

merely strikes the Senate language that allows donor recognition across The Mall and reinserts my original language from H.R. 588. This language has been through the full committee process and is sound legislative text.

However, not all of the Senate additions are bad. In this bill, we will keep one portion of the Senate's language, which extends the legislative authority to construct the Vietnam Veterans Education Center from 2014 until 2018.

□ 1710

It is unfortunate that we must provide this extension, though. Our Nation's Vietnam veterans have waited too long for this education center. It is a shame that a long line of political gamesmanship has delayed its construction.

Mr. Speaker, after the Vietnam War, many of our Nation's bravest were welcomed home not with joyous cheers or words of thanks, but dirty looks and snide remarks.

Let us end these political games. I call upon my colleagues in the House, but especially on my colleagues in the Senate, to quickly pass this resolution so this education center can finally be built. I think we can all agree that this legislation and this center are a long time coming.

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

This is a very important issue before us today. The Senate amended H.R. 588 to allow any new memorial in D.C. to acknowledge donors.

The original bill passed by the House only allowed donor acknowledgement for the Vietnam Memorial Visitor Center. The Senate amendment also provided a 4-year extension of the legislative authority for the Vietnam Memorial Visitors Center.

The resolution before us today would narrow the Senate language back to apply only to the Vietnam Memorial Visitor Center while continuing to provide the visitor center with a 4-year extension of their authorization.

Mr. Speaker, our preference would be to send a bill to the President to sign today; however, the majority is insisting on amending the Senate legislation and sending this bill back to the Senate instead of to the President. While we do not object to a policy of allowing donor acknowledgement, we are concerned that amending the Senate amendment will unnecessarily delay enactment of this legislation.

Given this is the only option we have to support the Vietnam Memorial Visitor Center, we support passage of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. At this time, I reserve the balance of my time as I will be the last speaker.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield as much time as he may consume to a Vietnam War veteran, the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands for their management of this important legislation. I certainly want to pay a special tribute to my good friend, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), for his authorship of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution to amend the Senate amendment to H.R. 588, the Vietnam Veterans Donor Acknowledgement Act of 2013.

I want to thank my good friend again, Congressman DON YOUNG from Alaska, for his leadership on this very important issue. He has always been a strong supporter of our military servicemembers and veterans and has been instrumental in moving forward to building the Education Center at the Wall that will educate the millions of visitors to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial about its history and purpose.

Mr. Speaker, last month the House, with overwhelming support, passed H.R. 588, the Vietnam Veterans Donor Acknowledgement Act of 2013. As we all know, H.R. 588 is supported by all the major veterans' organizations throughout the country. Unfortunately, during its consideration, the Senate significantly amended the bill, which has drastically altered the original intent of the bill. Much of the additions to H.R. 588 have not been evaluated or considered by way of markup, by either the Senate or the House, which is critical in considering any legislation. For this reason, my colleague today offers this resolution to reinstate the original bipartisan language.

Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran myself, I strongly believe that my fellow soldiers and I have waited long enough for the construction of this important educational center. It will benefit the many tourists that visit our Nation's capital and educate and inform many of those who question why the thousands of names are engraved on such an extraordinary memorial.

Mr. Speaker, it is so beautiful to see that our veterans coming from the Gulf War are being praised by the American public, which is great. Unfortunately, those of us who were part of the Vietnam legacy of the war that occurred at that time did not have a very sweet welcoming home I can say, Mr. Speaker, being called "baby killers" and "warmongers" and all of this. To this day I'm still very bitter in terms of the treatment of our soldiers and veterans who come from that terrible war that our country was involved in.

This education center is so critical to educate the American people—to educate America for that matter—so that they will understand and better appreciate the sacrifices and the contributions that our veterans and those who wore the armed services uniform made in protection of this country.

Again, I thank my dear friend, Mr. YOUNG from Alaska, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I appreciate the comments that were given by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN), and I especially respect and appreciate the comments by the gentleman from American Samoa, who has done so much, and I appreciate all of those. In everything that we are doing, in fact, their comments were right on; that what we are trying to do is ensure that what we do here is to return to the cliché of the House, which is regular order, which means we go through a legitimate process of trying to look at something instead of just flying by the seat of our pants.

Therefore, because this was changed significantly in the Senate without much input at all, we are simply doing two things. First of all, we'll be removing the provisions effected by the Senate changes so that the Vietnam Visitors Center can move forward under this bill without any delay, and it will enhance the ability to raise their private funds, but also we want to give careful and due consideration to the Senate-added provisions.

So the text of the Senate language affecting future memorials is being introduced today as a standalone bill in the House. We will have a public hearing. We will go through the process, to be held very soon on this particular bill, and then further action by the committee will follow. Once again, this is our process to re-ensure regular order.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this particular resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 264.

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.

Y MOUNTAIN ACCESS ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 253) to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah to Brigham Young University, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 253

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 "Y Mountain Access Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCE, UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST, UTAH.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—On the request of Brigham Young University submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey, not later than one year after receiving the request, to Brigham Young University all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 80-acres of National Forest System land in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in the State of Utah generally depicted as “Proposed Conveyance Parcel” on the map titled “Y Mountain Access Enhancement Act” and dated June 6, 2013. The conveyance shall be subject to valid existing rights and shall be made by quitclaim deed.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) CONSIDERATION REQUIRED.—As consideration for the land conveyed under subsection (a), Brigham Young University shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the land, as determined by an appraisal approved by the Secretary and conducted in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716).

(2) DEPOSIT.—The consideration received by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury to reduce the Federal deficit.

(c) GUARANTEED PUBLIC ACCESS TO Y MOUNTAIN TRAIL.—After the conveyance under subsection (a), Brigham Young University represents that it will—

(1) continue to allow the same reasonable public access to the trailhead and portion of the Y Mountain Trail already owned by Brigham Young University as of the date of the enactment of this Act that Brigham Young University has historically allowed; and

(2) allow that same reasonable public access to the portion of the Y Mountain Trail and the “Y” symbol located on the land described in subsection (a).

(d) SURVEY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. Brigham Young University shall pay the reasonable costs of survey, appraisal, and any administrative analyses required by law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. With that, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am very proud of this particular bill, and I am happy to yield as much time as he may consume to the author of this bill, the gentleman from Utah

(Mr. CHAFFETZ), with the understanding that he will explain to you that Y Mountain is not the same thing as Yucca Mountain.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. The gentleman from Utah is very correct, this is very different and not nearly as controversial, I assure you.

H.R. 253, the Y Mountain Access Enhancement Act, directs the Department of Agriculture to sell 80 acres of U.S. Forest Service land to Brigham Young University often referred to as BYU. This parcel of land includes the block Y on Y Mountain, a major landmark in the Provo area.

H.R. 253 requires BYU to pay fair market value for the land and requires BYU to cover administrative and appraisal costs associated with the sale. Proceeds of the land sale would be used to reduce the deficit.

H.R. 253 guarantees public access to the block Y and the Y Mountain trail after the sale. BYU has managed this parcel of land for 50 years and has always allowed public access.

BYU actually owned the entire trail at one point many years ago. H.R. 253 would restore ownership to Brigham Young University, but BYU would have to pay fair market value for the land.

Currently, one part of the trail is owned by BYU and the other is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Split ownership of the trail complicates trail maintenance and long-term planning, which ultimately puts public access at risk.

Restoring this land to BYU would provide long-term certainty by removing any questions as to who owns the land and who is responsible for maintaining the trail.

Hiking up the Y is a popular pastime in the Provo area, and H.R. 253 ensures that the trail will be maintained for future hikers.

□ 1720

This bill was introduced in the 112th Congress as H.R. 4484 and passed the House on voice vote. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this particular piece of legislation, and I appreciate the bipartisan support and work on this piece.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 253 provides for conveyance of approximately 80 acres of Forest Service lands to Brigham Young University. We do not object to this legislation.

At this time, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 253, the Y Mountain Access Enhancement Act. This legislation would direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture to sell approximately 80 acres to the U.S. Forest Service land known for years by

the residents of the city of Provo, Utah, as “Y Mountain” to Brigham Young University.

Located directly east of the BYU campus, the Y Mountain includes a trail that leads 1.2 miles from the mountain's base up to a large white concrete “Y” on the mountain's hillside, which was built over 100 years ago. The “Y,” which is 380 feet high by 130 feet wide, is even larger than the “Hollywood” sign in Hollywood, California, and serves as an insignia for Brigham Young University.

As an alumnus of BYU, I, too, have come to know the “Y” as a symbol of campus pride for the students, the alumni, and members of the greater Provo community. Some of my colleagues are probably wondering why did an island boy like me want to go to a place like Utah? I wanted to experience what snow was like; and guess what, you can have all the snow you want because I'm going back to the islands.

But I will say, Mr. Speaker, the “Y” is illuminated five times a year, including freshman orientation, homecoming, graduations in April and August, as well as “Y Days,” which celebrate BYU's week of service activities. As a nationally recognized symbol of BYU, the Y Mountain is also a featured shot in almost every BYU game broadcast on national television.

BYU currently manages the U.S. Forest Service portion of the trail. H.R. 253, however, proposes that the Federal Government sell Y Mountain at fair market value to Brigham Young University. The bill also guarantees that public access to the “Y” and the Y Mountain Trail be maintained following the sale.

Mr. Speaker, it is my strong belief that permitting BYU to purchase this property would result in better maintenance of the trail and mountain. Given the immense source of pride in Y Mountain, BYU ownership of the property would only result in improved maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and access for the public. The transfer of ownership would also allow Brigham Young University to preserve a significant monument for future generations of students and members of the community.

I want to especially thank my colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ), for his sponsorship of the bill, who also happens to be an alumnus of BYU, for introducing this legislation, and I do urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Despite being a graduate of the University of Utah and finding myself surrounded by BYU people here—it makes me terribly uncomfortable—this is still a good bill. It is a win-win situation and will provide the experience of those at BYU and the

area a much safer and pleasant experience on Y Mountain, and so I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 253, 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.

Mr. SABLAN. 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.

ROTA CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 674) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 674

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

(1) The island of Rota was the only major island in the Mariana Islands to be spared the destruction and large scale land use changes brought about by World War II.

(2) The island of Rota has been described by professional archeologists as having the most numerous, most intact, and generally the most unique prehistoric sites of any of the islands of the Mariana Archipelago.

(3) The island of Rota contains remaining examples of what is known as the Latte Phase of the cultural tradition of the indigenous Chamorro people of the Mariana Islands. Latte stone houses are remnants of the ancient Chamorro culture.

(4) Four prehistoric sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Monchon Archeological District (also known locally as Monchon Latte Stone Village), Taga Latte Stone Quarry, the Dugi Archeological Site that contains latte stone structures, and the Chugai Pictograph Cave that contains examples of ancient Chamorro rock art. Alaguan Bay Ancient Village is another latte stone prehistoric site that is surrounded by tall-canopy limestone forest.

(5) In addition to prehistoric sites, the island of Rota boasts historic sites remaining from the Japanese period (1914–1945). Several of these sites are on the National Register of Historic Places: Nanyo Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha Sugar Mill, Japanese Coastal Defense Gun, and the Japanese Hospital.

(6) The island of Rota’s natural resources are significant because of the extent and intact condition of its native limestone forest that provides habitat for several federally endangered listed species, the Mariana crow,

and the Rota bridled white-eye birds, that are also native to the island of Rota. Three endangered plant species are also found on Rota and two are endemic to the island.

(7) Because of the significant cultural and natural resources listed above, on September 2005, the National Park Service, Pacific West Region, completed a preliminary resource assessment on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which determined that the “establishment of a unit of the national park system appear[ed] to be the best way to ensure the long term protection of Rota’s most important cultural resources and its best examples of its native limestone forest.”

SEC. 2. NPS STUDY OF SITES ON THE ISLAND OF ROTA, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) carry out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System; and

(2) consider management alternatives for the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Except as provided by subsection (c) of this section, section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)) shall apply to the conduct and completion of the study required by this section.

(c) SUBMISSION OF STUDY RESULTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date that funds are made available for this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the results of the study.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes a study for the suitability and feasibility of designating this particular area as part of a unit of the National Park System. I think it is a wise concept in which to go to find out the cultural and natural resources that are on this particular area and look forward to its further designation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 674, the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act. The bill authorizes

the Secretary of the Interior to determine whether it would be suitable and feasible to add certain cultural, archeological, historical, and natural resources on the island of Rota in the Northern Marianas to the National Park System.

The House has already voted to authorize the suitability and feasibility study for Rota on two separate occasions, but the other body did not follow through, so here we are again. The third time may be the charm.

Mindful of the previous House votes, I will not preach to the choir, but I do think that it is worth reminding my colleagues that a Park Service reconnaissance survey reported in 2005 that Rota contains natural, archaeological, and historical features of national significance. These include precontact village sites of the Chamorro people, who discovered and populated the Mariana Islands 3,500 years ago.

I also want to remind my colleagues, because we’re all mindful of cost, that the Congressional Budget Office finds the bill will not affect direct spending or revenues.

Finally, I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member MARKEY of the Natural Resources Committee for their support of H.R. 674. I also want to thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation for their help in bringing this measure to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 674.

At this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, this is getting to be an island occasion or something. But at any rate, I do thank the gentleman from Utah and the gentleman from the Northern Marianas for allowing me to comment on this proposed legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 674, the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Act.

First, I want to thank the gentleman from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, my dear friend Mr. SABLAN, for his authorship of this important piece of legislation that will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, the southernmost island of CNMI, as a unit of the National Park System.

This legislation is critical to CNMI and will enable the preservation of village sites of the ancient Chamorro people and Rota’s native limestone forests that provide a habitat for locally and federally endangered listed bird species, including the Mariana crow and the Rota bridled white-eye birds.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation previously passed the House in the last Congress, but, unfortunately, the Senate did not have time in its agenda to address the legislation prior to the end