

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

leader in support of the Nation's space program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1466, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1545

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1466, honoring Dr. Guion S. "Guy" Bluford, Jr. on the 25th anniversary of his historic flight as the first African American in space.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the House Committee on Science and Technology and also the 50th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA.

The past five decades of our space program have brought remarkable achievements in human space flight and in human exploration, in space and Earth science and in aeronautics. Mr. Speaker, these achievements would not have been possible without the contributions of many individuals who have served NASA and our space program. Some of those individuals also broke barriers along the way and have provided inspiration to all of those who have followed them.

Earlier this year, we honored the 25th anniversary of Dr. Sally K. Ride's flight as the first woman in space. Today, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Dr. Guion S. Bluford, Jr. as the first African American in space.

Dr. Bluford's path to his pioneering flight exemplifies the "right stuff" so characteristic of NASA's astronauts. He graduated from Penn State University with a degree in aerospace engineering. As a distinguished Air Force ROTC graduate, he went on to complete pilot training and combat crew training, flew combat missions, and returned to serve with the 3630th Flying Training Wing at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas.

Dr. Bluford went on to earn master's and doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and he held several positions in the Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

In 1979, Dr. Bluford became a NASA astronaut. On August 30, 1983, he made

history when he lifted off with the space shuttle crew of STS-8 as the first African American in space. During the mission, the crew successfully deployed a satellite, conducted operations with the shuttle's robotic arm and collected measurements to improve our understanding of how space affects biophysiological systems.

On October 30, 1985, Dr. Bluford flew with the crew of STS-61-A, a German D-1 spacelab mission that included over 70 scientific experiments in materials processing, in life sciences, in fluid physics, and in navigation.

I would add, Mr. Speaker, that, indeed, that was my mission at spacelab while I was at Goddard Space Flight Center.

His third and fourth flights on shuttle STS-39 in 1991 and on shuttle STS-53 in 1992 involved deploying payloads and in conducting numerous experiments. During his astronaut service, Dr. Bluford logged over 688 hours in space. In 1993, Dr. Bluford left NASA and retired from the Air Force to accept a position in private industry.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Guion Bluford's leadership as an aviator, as an astronaut and as a private sector official is an inspiration for all Americans. I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in saluting Dr. Guion S. "Guy" Bluford, Jr. on the 25th anniversary of his historic flight as the first African American in space and to honor his distinguished service to the Nation and to the space program.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Arkansas is recognized.

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1466, which honors the life and accomplishments of an amazing man, astronaut Dr. Guy Bluford, Jr.

Guy Bluford was born in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 22, 1942, and he is perhaps best known as the first African American in space. He was selected for NASA's astronaut program in August 1979, and he became a mission specialist on the eighth space shuttle mission, which launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida on August 30, 1983. This was the third flight of the space shuttle Challenger and the first mission with a night launch and with a night landing.

Dr. Bluford is a veteran of four space flights. After STS-8, Dr. Bluford went on to serve as mission specialist on STS-61-A, on STS-39 and on STS-53, and he logged over 688 hours in space.

These early missions paved the way for the scientific research and international cooperation that today are vital aspects of the International Space Station.

Prior to his service with NASA, Guy Bluford received a bachelor of science

degree in aerospace engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1964, a master's of science degree with distinction in aerospace engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1974, a doctor of philosophy in aerospace engineering with a minor in laser physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1978, and a master's of business administration from the University of Houston, Clear Lake, in 1987.

What is, perhaps, less well-known about Guy Bluford is the service he has given to the Nation since leaving the astronaut corps. After leaving NASA in July 1993, he retired from the Air Force and held several executive-level positions in America's aerospace industry. Dr. Bluford also served the Nation in other capacities, including as a member of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. He has been a member of the National Research Council Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board. He has served on the board of trustees of the Aerospace Corporation and on the board of advisors for the Coalition for Space Exploration.

I am proud to support this resolution honoring such a prominent American citizen, executive and astronaut. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1466.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. If the gentlelady has no other speakers, I will go ahead and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1466.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2606) to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2606

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