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project—Picayune Strand, Indian River Lagoon, and the Site 1 Impoundment Project. Support for provisions like these was so strong that this Congress overrode the President’s veto of the bill by a vote of 381–40, an overwhelming majority of the House of Representatives.

We must continue to take action to preserve and protect this treasured wetland. This resolution reminds us of this precious natural resource, and I urge my colleagues to join me in agreeing to the resolution.

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of the Nation’s greatest treasures and to express my continued support for this important resolution introduced by my colleague from Florida which recognizes the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park. It is our responsibility to ensure that a healthy and vibrant Everglades is there for future generations.

In addition to being an international center for business, tourism, and agriculture, the Everglades is the largest subtropical wilderness

in the United States and is home to numerous rare and endangered species. Growing up in southwest Florida and so close to the Everglades, I was able to experience all the Everglades has to offer.

This resolution recognizes the continuing impact the Everglades has made on individuals throughout the world with the inception of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, CERP. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is one of the most extensive ecosystem restoration efforts ever created which will restore and protect one of our Nation’s greatest natural resources. CERP’s main goal is to capture fresh water that now flows to the ocean and the Gulf of Mexico and redirect it to the areas that need it most. The majority of water will be devoted to environmental restoration, and the rest will enhance water supplies in south Florida. Make no mistake: the Everglades and Florida’s unique environment are vital to our quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, protecting the Everglades is important for the overall health of south Florida’s environment and way of life. It is our responsibility to ensure that a healthy and vibrant Everglades is there for our children and grandchildren. I urge all of my colleagues to recognize and support this important bipartisan resolution.

Ms. WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 845 recognizing the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park.

Not coincidentally, it was also 60 years ago that Marjory Stoneman Douglas famously said in her book, the “River of Grass,” that “there are no other Everglades in the world.” As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the creation of the park, we must come to terms with the critical threats facing this unique ecosystem and re-dedicate ourselves to Everglades restoration. Let us not lose this truly unique national treasure forever.

In 2000, we created the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, embarking on a historic Federal-State partnership with Florida to restore historic water flows, dramatically reduce water pollution and address development encroachment that threatens both the National Park and the larger Everglades.

However, most of the more than 50 component projects that are part of the Restoration Plan are already behind schedule. For 7 years Congress has largely failed to follow through on its part of the bargain in both authorizing projects and funding those projects. This is not an auspicious start.

I am happy to say, this is beginning to change. With passage of the Water Resources Development Act in 2007, we authorized several important components of the restoration plan. But our work is far from done. I call on my colleagues to work with me and the entire Florida delegation to make sure we properly fund this restoration work. Together we must ensure that 60 years from now we will be remembered as those that breathed new life into Marjory Stoneman Douglas’s vision and saved the Everglades for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 845 and vote for its final passage.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 845, a resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park. I

proudly introduced this resolution with my colleague and fellow co-chair of the Everglades Caucus, Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART.

I applaud Representative DIAZ-BALART for his commitment to working together to preserve and restore the Everglades.

I thank the chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, Representative NICK RAHALL, a true champion of protecting our Nation's natural resources, especially our majestic national parks, for his support for protecting Florida's environment.

I also would like to thank the ranking member of the Committee, Representative DON YOUNG, for his support as well.

The bipartisan support this resolution enjoys is reminiscent of the past and present bipartisan support Everglades restoration efforts enjoy.

Today we honor the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park. The park, which spans 3 million acres of wetlands, is habitat to many endangered species and is an international center for business, agriculture, and tourism.

Our work to restore the Everglades is the largest restoration effort of its kind in history.

As a fifth generation Floridian and great grandson of a Creek Indian, my passion for these majestic wetlands extends back to my birth.

I have seen species that have since become endangered, and a living ecosystem that has since been degraded by management and development activities.

Regrettably, since the passage of landmark legislation in 2000, restoration efforts in Congress have been mired. Now the Everglades is paying a hefty price for Federal delays. Expected project completion timeframes have been shifted, and the restoration price tags increased.

With new perspectives and new priorities, Congress is again reaffirming our commitment to the Everglades.

Just last November, Congress overrode a President Bush veto and passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, authorizing \$1.8 billion in Everglades restoration funding.

As we pause to celebrate the anniversary of the Everglades National Park today, we enhance our vigilant efforts to restore the park to the pristine ecosystem it once was.

I thank the leadership of the House for their work on this bill, and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, "Here are no lofty peaks seeking the sky, no mighty glaciers or rushing streams wearing away the uplifted land. Here is land, tranquil in its quiet beauty, serving not as the source of water, but as the receiver of it. To its natural abundance we owe the spectacular plant and animal life that distinguishes this place from all others in our country."

These were the words of Harry Truman, 60 years ago at the dedication of the Everglades National Park. And it is in the same spirit that I support H. Res. 845, recognizing the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park. The Everglades are a completely unique treasure for Floridians, and all Americans. So it is fitting that they should also be unique in the national park system. The Everglades were the first unit of the park system to be designated not for their scenic beauty alone, but for the extraordinary diversity of their wildlife.

One of the largest bodies of fresh water in the United States, Lake Okeechobee, sits at

the top of the Everglades. During the wet season, Okeechobee slowly pours water over its southern edge, and it flows out in a slow flood that slides south and spreads out over hundreds of square miles. The water flows south, but very slowly, sometimes as little as a hundred feet in a day. And it is remarkably shallow, as little as a foot in depth, which allows the incredible diversity of plant and animal life, unrivaled in the Nation.

In 1947, when Marjory Stoneman Douglas published "Everglades: River of Grass" and Harry Truman dedicated the Everglades as part of the parks system, it was with the intention of preserving the Everglades for future generations. Douglas continued to fight for the Everglades for the rest of her life, and she led an ever growing chorus of voices, advocating for our environment. The Everglades became a touchstone for an entire movement of Floridians and other Americans who continue to fight to save our natural places, not only for future generations, but also for their own sake.

Unfortunately, the Everglades still faces threats of the attrition of development, and the redirection of its waters. In the Water Resources Development Plan of 2000, Congress included a comprehensive restoration plan to bring the Everglades back to its natural state. The Everglades remain one of the Nation's greatest natural treasures, and I am proud to stand in recognition today of their 60th anniversary as part of the park system.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 845, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS, CHAMPION OF THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES AND FOUNDER OF FLORIDA'S ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 807) honoring the life of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, champion of the Florida Everglades and founder of Florida's environmental movement, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 807

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas was born on April 7, 1890, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the daughter of Frank Stoneman, the first publisher of the Miami Herald;

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas graduated from Wellesley College in 1912 where she was a member of the literary group Scribblers, editor-in-chief of the yearbook, and served on the executive board of the Equal Suffrage League;

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas served in the Red Cross in Europe during World War I;

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas moved to Miami in 1915 and became a reporter and writer at The Miami Herald where she wrote about progressive issues such as the fight for women's rights, racial justice, and environmental conservation;

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas wrote dozens of short stories that were published in the Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, and Woman's Home Companion throughout the 1920s, 30s, and 40s;

Whereas in 1947 Marjory Stoneman Douglas wrote a ground-breaking book titled The Everglades: River of Grass that helped to draw national attention to a vast and little-known area that South Florida developers had deemed a worthless swamp;

Whereas in the same year, Marjory Stoneman Douglas' book mustered the public support to guard this subtropical marshland through a declaration from President Harry Truman, officially protecting the Everglades as a National Park;

Whereas at the age of 78, Marjory Stoneman Douglas founded the Friends of the Everglades, an educational and advocacy group dedicated to the protection and restoration of this ecosystem that continues to be at forefront of Florida conservation;

Whereas in November 1993, President Bill Clinton awarded Marjory Stoneman Douglas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor given to a civilian;

Whereas 2007 marked the 60th anniversary of the publication of her book, The Everglades: River of Grass; and

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas passed away in 1998 living to the age of 108, her ashes scattered in the Everglades she worked so tirelessly to preserve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the life, achievements, and distinguished career of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, pioneer in the field of conservation, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the publication of The Everglades: River of Grass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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Mr. RAHALL. Following on the heels of the resolution just considered by the House, this resolution honors the life, accomplishments, and distinguished career of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the "Grande Dame of the Everglades," on the 60th anniversary of the publication of her book, The Everglades: River of Grass. House Resolution 807 was introduced by our colleague from Florida, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and is cosponsored by every member of the Florida delegation.