

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1410

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

Mr. Speaker, throughout the West there are communities struggling to provide basic services because of a limited tax base and a shortage of non-Federal lands to build infrastructure. The Sugar Loaf Fire District in Colorado has provided services to the surrounding National Forest area for years and is simply seeking a tiny parcel of land in order to make much-needed improvements in their facilities.

This commonsense land conveyance should have been handled administratively by the Forest Service. Something is not working right when cash-strapped fire districts who are providing incalculable benefits to Federal lands have to spend years and money they do not have to push for legislation for something that should be handled quickly and at the local level.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3923, the Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District Land Exchange Act. This legislation is the result of a long-term effort by the Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District in Sugar Loaf, Colorado. This exchange will be of great benefit to those volunteer firefighters and the communities that they serve.

The Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District and the U.S. Forest Service have always worked closely with each other since the fire district's inception in 1967. The Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District volunteers are key first responders to both wild-land and residential fires as well as car accidents and health emergencies within the communities and the public lands that they serve.

In its fledgling start, the fire district's physical home was established in an existing building on U.S. Forest Service land through a special use permit. Three years later, a second building was constructed under another special use permit, both in important locations for accessibility to the few main roads in the mountainous areas. This bill today would exchange the small amount of Federal land on which these facilities exist with private land that has been purchased by the fire district for this transfer, land that is better suited for the scenic and recreational services of the local public lands.

While the U.S. Forest Service and these special use permits have been incredibly valuable during the over 40-year history of the fire district, it is now important that the fire district has the autonomy to better self-direct its future, invest, and ensure the modernization of its facilities.

Currently these buildings are without even the most basic amenities, like running water and restrooms, and their location on public land has precluded them from making modernizations. As the surrounding communities have grown considerably in the past few decades, these buildings have taken on added responsibility as community meeting centers, making it even more important that they be updated to accommodate this new rule, and this bill will allow for them to be updated and modernized.

I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member HASTINGS, as well as Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA and the gentlewoman from Guam, for their hard work on this effort. It is an important measure for the local communities of my district, and I urge a "yes" vote on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I would like again to urge Members to support the bill.

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. 3923, 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.

EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION FOR
NATIONAL GREAT BLACKS IN
WAX MUSEUM

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3967) to amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize appropriations through fiscal year 2015.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3967

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2015.

Section 3(c) of the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 is amended by striking "2009" and inserting "2015".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3967, introduced in October of 2009 by our colleague Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS, helps tell the story of the African American struggle for equality.

For the last quarter century, Doctors Joanne and Elmer Martin have worked tirelessly to create a safe, nurturing environment for Baltimore's youth. Through their work to build and fund the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and the Justice Learning Center, they have created a unique opportunity to teach and connect with young people to tell the story of great African American leaders in the history of our United States of America.

H.R. 3967 amends the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to extend authorization for Federal grant funding. Representative CUMMINGS is to be commended for his work on behalf of this outstanding education and outreach program.

Mr. Speaker, we support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3967 renews the authority to spend appropriations for the Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore, Maryland. A legislative hearing was held on this bill, but, unfortunately, the National Park Service did not provide us with any information about this program or the necessity to fund it. What we did learn is that this program will be funded and overseen through the Department of Justice, leaving us with even more questions, not the least of which is why this bill went through a public lands committee.

That being said, I am concerned that extending Federal spending at this time may not be appropriate until we can better understand how this program will be administered and what has been done in the last 6 years since it was originally authorized.

Finally, while I have no doubt that the Great Blacks in Wax Museum is a positive influence in the City of Baltimore, it is unclear why it is necessary to involve the Federal Government in the wax museum industry. This may be yet another highly illustrative example of why we are buried by overwhelming Federal debt.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3967, which amends the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize appropriations through 2015. This important measure will extend a program that, for the last six

years, has helped educate the public about the contributions of major African American figures in American history.

I thank Chairmen RAHALL and CONYERS for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman CUMMINGS, for recognizing the importance of continuing funding for this socially significant program that promotes cross-cultural awareness and appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, black Americans have served honorably in Congress, senior executive branch positions, the law, the judiciary, and many other fields. Black Americans have also had a massive and important impact on cultural life in the United States, from television and cinema to the performing and visual arts. Unfortunately, these contributions are not well known by many in the public and underrepresented in textbooks, history lessons, and, importantly, our nation's museums.

The National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 authorized funds for the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc., a museum based in Baltimore, Maryland that celebrates important black figures in American history through the medium of wax sculpture. With Congressional funding, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum has been able to further its mission of bringing recognition to black Americans who have had lasting impacts on our nation. The museum showcases black Americans such as Rosa Parks, Colin Powell, Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Jesse Owens, Idia B. Wells, and many others.

H.R. 3967 will allow this non-profit organization to continue educating the public about the importance of African Americans to the history of the United States and ensuring that American history does not favor one race or culture over another, but rather accurately reflects the intricate racial and cultural tapestry that defines American society. This mission is one that is, without question, worthy of our support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3967.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3967, a bill to amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize appropriations through fiscal year 2015. The funds, approximately \$5 million, would be used by the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum in order to build a Justice Learning Center. I would also like to commend my esteemed colleague, Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS, for his dedication to the preservation of Black American history.

In 1983, Drs. Elmer and Joanne Martin opened the doors to the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. It is the first wax museum of African-American history in the nation, and the first wax museum in Baltimore, Maryland. The facility was created to stimulate an interest in African-American history by revealing little-known and often neglected facts of history. The founders also sought to improve race relations by dispelling myths of racial inferiority and superiority, as well as use the figures of great leaders to inspire and uplift African Americans to reach their full potential.

In 2004, the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 was signed into law. The act directed the Attorney General to make grants available to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, in part for building a Justice Learning Center, and also for carrying out pro-

grams relating to civil rights and juvenile justice. Though the legislation passed, no funds were distributed to the museum and the museum continues to operate on funding from private donors just as it has for the past 27 years. The Justice Learning Center will serve as another venue for the museum to educate and empower citizens with information relating to Black American history. H.R. 3967 gives this Congress an opportunity to support the museum in this project.

Mr. Speaker, fellow colleagues, it is imperative that we support this bill. Should we fail to pass this legislation and appropriate funds to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, great Georgians like Andrew Bryan, founder of the first American black Baptist church, in Savannah, GA, and Julian Bond, a former civil rights leader, United States Congressman, and recent chairman of the NAACP, would go unnoticed and overlooked along with other African-American leaders. In addition to all of the war funding, foreign aid, and domestic agendas we support, I believe our goal should also be to preserve and maintain our rich history for our children and generations yet to come. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3976, an act that seeks to amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize more appropriations through the fiscal year of 2015. I also want to thank my colleague, Representative ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, for introducing this important legislation.

Today we acknowledge the success and importance of the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc., and seek to provide it with appropriations. This bill will amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to extend the authorization of appropriations for grants to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc., in Baltimore, Maryland, through 2015. This bill will also carry out programs related to civil rights and juvenile justice through the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center.

The National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-238, 118 Stat. 670-672) directs the Attorney General to make a grant to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc., in Baltimore, Maryland, to be used only for carrying out programs relating to civil rights and juvenile justice through the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center. To receive a grant, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc., shall submit to the Attorney General a proposal for the use of the grant, which shall include detailed plans for such programs.

The founders of the museum outlined four specific areas that they meant for the museum to cover. First, according to a mission statement they wrote, the founders of the museum wanted the Great Blacks in Wax Museum to stimulate an interest in African-American history by revealing the little-known, often-neglected facts of history. Second, the museum was intended to use great leaders as role models to motivate youth to achieve. Third, the museum should improve race relations by dispelling myths of racial inferiority and superiority. Lastly, the museum supports and works in conjunction with other nonprofit, charitable organizations to seek to improve the social and economic status of African Americans.

The museum's goals are important to achieve in our society. It is important that we

cherish and appreciate our history while looking to the future. In the process of this remembrance, we can work for a brighter future.

For the foregoing reasons, I stand with Representative ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS in support of this act.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this bill.

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. 3967.

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.

□ 1420

COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG HOME STUDY ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4514) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Colonel Charles Young Home in Xenia, Ohio as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4514

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 “Colonel Charles Young Home Study Act”.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—*The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”), in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, shall conduct a special resource study of the Colonel Charles Young Home, a National Historic Landmark in Xenia, Ohio (referred to in this Act as the “Home”).*

(b) CONTENTS.—*In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—*

(1) *evaluate any architectural and archeological resources of the Home;*

(2) *determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Home as a unit of the National Park System;*

(3) *consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the Home by Federal, State, or local governmental entities or private and nonprofit organizations, including the use of shared management agreements with the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park or specific units of that Park, such as the Paul Laurence Dunbar Home;*

(4) *consult with the Ohio Historical Society, Central State University, Wilberforce University, and other interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or individuals; and*

(5) *identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives considered under the study.*