

and maintained as a public park and recreation area;

Whereas in 1982, citing the high cost of maintenance and operations, the City of Miami closed Virginia Key Beach Park shortly after assuming its responsibility;

Whereas in 1990, the City of Miami Commission responded to citizen outcry and established the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust (hereafter referred to as the "Trust") to restore, reopen, and preserve the site for public use;

Whereas the late M. Athalie Range, an African-American community leader and the first woman to sit on the City of Miami Commission, worked with the community to save Virginia Key Beach Park from the grasp of developers, and deliver it back to the people. She lobbied to place the property on the National Register of Historic Places, spearheaded funding for a multi-billion dollar restoration program, and planned a new museum/cultural center that would one day, impart the message of social equality and responsible citizenry for future generations;

Whereas in June 2002, the Trust successfully petitioned Federal and State government officials to place the site on the National Register of Historic Places and give it a Florida Historical Marker;

Whereas in 2003, the Dade Community Foundation established the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park Trust Fund to collect charitable donations to help restore and preserve the park; and

Whereas on February 22, 2008, after extensive renovation by the Trust, Historic Virginia Key Beach Park celebrated its grand re-opening for public use by the entire community with a ribbon cutting ceremony and community concert: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the extraordinary historical, cultural, and recreational significance of Historic Virginia Key Beach Park of Miami, Florida;

(2) recommit its attempt to protect and preserve American history through national parks and historic sites; and

(3) acknowledges the significance of the African-American community's struggle for equality through its collaborative efforts to preserve this historic site.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, in 1945 a group of black men, led by Lawson E. Thomas, courageously protested the banning of African Americans from the public beaches of south Florida. As a result, Virginia Key Beach Park was established as a "Colored Beach" under the segregation laws that persisted throughout the civil rights movement.

The park was transferred to the city of Miami in 1979, which attempted to close it three years later, citing a lack

of operating funds. Since then, dedicated community leaders have fought to not only keep the park open, but also add it to the National Register of Historic Places and establish a trust to manage it.

With this resolution, sponsored by Representative ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, the House of Representatives recognizes the historic significance of the site and honors the African American struggle for equality represented there.

I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In the 1920s, Virginia Key Beach, located about 2 miles south of Miami, Florida, became the area's public beach that was used primarily by African Americans. In 1945, Dade County officials designated the beach as a legally segregated beach for use by the African American community. Today, the beach is managed by the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust and is owned by the City of Miami.

This resolution recognizes the historical significance of Virginia Key Beach Park. I congratulate Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her work, and I urge passage of this resolution.

At this time, I yield such time as she may consume to my friend and colleague, the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado, my good friend, Mr. LAMBORN, for the time, and I also thank Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona. Thank you so much for bringing this resolution before us today.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 361, which is a bipartisan bill recognizing the national significance of historic Virginia Key Beach Park, which is located in my congressional district in south Florida. I also would like to thank my dear friends and fellow south Floridians, my colleagues, Representatives KENDRICK MEEK, ALCEE HASTINGS, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their support of this legislation.

A segregated beach during the 1900s, Virginia Key Beach Park serves as a reminder of our Nation's struggle for equality and justice for all members of our society. During World War II, the beach was a training ground for African American soldiers serving in the United States Army. Shortly following the war's end, the beach was established as the only public beach open to the African American community. In the 1950s, the beach played a prominent role in south Florida's efforts to desegregate during the civil rights movement.

In the years following desegregation, leaders of the African American community in south Florida, including the influential and late wonderful leader in our area, Athalie Range, fought tirelessly to preserve this unique site.

Today's resolution serves as a tribute to Athalie Range and to so many Afri-

can American pioneers, including our former colleague, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, who authored a bill in 2001 to include Virginia Key Beach Park into the National Park System. I was honored to work with Carrie in her quest to include this beach in the National Park System, and years later I am joined by her beloved son KENDRICK in honoring the importance of this historic and often overlooked site.

I thank Congressman GRIJALVA for the time, and I thank my dear friend Mr. LAMBORN for the time to talk about this historic part of south Florida history.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, let me also congratulate the gentlelady from Florida for the resolution.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 361, 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.

□ 1500

AKRON VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2004) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, as the "Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2004

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

SECTION 1. AKRON VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present H.R. 2004 for consideration. This legislation will designate the United States postal facility located as 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, as the Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office.

Introduced by my colleague, Representative DALE KILDEE of Michigan, on April 21, 2009, and favorably reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee by unanimous consent on June 18, 2009, H.R. 2004 enjoys the support of the entire House Michigan delegation.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us pays tribute to the brave men and women from Akron Village, the State of Michigan, and across the United States who have served our Nation in the United States military, both at home and abroad. Over 23 million American military veterans are currently living in the United States, including approximately 742,000 living in the State of Michigan alone. They, as well as those that are no longer with us, have devoted their lives to the defense and security of our Nation, and always at a great personal risk and sacrifice. We are eternally in their debt and forever grateful for their noble and selfless dedication to our Nation and the preservation of its founding principles.

Mr. Speaker, let us pay tribute to the distinguished service of our veterans from the village of Akron, the State of Michigan, and across the country by designating the Akron post office in their honor.

I urge my colleagues to me in supporting H.R. 2004.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of the renaming of the Akron, Michigan post office. From its humble beginnings on July 23, 1857, this post office has been part of the community in small town Michigan. Rather noteworthy, Mr. KILDEE has chosen a rather unusual naming for a post office, and one that I wholeheartedly support. This post office is not named after one brave American or one now-departed politician. Instead, it's named after the countless thousands of men and women of Michigan who have served in the Armed Forces or are serving today and deserve our respect as veterans.

I would urge support of this, and I would urge all of my colleagues to take note that this post office represents a symbol of service more than the symbol of any one person.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again urge my colleagues to join me in honoring America's military veterans through the passage of H.R. 2004.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill H.R. 2004, which would des-

ignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, as the "Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The Akron Post Office was first established at the house of its first postmaster, Samuel B. Covey. At the beginning of the Civil War, the post office was moved to the home of Lucius Waldo, about 7 miles south west of Unionville, Michigan, and relocated to Akron village in 1882.

As the only Federal office in the town of Akron, Michigan, this facility should have the honor of recognizing all of the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform.

It has long been a goal of mine to honor all veterans. As a father of two sons, both of whom served as captains in the United States Army, I am a firm believer that our Nation owes an immense debt of gratitude to its armed forces veterans.

That is why I will continue to advocate for America's most important obligation, caring for its defenders and honoring them for their service.

Designating this facility will provide citizens with the opportunity to be mindful of the sacrifices our armed forces' veterans have made, and continue to make today.

I would like to thank the entire Michigan delegation for their support on this legislation and urge my colleagues support in passing this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2004.

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.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HATCH ACT REFORM ACT OF 2009

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1345) to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the provisions of law commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1345

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 "District of Columbia Hatch Act Reform Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY AS APPLY TO STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) APPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES.—Section 1501(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "a State or territory" and inserting "a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory".

(b) PROVISIONS RELATING TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES MADE INAPPLICABLE.—Section 7322(1) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting "or" at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by striking "or" at the end of subparagraph (B);

(3) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(4) by striking "services;" and inserting "services or an individual employed or holding office in the government of the District of Columbia;".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act—

(1) shall take effect on the effective date of a law, enacted by the government of the District of Columbia after the date of the enactment of this Act, which places restrictions on political activities of employees of the government of the District of Columbia; and

(2) shall apply with respect to actions occurring on or after the effective date referred to in paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise for the consideration of H.R. 1345, which is designed to ensure that employees of the District of Columbia are subject to the same rules of political activity under the Hatch Act that apply to all other State and local government employees, thereby ending the discriminatory treatment they have received since 1993.

In October of 1993, Congress passed the Hatch Act Reform Amendments, allowing Federal employees to take part in political campaigns on their off-duty, personal time. The legislation of 1993 did continue to prohibit Federal employees from seeking public office in partisan elections. However, it also retained a measure which subjected D.C. employees to Federal Hatch Act provisions. This ignored the District's authority to self-govern and enact its own local laws; not to mention that employees in all other State and local jurisdictions are subjected to laws written by their own State and local governments and are not subject to the Federal Hatch Act like D.C. government employees. H.R. 1345 ends this disparate treatment by placing D.C. employees under the same Federal Hatch Act restrictions that apply to all other States and localities.

This bill was offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) on March 5, 2009. Having been considered by the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, chaired