

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# AUTHORIZING GSA ACTIONS IN EASTLAKE, OHIO, AND KOOCHICHING COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6524) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6524

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

## SECTION 1. EASTLAKE, OHIO.

(a) RELEASE OF RESTRICTIONS.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator of General Services is authorized to release the restrictions contained in the deed that conveyed to the city of Eastlake, Ohio, the parcel of real property described in subsection (b).

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIPTION.—The parcel of real property referred to in subsection (a) is the site of the John F. Kennedy Senior Center located at 33505 Curtis Boulevard, city of Eastlake, Ohio, on 10.873 acres more or less as conveyed by the deed from the General Services Administration dated July 20, 1964, and recorded in the Lake County Ohio Recorder's Office in volume 601 at pages 40–47.

### (c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The city of Eastlake shall pay to the Administrator \$30,000 as consideration for executing the release under subsection (a).

(2) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—The Administrator shall deposit any funds received under paragraph (1) into the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS DEPOSITED.—To the extent provided in appropriations Acts, amounts deposited into the Federal Buildings Fund under paragraph (2) shall be available for the uses described in section 592(b) of title 40, United States Code.

(d) FILING OF INSTRUMENTS TO EXECUTE RELEASE.—The Administrator shall execute and file in the appropriate office or offices a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument effectuating the release under subsection (a).

## SEC. 2. KOOCHICHING COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator of General Services shall convey to Koochiching County, Minnesota, the parcel of real property described in subsection (b), including any improvements thereon.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIPTION.—The parcel of real property referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 5.84 acre parcel located at 1804 3rd Avenue in International Falls, Minnesota, which is the former site of the Koochiching Army Reserve Training Center.

(c) QUITCLAIM DEED.—The conveyance of real property under subsection (a) shall be made through a quit claim deed.

### (d) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Koochiching County shall pay to the Administrator \$30,000 as consideration for a conveyance of real property under subsection (a).

(2) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—The Administrator shall deposit any funds received under paragraph (1) (less expenses of the conveyance) into a special account in the Treasury established under section 572(b)(5)(A) of title 40, United States Code.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS DEPOSITED.—To the extent provided in appropriations Acts, amounts deposited into a special account under paragraph (2) shall be available to the Secretary of the Army in accordance with section 572(b)(5)(B) of title 40, United States Code.

(e) REVERSION.—The conveyance of real property under subsection (a) shall be made on the condition that the property will revert to the United States, at the option of the United States, without any obligation for repayment of the purchase price for the property, if the property ceases to be held in public ownership or ceases to be used for a public purpose.

(f) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance of real property under subsection (a) shall be made subject to such other terms and conditions as the Administrator considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DEADLINE.—The conveyance of real property under subsection (a) shall be made not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6524.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6524, a bill to authorize the administrator of General Services to transfer a parcel of real property in Eastlake, Ohio, to the city of Eastlake. Further, the bill authorizes the transfer of real property in the Koochiching Army Reserve Training Center in Koochiching County, Minnesota, to the County of Koochiching.

The city of Eastlake will compensate the General Services \$30,000 for the real property transfer and the County of Koochiching also will compensate the General Services \$30,000 for the real property transfer. The General Services Administration will forward to the Secretary of the Army the net proceeds for the transfer.

The parcel of real property in Eastlake is an approximate 10-acre site, which includes the John F. Kennedy Senior Citizen Center. In 1964, the city of Eastlake purchased the property and, consistent with the deed restriction, used the site for recreational uses for over 40 years. The bill will lift the deed restrictions and thus allow the city to use the property for economic

development purposes. The senior center has been moved to a better location. Further, the city has purchased over 17 acres for parks and recreational uses, increasing the overall acreage devoted to open space and parkland.

The first parcel in Minnesota is 5½ acres, which includes the U.S. Army Armory Building, which will pay to have the roof replaced, install a new boiler and heating system, and make extensive repairs to the ceiling. The Army reported the property excess in January 2006 and GSA accepted the report of excess in February 2006. GSA screened the property with other Federal agencies, but there were no expressions of interest. Likewise, no expressions of interest from homeless shelter providers were received by GSA.

Mr. Speaker, I commend both Chairman OBERSTAR and my colleague, Congressman LATOURETTE, for working on these essential pieces of legislation and for ensuring compensation will be made to the General Services, and the Federal taxpayers will be fully protected.

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6524. This legislation will allow the General Services Administration to remove the public use deed restriction on a former National Park property in the community of Eastlake, Ohio, and dispose of a surplus property in Koochiching County, Minnesota.

Since its transfer to Eastlake, Ohio, in 1964, the former National Park Service property has met its public use requirements by serving as a senior center. Because the community has built a new center to replace the aging John F. Kennedy Senior Citizen, Eastlake desires to make use of the property for other purposes. The city of Eastlake would pay the General Services Administration \$30,000 for removal of the restrictions on the use of the property.

For more than 40 years, the real estate has served the purpose intended in the initial agreement. And this bill will allow the property to be repurposed to continue to serve the community.

The community of Koochiching County, Minnesota, has similar plans for a parcel of property that has for years served as a military training facility. The changing needs of the U.S. Army Reserve and the community now mean that the property can serve the public interests better by housing several local government agencies.

The conveyance of property in Koochiching has restrictions that will ensure that the property continue to serve the community. GSA does not oppose either of those provisions. In fact, in conversations with staff, GSA indicated that if GSA had the authority, it would remove the deed restriction on the property and convey the Minnesota property at no cost because GSA believes the public interest has been and

is being served by the provisions in the bill.

Each of these properties has served the General Services Administration purposes well, but the changing needs of the communities of Eastlake and Koochiching County now require that the properties be repurposed. In both cases, the needs of the community can be better served through adaptive reuse of these properties.

I support the bill and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6524, a bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to transfer parcels of real property in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota.

The Koochiching parcel is approximately 5½ acres located at 1804 3rd Avenue in International Falls, Koochiching, Minnesota. The Koochiching Army Reserve Training Center site includes the U.S. Army Armory Building. The bill transfers the property to Koochiching County, which will pay to have the roof replaced, install a new boiler and heating system, and make extensive repairs to the ceiling. The Army reported the property excess in January 2006 and the General Services Administration, GSA, accepted the report of excess in February 2006. GSA screened the property with other Federal agencies but there were no expressions of interest.

The conveyance will be by quitclaim deed and the County of Koochiching will pay \$30,000 to GSA for the real property transfer. The General Services Administration will forward to the Secretary of the Army the net proceeds from the Koochiching transfer.

The parcel of real property in Eastlake is an approximate 10-acre site which includes the John F. Kennedy Senior Citizen Center. In 1964, the city of Eastlake purchased the property and, consistent with the deed restriction, used the site for recreational uses for more than 40 years. The bill will lift the deed restrictions and thus allow the city to use the property for economic development purposes. The city of Eastlake has provided a better location for the senior citizens center. The city of Eastlake will pay \$30,000 to GSA for the real property transfer.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6524.

Finally, I insert in the RECORD an exchange of letters between Chairman IKE SKELTON, Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and me.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, September 22, 2008.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I write to you regarding H.R. 6524, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

I appreciate your willingness to waive further consideration of H.R. 6524, notwithstanding the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Armed Services. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this or similar legislation. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee

on Armed Services if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 6524 and inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of this legislation in the House. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees. I understand that you prefer to consider such property transfers in National Defense Authorization Acts and I greatly appreciate your courtesy in waiving further consideration of H.R. 6524.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,  
Chairman

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, September 18, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,  
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DR. MR. CHAIRMAN: On July 31, 2008, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure ordered H.R. 6524, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota, and for other purposes, to be reported.

As you know, this measure contains certain provisions that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services. These provisions transfer property for which the Department of Defense has real property interests. For many years, our committee has authorized such transfers through annual National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA).

Given the expressed need for the legislation to move expeditiously, and out of my respect for you and our friendship, I am prepared to make an extraordinary exception to my committee's long-standing practice of always considering such property transfers in the NDAA.

Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this legislation, the Committee on Armed Services will waive further consideration of H.R. 6524. I do so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures. In the event of a conference with the Senate on this bill, the Committee on Armed Services reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of the response in your Committee's report on H.R. 6524 and the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,  
Chairman.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6524.

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.

HONORING DR. GUION S. "GUY" BLUFORD, JR., AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS HISTORIC FLIGHT AS THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN IN SPACE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1466) honoring Dr. Guion S. "Guy" Bluford, Jr., and the 25th anniversary of his historic flight as the first African-American in space.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1466

Whereas Dr. Guion S. "Guy" Bluford, Jr., born in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was trained as an aerospace engineer and an Air Force pilot, conducted several combat missions, logged over 5,000 hours on numerous aircraft, conducted scientific research on computational fluid dynamics, and became a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut in 1979;

Whereas in the early morning hours of August 30, 1983, Dr. Bluford became the first African-American to enter outer space as a crew member of the STS-8 space shuttle mission;

Whereas Dr. Bluford's pioneering STS-8 flight was the first mission to both launch and land at night;

Whereas this mission successfully deployed a satellite, tested operations of the shuttle's robotic arm, and released Getaway Special canisters to support science experiments;

Whereas on October 30, 1985, Dr. Bluford launched with the crew of STS 61-A, the first shuttle crew to include 8 members, to conduct the United States-German cooperative D-1 Spacelab mission that was dedicated to advancing our understanding of the human vestibular and orientation systems and to conducting microgravity research in materials science, life sciences, and communication and navigation;

Whereas Dr. Bluford went on to successfully complete 2 additional shuttle missions with the space shuttle Discovery's launch of the STS-39 on April 28, 1991, and the STS-53 on December 2, 1992;

Whereas among his other technical assignments, Dr. Bluford worked on space shuttle systems, the shuttle robotic arm, payload safety and flight software verification in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory and the Flight Systems Laboratory, and on Spacelab systems and experiments;

Whereas in remarking on his pioneering role as the first African-American in space, Dr. Bluford recounted, "I wanted to set the standard, do the best job possible so that other people would be comfortable with African-Americans in space and African-Americans would be proud of being participants in the space program . . . and encourage others to do the same."; and

Whereas in 1993, Dr. Bluford left NASA and retired as a Colonel in the Air Force to continue his distinguished service to the United States space program through leadership positions in private industry and space-related organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) salutes the 25th anniversary of the pioneering accomplishments of Dr. Guion "Guy" S. Bluford, Jr. as the first African-American in space; and

(2) extends its gratitude and deep appreciation for Dr. Bluford's dedication, commitment, and excellence as an astronaut and a