

The Federal building and U.S. Courthouse designation will become effective when Judge George P. Kazen retires and is no longer serving as a federal judge. The bill was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and has bipartisan support.

George P. Kazen was born in Laredo, Texas, in 1940. In 1960, he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas. He later earned his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1961. Kazen began his professional career as a Briefing Attorney for the Texas Supreme Court in 1961 and 1962. From 1962 to 1965, he was a U.S. Air Force Captain in the JAG Corps. Following his military service, Kazen worked in a private practice in Laredo until 1979.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated George P. Kazen as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Texas. Judge Kazen has served on the bench for more than 30 years, including as Chief Judge from 1996 to 2003. On May 31, 2009, he assumed senior status on the court.

During his tenure on the bench, Judge Kazen considered a wide variety of cases. In *Luna v. Van Zandt*, a 1982 case, he invalidated a Texas statute that allowed for the detaining of individuals perceived as mentally ill for up to 14 days without a commitment hearing. In addition, Judge Kazen has testified before Congress and written several articles on issues of Federalism and the courts. Outside of the courtroom, Judge Kazen is a stalwart of his community, serving on numerous civic organizations in South Texas.

Given Judge George P. Kazen's exemplary public service, it is fitting to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2423.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. 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 Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2423, 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.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT OF 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1700) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in the District of Columbia to provide for the estab-

lishment of a National Women's History Museum, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1700

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 "National Women's History Museum Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) **CERCLA.**—The term "CERCLA" means the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

(3) **COMMITTEES.**—The term "Committees" means the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

(4) **MUSEUM.**—The term "Museum" means the National Women's History Museum, Inc., a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation exempt from taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(5) **PROPERTY.**—The term "property" means the property located in the District of Columbia, subject to survey and as determined by the Administrator, generally consisting of Squares 325 and 326. The property is generally bounded by 12th Street, Independence Avenue, C Street, and the James Forrestal Building, all in Southwest Washington, District of Columbia, and shall include all associated air rights, improvements thereon, and appurtenances thereto.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO CONVEY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the requirements of this Act, the Administrator shall convey the property to the Museum on such terms and conditions as the Administrator considers reasonable and appropriate to protect the interests of the United States and further the purposes of this Act.

(2) **AGREEMENT.**—As soon as practicable, but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall enter into an agreement with the Museum for the conveyance.

(3) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The terms and conditions of the agreement shall address, among other things, mitigation of developmental impacts to existing Federal buildings and structures, security concerns, and operational protocols for development and use of the property.

(b) **PURCHASE PRICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The purchase price for the property shall be its fair market value based on its highest and best use as determined by an independent appraisal commissioned by the Administrator and paid for by the Museum.

(2) **SELECTION OF APPRAISER.**—The appraisal shall be performed by an appraiser mutually acceptable to the Administrator and the Museum.

(3) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR APPRAISAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided by subparagraph (B), the assumptions, scope of work, and other terms and conditions related to the appraisal assignment shall be mutually acceptable to the Administrator and the Museum.

(B) **REQUIRED TERMS.**—The appraisal shall assume that the property does not contain hazardous substances (as defined in section 101 of CERCLA (42 U.S.C. 9601)) which require response action (as defined in such section).

(c) **APPLICATION OF PROCEEDS.**—The purchase price shall be paid into the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code. Upon deposit, the Administrator may expend, in amounts specified in appropriations Acts, the proceeds from the convey-

ance for any lawful purpose consistent with existing authorities granted to the Administrator, except that the Administrator shall provide the Committees with 30 days advance written notice of any expenditure of the proceeds.

(d) **QUIT CLAIM DEED.**—The property shall be conveyed pursuant to a quit claim deed.

(e) **USE RESTRICTION.**—The property shall be dedicated for use as a site for a national women's history museum for the 99-year period beginning on the date of conveyance to the Museum.

(f) **REVERSION.**—

(1) **BASES FOR REVERSION.**—The property shall revert to the United States, at the option of the United States, without any obligation for repayment by the United States of any amount of the purchase price for the property, if—

(A) the property is not used as a site for a national women's history museum at any time during the 99-year period referred to in subsection (e); or

(B) the Museum has not commenced construction of a museum facility on the property in the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, other than for reasons beyond the control of the Museum as reasonably determined by the Administrator.

(2) **ENFORCEMENT.**—The Administrator may perform any acts necessary to enforce the reversionary rights provided in this section.

(3) **CUSTODY OF PROPERTY UPON REVERSION.**—If the property reverts to the United States pursuant to this section, such property shall be under the custody and control of the Administrator.

(g) **CLOSING DEADLINE.**—The conveyance pursuant to this Act shall occur not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act. The Administrator may extend that period for such time as is reasonably necessary for the Museum to perform its obligations under section 4(a).

SEC. 4. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE ACTIONS.**—The Administrator is authorized to contract, in an amount not to exceed the purchase price for the property, with the Museum or an affiliate thereof for the performance (on behalf of the Administrator) of response actions (if any) required on the property pursuant to CERCLA.

(b) **CREDITING OF RESPONSE COSTS.**—Any costs incurred by the Museum or an affiliate thereof pursuant to subsection (a) shall be credited to the purchase price for the property.

(c) **RELATIONSHIP TO CERCLA.**—Nothing in this Act may be construed to affect or limit the application of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, including section 120(b) of CERCLA (42 U.S.C. 9620(b)).

SEC. 5. INCIDENTAL COSTS.

Subject to section 4, the Museum shall bear any and all costs associated with complying with the provisions of this Act, including studies and reports, surveys, relocating tenants, and mitigating impacts to existing Federal buildings and structures resulting directly from the development of the property by the Museum.

SEC. 6. LAND USE APPROVALS.

(a) **EXISTING AUTHORITIES.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting or affecting the authority or responsibilities of the National Capital Planning Commission or the Commission of Fine Arts.

(b) **COOPERATION.**—

(1) **ZONING AND LAND USE.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Administrator shall reasonably cooperate with the Museum with respect to any zoning or other land use matter relating to development of the property in accordance with this Act. Such cooperation shall include consenting to applications by the Museum for applicable zoning and permitting with respect to the property.

(2) *LIMITATIONS.*—The Administrator shall not be required to incur any costs with respect to cooperation under this subsection and any consent provided under this subsection shall be premised on the property being developed and operated in accordance with this Act.

SEC. 7. REPORTS.

Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the end of the 5-year period following conveyance of the property or until substantial completion of the museum facility (whichever is later), the Museum shall submit annual reports to the Administrator and the Committees detailing the development and construction activities of the Museum with respect to this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 1700.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 1700, as amended, as bill which directs the Administrator of General Services to sell at fair market value property in Southwest Washington, DC to the National Women's History Museum, Inc., a District of Columbia non-profit corporation for the purpose of establishing a museum dedicated to women's history.

This bill was introduced by Mrs. MALONEY and co-sponsored by many members including Subcommittee Chair NORTON, Ranking Member Mr. DIAZ-BALART and myself.

The National Women's History Museum was founded in 1996, and has been seeking a permanent physical location in the Nation's capital since its inception. According to museum officials, the museum intends to build a "green" building that will cost between \$250 and \$350 million. The costs will include designs, plans, construction, and two years of operation. The permanent museum is expected to be a focal point that will have permanent and temporary exhibits, special events, and education materials that highlight women's social, political, and intellectual contributions to history. According to the museum, this facility will house the first permanent and comprehensive record of women's history.

The National Women's History Museum will have five years to raise funds to construct the museum. If, after five years, the fundraising has not been successful, the property will revert back to the Federal government, thus the government's interests are protected.

In general the museum will bear the costs of the sale, including the appraisal.

This bill has bipartisan support and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1700 as amended.

I yield such time as she may consume to the author of this legislation, Mrs. MALONEY.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you so much for yielding.

This is a very important day for women's history. Today, we are recognizing the immense contributions women have made to our Nation by voting to help create the National Women's History Museum.

I am grateful to Chairman OBERSTAR for his support in moving this bill through committee. And of course I thank my partner in this, Chairwoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, whose dedication and commitment in creating a museum about women has been persistent and strong. And I thank her staff, Susan Brita, and mine, Orly Isaacson, for their hard work.

We have been working on this effort for well over 10 years to provide women, comprising 53 percent of our population, recognition of their many contributions that are the very fabric of our country. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bipartisan bill and bring the Women's History Museum to the National Mall.

There are 211 statues in the Capitol Building, each honoring a leader from our Nation's history, but only 11 of these statues are of female leaders. Of America's 2,004 historic landmarks, fewer than five chronicle the achievements of women. Even more troubling, a recent study revealed that only one of every 10 people identified in the 18 most commonly used U.S. history textbooks is female.

The museums and memorials in Washington are one measure of what our society values. We already have museums for stamps and for spies, but not one dedicated to women. This bill would honor our Nation's foremothers and inspire future generations of women leaders by providing a space on the National Mall to honor women's contributions to American history.

From Susan B. Anthony to Sojourner Truth to Oprah Winfrey, from Hattie Caraway, the first woman elected to the United States Senate, to Sonia Sotomayor, our Nation's first Latina woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the story of what women have contributed to the American way of life is a very long, overdue story.

The bill directs the General Services Administration to sell property located across from the National Mall at 12th and Independence to the museum at a fair market price. Reasonable time frames are included for the transfer of the property and the beginning of construction. The museum will be built and maintained with private funds.

I urge my colleagues to support the National Women's History Museum, and in so doing, honor our mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters.

I am really thrilled that it is here before us on the floor today. For too long, women's history has been missing from textbooks, memorials, museums, exhibits, and many other venues. With this bill designating a permanent building site, this museum will bring to life and tell all the stories of American history, male and female alike.

I would also like to recognize and thank the National Women's History

Museum, and especially Joan Wages, their president. The museum played a leading role in moving the suffragist's statue out of the basement into the living room of the Capitol, Statuary Hall. They have been working with me and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON on this project well over 10 years. I look forward to continuing our work together as we see the museum built right across from our National Mall, and that we have, for the first time, a national museum dedicated to the many contributions of women.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit educational institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse and important historic contributions of women and integrating this rich heritage fully into our Nation's history in a place where everyone will be able to see, everyone will be able to visit right here in the heart of the Nation's Capital.

Again, H.R. 1700 is intended to help pave the way for a women's museum in the Nation's Capital dedicated to recognizing the significant contributions of women throughout our wonderful and rich history. And despite the significant contributions of women throughout the history of our country, frankly, women continue to be underrepresented in exhibits featured in our museums.

The stories and contributions of women are critical to understanding our history as a Nation. And this is one way, just one way, that we can ensure that this history is passed along to our sons and to our daughters.

I think it is very befitting that this legislation would provide a prominent site for the National Women's History Museum near the National Mall, again, right here in our Nation's Capital.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill, along with approximately 50 other of my colleagues. I also want to recognize the work of not only Representative MALONEY and Chairwoman NORTON, who chairs our subcommittee with great distinction, but also Senator SUSAN COLLINS, who has worked tirelessly over the previous Congresses on legislation to secure a site for the National Women's History Museum.

I support the passage of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to do so same.

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of Washington, D.C.

Ms. NORTON. I thank you for yielding. And I thank the ranking member of the subcommittee for working with me to make sure that this bill came to the floor today. I especially thank my good friend, the original sponsor of this bill, the gentlewoman from New York, who has worked tirelessly to make sure this bill got done. And I want to take note of the women who for 10 years have never given up on this idea.

I had to overcome a presumption against transferring Federal property, so I encountered many difficulties in trying to get this bill through. But women never say no, and that is very important to achieving what is long overdue, this bill.

And note what the mission of the National Women's Museum is: to research, collect and showcase the contributions of women in professional fields as well as honor women's roles in nurturing their families and communicates. Women are absent from the Mall. Women are absent from prominent government sites. Part of it has to do with inequality of women in our society, that they haven't as often done what comes to light, but even when what comes to light comes, they are not recognized. That's why we need a women's museum. We note that this year there are women winning Nobel Prizes in science and economics, which shows you that you are going to have a lot to honor in this museum very quickly.

We went through regular order. The Women's museum has to buy the parcel at market value. They have 5 years to raise the money or it reverts back to the government. That is regular order; that's the way it always is when we transfer a property. But the women are geared up and ready to go, and I thank all concerned for making this bill possible today, especially my partner in this enterprise, the gentlelady from New York, and most of all the women themselves who refused to give up and now have what they deserve.

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Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia, the Honorable JIM MORAN.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in a perfect world, this legislation would not be necessary, but gosh sakes, only 5 percent of our national historic landmarks are in recognition of the accomplishments of more than half of our population. This is long overdue.

I want to particularly recognize the sponsor, Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY; Joan Wages, who was head of the National Women's History Museum idea for a number of years; MAZIE HIRONO; and of course, her very able assistant for our public buildings, Susan Brita. All of these folks, who happen to be women, have brought this about.

I want to underscore the fact that it simply authorizes the General Services Administration to convey a parcel of real property near the National Mall for the establishment of the National Women's History Museum. Fair market rates prevail, and the museum will be funded with private contributions. Since it is for women, about women and by women, they're going to achieve that contrary to some of the other things we've attempted. This is going to be a museum that all of the Nation's

population is going to be very proud of. It's long overdue. Let's get it done.

Thanks to all who were involved in making it happen.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, the Honorable LYNN WOOLSEY.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Thank you, Madam Hirono, and thank you to the gentlewoman from New York for all you do for women day in and day out.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1700, the National Women's History Museum Act of 2009. It is important because Congress and our Nation, as a whole, must find ways to honor the important roles of women, roles that women have played in shaping our very country.

Unfortunately, before the 1970s, the subject of women's history was largely missing from our schools, and it was absent completely in media coverage and in cultural celebrations. That's why, when I chaired the Sonoma County Commission on the status of women in 1978, the commission's education task force initiated a Women's History Week celebration, centered around international women's history day. That celebration, that very celebration, started a national movement.

In 1981, Congress responded to the growing popularity of Women's History Week, which was led by the women from my community in Sonoma County, by making it a national observance, and it eventually expanded the week to a month in 1987. During National Women's History Month, many cities and towns celebrate women's contributions through parades and other activities.

By building a National Women's History Museum, we will ensure that our Nation celebrates women not just during 1 month but throughout the year, every year, and it will ensure that young families, young girls and young boys come to Washington, D.C., to visit the women's museum and to remember what women have contributed and are contributing.

Again, I would like to thank my colleague from New York, Representative MALONEY, for her leadership.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the Honorable CHAKA FATTAH.

(Mr. FATTAH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FATTAH. Let me thank the gentlewoman, and let me thank the sponsor of this bill, the gentlewoman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in one of my proudest moments in the House to support this legislation. As the father of three daughters, I am looking forward to the day I can bring them to the mu-

seum here in Washington to learn about the great achievements that continue until this day of women throughout the United States of America in all fields and endeavors.

So I congratulate the sponsor, and I hope for its favorable consideration.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of the speakers who supported this resolution. As a woman, of course, it has special meaning to me as well as to all of the other women in the House.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1700, as amended, a bill to direct the Administrator of the General Services Administration to sell, at fair market value, real property in southwest Washington, DC, commonly known as the "Cotton Annex" site, to the National Women's History Museum, Inc., NWHM, a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation, for the purpose of establishing a museum dedicated to women's history. The site is bounded by 12th Street SW., Independence Ave., the James Forrestal Building, and C Street SW. The NWHM is a nonpartisan, educational institution with a mission of highlighting and celebrating the historic contributions of women in the United States. The bill was introduced by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and has bipartisan support.

H.R. 1700 requires that fair market value of the property be determined by highest and best use, as determined by an independent appraisal commissioned by the Administrator of the General Services Administration, GSA, and paid for by the museum.

The National Women's History Museum will have 5 years to raise funds to construct the museum. If, after 5 years, the fundraising effort has not been successful, the property will revert back to the Federal Government. The Federal Government is further protected by limiting use of the parcel as a site for the National Women's History Museum for 99 years.

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I support H.R. 1700, as amended. The committee has worked with staff from the Women's Museum for almost 10 years to find a suitable site, determine an appropriate disposal method, and identify terms and conditions that were acceptable to GSA.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1700.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1700, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings