

THE REMARKABLE RESILIENCE OF THE CITIZENS OF WEST, TEXAS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday, I visited the town of West, Texas, to see for myself how the investigation of the fertilizer plant explosion is proceeding. The town has suffered incredible losses, but I was impressed by the resilience of the people in West, and it is remarkable how the community has come together after that tragedy.

It is at the very beginning stages of collecting the facts and findings into how these events transpired. I have been working closely with the staff on the Energy and Commerce Committee who are looking into the voluminous material on the matter and will continue to oversee the Federal Government's response to this tragedy as the investigation unfolds.

I wanted to personally thank Assistant State Fire Marshal Kelly Kistner; the ATF agents who handled the Federal investigation; the FEMA coordinating officer, Kevin Hannes; and the district director for Congressman BILL FLORES, Timothy Head. I want to thank each of them for their service to our country and to the community of West. God bless our State.

IMMIGRATION BILL OPPOSED

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, National Review and The Heritage Foundation both oppose the Senate immigration bill for many good reasons.

There is no deadline for secure borders, yet millions of illegal immigrants would be given amnesty 6 months after the bill is enacted. This would only encourage more illegal immigration.

The Senate immigration bill would double the already record 1 million legal immigrants admitted every year. Most Americans oppose this and instead want to make sure that current immigrants are assimilated.

The bill puts foreign workers ahead of the interests of American workers and the economic needs of our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is inconceivable that an immigration bill with these huge flaws would be approved.

READ THE BILLS ACT

(Mr. BENTIVOLIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Read the Bills Act to provide transparency and accountability from all of us to our constituents.

Read the Bills would provide that Members of Congress and the public

have 1 week to review any bill and proposed amendments before voting on passage. It requires legislation be passed by rollcall, and it makes legislation easier to read by requiring that we show, in context, how bills would affect existing law.

It is a basic moral question that a Member of Congress should only vote to pass legislation having read and understood it. Every law affects how the American people live: who prospers and who suffers, who receives help and who is hurt, who is regulated and who benefits. We cannot pass laws without knowing what they do.

No legislation should be passed under cover of procedure. It is our duty to be transparent to our constituents, and I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will agree that this is an important step to rebuilding the trust between the American people and Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1707

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 5 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VIETNAM VETERANS DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 588) to provide for donor contribution acknowledgments to be displayed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 588

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 "Vietnam Veterans Donor Acknowledgment Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. DONOR CONTRIBUTION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AT THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER.

Section 6(b) of Public Law 96-297 (16 U.S.C. 431 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4) by striking the "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5) by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) notwithstanding section 8905(b)(7) of title 40, United States Code—

"(A) the Secretary of the Interior shall allow the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to acknowledge donor contributions to the visitor center by displaying, inside the visitor center, an appropriate statement or credit acknowledging the contribution;

"(B) donor contribution acknowledgments shall be displayed in a form approved by the Secretary of the Interior and for a period of time commensurate with the level of the contribution and the life of the facility;

"(C) the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund shall bear all expenses related to the display of donor acknowledgments;

"(D) prior to the display of donor acknowledgments, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. shall submit to the Secretary for approval, its plan for displaying donor acknowledgments;

"(E) such plan shall include the sample text and types of the acknowledgments or credits to be displayed and the form and location of all displays;

"(F) the Secretary shall approve the plan, if the Secretary determines that the plan—

"(i) allows only short, discrete, and unobtrusive acknowledgments or credits;

"(ii) does not permit any advertising slogans or company logos; and

"(iii) conforms to applicable National Park Service guidelines for indoor donor recognition; and

"(G) if the Secretary of the Interior determines that the proposed plan submitted under this paragraph, does not meet the requirements of this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

"(i) advise the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. not later than 30 days after receipt of the proposed plan of the reasons that such plan does not meet the requirements; and

"(ii) allow the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to submit a revised donor recognition plan.".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last year, Jan Scruggs, president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, came to my office and told me about an absurd fund-raising problem he had. He told me that in order to build a much-needed education center at the Vietnam Wall, he had to raise nearly \$100 million of private money. Normally, this would not be a big problem; however, in this case,

VVMF had to raise all of this \$100 million without the ability to recognize their donors because current law did not allow donor recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can agree that it is ridiculous to force any organization to fund-raise without the ability to recognize donors. How are we supposed to raise any money? Even the National Park Service understands the importance of donor recognition. I personally have seen hundreds of benches in national parks all across this country that have little metal plaques on them thanking people for their generous donations.

In spite of current law and this donor recognition handicap, VVMF has raised over 25 percent of the nearly \$100 million needed to build this education center. My bill, H.R. 588, will give them the extra pulling power they need to quickly complete their fund-raising and finally cross the \$100 million finish line.

Overall, my bill is very straightforward. It merely provides VVMF the ability to recognize their donors. This recognition will lead to larger donations, a faster fund-raising pace, and quick and timely construction of the education center. It will also make the act of giving more personal and more rewarding. Put simply, every donor deserves a "thank you," and my bill will finally allow VVMF to give the "thank you" their donors so rightly deserve.

□ 1710

Also, in order to ensure that appropriate standards for donor recognition were met, I made sure that H.R. 588 dovetailed exactly with existing Parks Service guidelines. This regulatory overlap ensures that any donor recognition will be discreet, unobtrusive, and will not contain any advertising or company logos.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 588 is supported by numerous veterans' organizations, including the VFW, the American Gold Star Mothers, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, among many others. I urge my colleagues to support the quick passage this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman YOUNG for his work on this legislation, and I am very proud to be a cosponsor.

H.R. 588 allows the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to acknowledge donor contributions to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center. The Memorial Fund has raised \$45 million in private funds and anticipates the cost of the center to be approximately \$85 million. This legislation is specific to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center and deserves immediate attention.

I am hopeful that subcommittee Chairman BISHOP and I might explore

whether a broader amendment to the Commemorative Works Act, setting standards for donor acknowledgment for all memorials covered under the act, makes sense, but that project should not slow down this legislation.

Again, I thank Congressman YOUNG for his leadership, the leadership of the foundation, and others who have worked very hard on this issue for the past 2 years.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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 Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 588.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

BLACK HILLS CEMETERY ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 291) to provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 291

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 "Black Hills Cemetery Act".

SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCES, CERTAIN CEMETERIES LOCATED IN BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST, SOUTH DAKOTA.

(a) CEMETERY CONVEYANCES REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, without consideration, to the local communities in South Dakota that are currently managing and maintaining certain community cemeteries (as specified in subsection (b)) all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to—

(1) the parcels of National Forest System land containing such cemeteries; and

(2) up to an additional two acres adjoining each cemetery in order to ensure the conveyances include unmarked gravesites and allow for expansion of the cemeteries.

(b) PROPERTY AND RECIPIENTS.—The properties to be conveyed under subsection (a), and the recipients of each property, are as follows:

(1) The Silver City Cemetery to the Silver City Volunteer Fire Department.

(2) The Hayward Cemetery to the Hayward Volunteer Fire Department.

(3) The encumbered land adjacent to the Englewood Cemetery (encompassing the cemetery entrance portal, access road, fences, 2,500 gallon reservoir and building housing such reservoir, and piping to provide sprinkling system to the cemetery) to the City of Lead.

(4) The land adjacent to the Mountain Meadow Cemetery to the Mountain Meadow Cemetery Association.

(5) The Roubaix Cemetery to the Roubaix Cemetery Association.

(6) The Nemo Cemetery to the Nemo Cemetery Association.

(7) The Galena Cemetery to the Galena Historical Society.

(8) The Rockerville Cemetery to the Rockerville Community Club.

(9) The Cold Springs Cemetery (including adjacent school yard and log building) to the Cold Springs Historical Society.

(c) CONDITION OF CONVEYANCE.—Each conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the condition that the recipient accept the conveyed real property in its condition at the time of the conveyance.

(d) USE OF LAND CONVEYED.—The lands conveyed under subsection (a) shall continue to be used in the same manner and for the same purposes as they were immediately prior to their conveyance under this Act.

(e) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of each parcel of real property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of the survey for a particular parcel shall be borne by the recipient of such parcel.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyances under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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 materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM), the author of the bill, to explain the bill.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his work on these important issues. I appreciate it.

Today I rise in support of H.R. 291, the Black Hills Cemetery Act. This bill is of great importance to the communities of the Black Hills area of South Dakota. The Black Hills of South Dakota are home to a number of historic cemeteries. Many of these originated in old mining towns dating back to the 1800s, and they have unique significance to the communities surrounding them. These include the Englewood, Galena, Hayward, Mountain Meadows, Roubaix, Nemo, Rockerville, Silver City, and the Cold Springs cemeteries.

These cemeteries are currently being managed by local cemetery associations and community groups in the