

local governments and nonprofit organizations to preserve and protect the most endangered historical sites, and to provide up to 50 percent of the costs of purchasing battlefield land threatened by sprawl and commercial development.

□ 1300

The story of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 crisscrosses 33 States, from New York to Louisiana, from Georgia to Oregon, and enacting this legislation will allow these States to better preserve their history and their role in these engagements.

I have also introduced legislation that I hope Congress will pass next year to provide additional funding for the program created in H.R. 160, the American Revolution and War of 1812 Commemorative Coin Act.

As the gentleman from Alaska alluded, my home State of New Jersey has a unique role in the American Revolution. In 2006, I am pleased to report, Congress took action to help protect the battlefields and historic sites where this conflict took place. We passed legislation that created the Crossroads of the American Revolution national heritage area, linking together 14 counties in New Jersey where more military engagements took place than in any other State. New Jersey was truly the crossroads of the American Revolution for a number of reasons, and I am pleased that we are taking steps to preserve the record of those engagements. H.R. 160 will allow many more historic battlefields to be preserved for our children's and our children's children to enjoy. We want to give Americans the opportunity to learn history. People who know history can be better citizens today and more engaged in current civic affairs.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 160, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2933) to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2933

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 "Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION EXTENDED.

The American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 469k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(7)(A), by striking "fiscal years 2004 through 2008" and inserting "fiscal years 2009 through 2013"; and

(2) by striking subsection (e).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam 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 bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, since its inception in 1996, the American battlefield protection program has provided grants for preserving endangered Civil War battlefields which are specifically not part of the National Park System.

The program contains two components. The battlefield preservation grants program is designed to help State and local government, organizations and citizens protect battlefield sites. The battlefield acquisition grant program provides matching funds to help State and local governments acquire and preserve battlefield sites.

Together, these grant programs have helped to protect more than 15,000 acres at 72 Civil War battlefields and have leveraged \$52 million in non-Federal funding for battlefield protection. With enactment of H.R. 160, which was just considered, this program will be expanded to include Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites, making the program even stronger.

I commend our colleague, Representative GARY MILLER of California, for his leadership on this issue and his commitment to historic preservation. This is a truly bipartisan measure with more than 100 cosponsors from both parties. I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. The American Civil War captures the imagination of people like no other event in our history. In bookstores, most shelves in the history section are devoted to events of the 1860s. On weekends, battles are reenacted by serious hobbyists who strive for authenticity in costume, weaponry and skirmish details. Pictures of Lincoln are found in countless homes and classrooms, Confederate flags adorn pickup trucks, and the words of the Gettysburg Address are as familiar as the 23rd Psalm.

As a nation, we clearly recognize the continuing importance of the War Between the States. So it is natural that we should try to find appropriate ways to keep safe the places where our great-grandfathers witnessed events so noble and so horrific.

But since our country is about liberty rather than glorification of the state, we have to safeguard not just the hills and the mud on which they fought but also the freedoms for which they fought. Therefore, it would be tragic if we allow our well-meaning enthusiasm for protecting historic sites to result in programs that diminish the property rights of our fellow citizens. This bill has two important safeguards: First, a "willing seller" provision—and we need to make sure the seller's willingness is uncoerced. Second, a sunset provision on the program's funding authorization. The bill's sponsors are to be commended for including these safeguards.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, but I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I at this time, Madam Speaker, yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. I thank the gentleman from Alaska for yielding.

There are no Civil War battlefield sites in California. There was one place where shots were fired near the Arizona border, but I do admit to having more than a passing interest in the study of and learning about the Civil War. I stand today strongly in favor of this bill. I can't tell you how many times I invoke the quotes or the deeds or the actions of politicians and generals and citizens from the Civil War and the Civil War era in giving us guidance and perspective on how we deal with some of our problems today.

As we today and this week are facing a financial crisis which is not something that could ever even have been conceived in the Civil War but they certainly dealt with crises of their own. How they dealt with them and how they worked with them and the courage with which they faced them are instructive to all of us today.

These battlefield sites bring that history alive. They remind us of the sacrifices that those who came before us

made to give us what we have today, and they instruct us and teach us of the bravery and the courage and the principles upon which they stood and how we can remember and call upon the same bravery and courage and principles today.

As was said, this bill not only protects private property rights but also leverages a tremendous amount of private funds, largely private funds, that are collected from around the country to preserve these battlefield sites.

Madam Speaker, again I stand in strong support of this bill, both for what the Civil War sites have done for us in the past and what they can continue to do to teach us in the future.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I would like to make mention, and I think it is fitting that we are entertaining this bill today on what marks the 146th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to express the importance of H.R. 2933, a bill to reauthorize the Civil War Battlefields Preservation Program. I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG of the Committee on Natural Resources for shepherding this bill through their committee. Additionally, Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member BISHOP of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, Public Lands must be recognized for their work preserving the American landscape for generations of future citizens to enjoy. Additionally, I would like to particularly thank everyone at the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Trust, especially their President, James Lighthizer, for all the work they have done bringing attention and awareness to the need for preservation. Without the Trust, hundreds of acres of land would likely be lost forever.

Preservation of our Nation's Civil War Battlefields is an issue that I hold close to my heart and fresh in my mind. Without a physical link to the past, we are left with only a passing glimpse of who we are as a Nation.

Our historic battlefields provide outdoor classrooms for visitors to recreate the history of heroes from generations come and gone. In 1993, the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, a blue-ribbon panel was created by Congress to investigate the status of America's battlefields. The Commission reported that 384 Civil War battlefields were considered high priority and were in serious danger of destruction. The report concluded that almost 20 percent of the Civil War battlefields were lost or fragmented, 17 percent in poor condition, and 60 percent to have been lost or in imminent danger of being fragmented and lost as coherent historic sites. Congress recognized the need to safeguard the only living link to the "War Between the States" and in fiscal year 1999 a preservation program was financed for the first time.

In 2002, I authored the bill that created the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program. To date, this program has helped save more than

15,000 acres in 14 States. The American Battlefield Protection Program, an arm of the National Park Service, manages and competitively awards the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program grants. Furthermore, this legislation will facilitate the creation of partnerships at the State and local level, encouraging the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

The program's 50/50 matching grants formula encourages both public and private sector investment in battlefield protection. Grants are directed to State and local governments for land acquisition only and are not issued to nonprofit or private groups. Grant money cannot be used for administrative costs or overhead.

The grants are awarded based on five requirements: (1) The battlefield must be on the list of 384 priority sites determined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission; (2) The land must be outside the authorized boundaries of the National Park System, thus keeping the program from contributing to National Park Service maintenance costs; (3) Any land acquired with the assistance of the grant program may not be subsequently converted to a non-conservation use without the prior written permission of the Secretary of the Interior; (4) Any grant awarded must be supported by an appraisal of the property's value in accordance with federal standards for property appraisals; and (5) Any land acquired with the assistance of the grant program must be protected by a perpetual easement to ensure its preservation for future generations.

The effect of this program and intent of this legislation is to preserve nationally significant Civil War battlefields through conservation and purchases of those battlefields from willing sellers at fair market value. Preservation of historic battlefields involves only willing sellers when properties become available, and since only willing sellers are involved in the transaction, all private property rights are preserved. There is absolutely no eminent domain authority associated with this program. Willing sellers are compensated at fair-market value and the program allows preservation groups to compete with developers to buy land.

Among the sites saved as a result of this program are historic properties at: Fort Donelson, Tennessee, where the Union scored its first major victory of the war and Union General Ulysses S. Grant earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender"; Antietam, Maryland, where 23,000 soldiers were killed, marking the bloodiest day in American history and leading to the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation; and, Chancellorsville, Virginia, where a much smaller Confederate force defeated the larger Union force, while suffering the loss of the famed General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

Despite the progress, we still have more to do. Many sites have only been partially preserved and those that have no opportunity for acquisition run the risk of being lost forever. Only about 20 percent of the actual battlefields upon which the Civil War was fought are currently preserved. All of the rest of that hallowed ground is either unprotected or has already been destroyed.

These battlefields offer a porthole to the past. The vivid imagery of an epic conflict can remind visitors of the struggles our country

has gone through to preserve the banner of liberty and justice for all. Memorializing the conflict, Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "We have shared the incommunicable experience of war. We felt, we still feel, the passion of life to its top. In our youths, our hearts were touched by fire." By preserving this Nation's historic Civil War Battlefields, we can give visitors a sense of what Mr. Holmes was talking about.

Since fiscal year 1999, Congress has appropriated \$36 million to preserve Civil War Battlefields and the White House included a \$4 million request for the program as part of its fiscal year 2009 budget. H.R. 2933 is a clean bill that would extend the authorization, from fiscal years 2009 through 2013 for battlefield preservation grants under the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002. The program's necessity, and proof that the preservation of history is a bipartisan issue, is demonstrated by more than 100 cosponsors divided nearly equally between Republicans and Democrats. A companion bill, authored by Senator JIM WEBB of Virginia, has already been approved by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and enjoys widespread support in that chamber. I thank the Speaker and I respectfully request and urge you to support this legislation.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the passage of H.R. 2933, the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2007.

H.R. 2933 was introduced by my good friend and colleague Congressman GARY MILLER and I have paid special attention to this bill as it has made its way through the legislative process of the Committee on Natural Resources of which I am a member.

H.R. 2933 is an important bill for the residents of coastal South Carolina and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

The current Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program funds preservation and conservation efforts at many famous Civil War battlefields across the Nation. It is very important that we preserve these sites for future generations to observe and visit these sites that are so important to our Nation's history.

Some of the more famous locations in my district include, Fort Sumter, the target of the first shots of the Civil War as well as the assault on Morris Island's Battery Wagner, which is the battle which inspired the Academy Award winning movie *Glory*.

Other famous battles fought at Secessionville, Grimball's Landing, Simmon's Bluff and sites in and around the Charleston Harbor would also be eligible to receive funding for preservation and conservation.

Madam Speaker, reauthorization of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program could not come at a better time. In just 3 years, America will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War.

I know that in my district the planning has already started and many residents of coastal South Carolina are planning to observe this important date from where the first shots of the Civil War were fired.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill as swift passage of H.R. 2933 would help in the preparation, preservation and conservation of many of these hallowed sites in advance of this important anniversary.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2933, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY EXPANSION AND REDESIGNATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4828) to amend the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 to expand the boundaries of the historic site, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4828

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 "Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Boundary Expansion and Redesignation Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site is hereby designated the "Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park".

(b) *REFERENCES.*—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper or other record of the United States to Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site is deemed to be a reference to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

(c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-304; 106 Stat. 256; 16 U.S.C. 461) is amended—

(1) by striking "National Historic Site" each place it appears and inserting "National Historical Park";

(2) in the heading for section 3, by striking "NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE" and inserting "NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK"; and

(3) by striking "historic site" each place it appears and inserting "historical park".

SEC. 3. BOUNDARY EXPANSION.

Section 3(b) of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-304; 106 Stat. 256; 16 U.S.C. 461) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) The historical park also shall consist of approximately 34 acres as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Palo Alto Battlefield NHS Proposed Boundary Expansion', numbered 469/80,012, and dated May 21, 2008. The map shall

be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service."; and

(3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by striking "map referred to in paragraph (1)" and inserting "maps referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam 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 bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, located in Brownsville, Texas, is the only National Park Service unit dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the Mexican-American War. The park preserves the site of the Battle of Palo Alto, the first battle of the war, but fighting was not limited to the parcel of land currently preserved by the park. Fighting at a site called Resaca de la Palma proved pivotal in permanently repulsing the Mexican army from Texas.

H.R. 4828 would amend the act creating Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site to designate the 34 acres of the Resaca de la Palma as a unit of the park. In recognition of the expansion of the park to include the non-contiguous Resaca de la Palma unit, the bill will also redesignate Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site as Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

This is a good piece of legislation, and I commend my colleague and my good friend, Representative SOLOMON ORTIZ from Texas, for his hard work on adding this unit to the park. I enthusiastically support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this legislation. The Palo Alto battlefield in Brownsville, Texas is the site of the second battle of the U.S. War with Mexico. During the battle, American forces drove Mexican troops back across the Rio Grande River. This bill adds 34 acres to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site and provides for a cooperative agreement under which the Brownsville Community Foundation and the National Park Service would co-manage this land that is owned by the foundation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I want to say thank you to both Chairman Bordallo and my good friend from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) who have had an opportunity to spend time in my district.

Today I rise in support of H.R. 4828, the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Boundary Expansion and Redesignation Act of 2008. The battle of Resaca de la Palma—fought in 1846 in what is now the city of Brownsville, Texas—marked one of the early victories in the United States-Mexican War for the American forces.

General Zachary Taylor, who would later become the 12th President of the United States, was a very notable participant in this battle.

□ 1315

The United States troops suffered 45 men dead and 228 wounded; Mexican forces counted 169 dead and 228 wounded.

H.R. 4828 will expand the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, currently under the National Park Service, to include the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield site.

The bill will preserve the battlefield site, support education and special events there, and develop an interpretive trail with exhibits, living history programs, and other community gatherings.

The site will also conserve the increasingly rare Rio Grande delta landscape and protect native chaparral, prairie and brush, and native species. It used to be more than 100 acres, but now it has been reduced to 34 acres of land, so we need to preserve this site.

Though the battle at Resaca de la Palma was fought by two warring nations, it is historically significant because it is unique to the south Texas border culture. More than just a relic of the past, the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield is a vast, outdoor classroom that preserves a vital piece of our Nation's history.

My hope is that scholars, historians, and everyday citizens will learn and appreciate the sacrifice of all those who perished here on this battlefield.

A coalition of local groups, community leaders, and private citizens has done a tremendous job in maintaining the Resaca de la Palma. I wish to thank them for their hard work and dedication in preserving an important piece of our Nation's history.

But it is now vital for the site to have full support and resources that only the National Park Service can provide. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

And I thank you and Chairman YOUNG and Chairman BORDALLO for supporting this bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no other requests for speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I again urge Members to support this very important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.