

Some of the Japanese American survivors told stories of hope, of coming home and having had a neighbor take care of the farm or of having many in the Bainbridge Island community welcome them back with open arms.

While the particular stories are different, there are some basic realities. This is a dark chapter in our Nation's history. We have an obligation to ensure that future generations remember what took place so that these mistakes are not repeated.

Today the National Park Service manages three national historic sites related to the Japanese American incarceration. The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, which was included in 2008, is the only site administered by the Park Service that commemorates the forcible removal of Japanese Americans.

In April of this year, the Bainbridge Island City Council and the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreational District, which jointly own the memorial, officially renamed it the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial.

In order to eliminate any confusion and ensure that the official name of the site is formally recognized, H.R. 4751 would update the law to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. Not only will this name properly respect the unjustified and discriminatory treatment faced by this community, it will also bring greater attention to the beautiful site commemorating this difficult history.

I want to thank the many local leaders and community organizations who have worked in this for so many years. I am hopeful that we can move this effort forward for them, for our ancestors, and for future generations.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment Mr. KILMER in his legislation. I am one of the few people on this floor who lived through that period of time. The reason I remembered it, I was 10 years old. My father happened to be from California—and I myself was born and raised in California—went to the local farm bureau and caused a great disturbance because they started putting Japanese into internment camps, and he actually stood up in that meeting and said, I don't see any Germans serving in internment camps.

It was an unjust thing. Not only were they interned, their property was seized. We have never had a black eye in our history of the United States such as we had during that period of time.

I just hope people in America realize it can happen again. We have to be very aware of what we actually have from people when they are under stress or when they are under, they think, attack by fellow Americans.

So, I compliment you on this legislation. I did have an individual—actually, three individuals—from Alaska that I know of that served on that is-

land during that period of time. So again, I compliment you, Mr. KILMER, for your work on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I just also want to thank Representative KILMER for bringing forth this very important bill. Hopefully, this will be another step towards closure in this very—as Representative YOUNG mentioned, this tremendous injustice that occurred in this Nation.

With that, 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. 4751.

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. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

APPROVAL OF MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE SLAVES AND FREE BLACK PERSONS WHO FOUGHT IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 120) approving the location of a memorial to commemorate the more than 5,000 slaves and free Black persons who fought for independence in the American Revolution.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 120

Whereas section 8908(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code, provides that the location of a commemorative work in Area I, as depicted on the map entitled "Commemorative Areas Washington, DC and Environs", numbered 869/86501 B, and dated June 24, 2003, shall be deemed to be authorized only if a recommendation for that location is approved by law not later than 150 calendar days after Congress is notified of the recommendation;

Whereas section 2860 of Public Law 112-239 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note) authorized the National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on Federal land in Area I or Area II, as depicted on such map, to honor the more than 5,000 slaves and free Black persons who fought for American independence in the Revolutionary War; and

Whereas the Administrator of General Services has notified Congress of the Administrator's determination that such memorial should be located in Area I: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the location of a

commemorative work to honor the more than 5,000 slaves and free Black persons who fought in the American Revolution, authorized by section 2860 of division B of Public Law 112-239 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note), within Area I as described on the map entitled "Commemorative Areas Washington, DC and Environs", numbered 869/86501 B and dated June 24, 2003, is approved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) 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 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 myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in 2012 Congress authorized a National Mall Liberty Fund to establish a memorial on Federal land to honor the more than 5,000 slaves and free Black persons who served as soldiers and sailors or provided civilian assistance during the American Revolution.

Under the Commemorative Works Act, memorials must be recommended by the Government Service Administration for placement within what is known as Area I, which is generally the location around The National Mall in Washington. A recommendation may be issued if the Administrator finds a proposed memorial is of preeminence and of lasting significance.

On June 3, 2014, the GSA Administrator notified the Natural Resources Committee he found the proposed National Liberty Memorial to be of lasting significance. Under current law, once this notification is delivered, Congress has 150 days to concur with the finding. H.J. Res. 120 provides the necessary concurrence and allows this privately funded project to move forward. Again, I know of no Federal funds that will be used in this memorial.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, Washington, D.C., and The National Mall are where we honor our Nation's heroes and commemorate our most significant achievements. An important chapter in our history which has yet to be fully recognized is the contribution and the sacrifice of the over 5,000 slaves and free Black persons who fought to free the Colonies in our Nation's War of Independence. These brave, selfless men must not be forgotten and are certainly deserving of our lasting recognition. That is why in 2003 after years of

debate and effort, Congress authorized the National Liberty Memorial.

The National Liberty Memorial will serve as an important remembrance. I am very pleased that we are able to consider this bill today. When Congress authorizes the establishment of a memorial in Washington, D.C., it then takes years of planning to select a design and location. Fortunately, for the Liberty Memorial, a site has been selected. One of the last hurdles is approval from Congress, and with the adoption of H.J. Res. 120, that is why and what we are here to do today.

□ 1800

Getting this far would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the bill's sponsor, Representative BUTTERFIELD from North Carolina. I would like to thank him and congratulate him for his work and look forward to soon visiting the new National Liberty Memorial.

We support this legislation and thank the majority for bringing it up for consideration. With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. First, I want to thank you, Mr. LOWENTHAL, for those kind words and thank you for your leadership. Thank you for yielding time today and for working very hard to bring this important resolution to the House floor. I also appreciate the work of the Natural Resources Committee chairman, DOC HASTINGS, and Ranking Member PETE DEFAZIO, and you, Mr. YOUNG, for considering this resolution expeditiously and for seeing that it was favorably reported by the committee.

Also, let me thank Senator CHRIS MURPHY from Connecticut, who used to serve in this body and now serves in the United States Senate, for introducing a companion bill in the Senate. His support is critical, and I thank him for his commitment to this important issue. I hope that the Senate will act as expeditiously and in as bipartisan a fashion as has the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 120, a bill that I introduced that will formally approve the location that was selected by the Administrator of the General Services Administration of a memorial that will recognize the thousands of slaves and free persons of color, or as historians sometimes refer to, free Negroes, who fought for independence during the American Revolution.

Federal law requires, Mr. Speaker, that the location for the memorial identified by the Administrator of GSA be formally approved by Congress within 150 days of receiving the recommendation by the GSA Administrator.

The memorial that will eventually be constructed to honor tens of thousands of slaves and free people of color who helped to secure American independence during the Revolution will be a fitting tribute to their heroic actions that helped shape the very foundation of our Nation.

For generations, historians estimated that at least 5,000 African Americans—both slave and free—fought for American independence. Revised estimates now show more than 10,000 brave men joined the fight. At least 252 of these patriots came from North Carolina, and at least 109 of those came from my congressional district, the counties of Bertie, Chowan, Craven, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, Pasquotank, and Perquimans.

The president general of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution wrote of the brave souls who fought for freedom when they themselves were not free that “they deserve special recognition in order to help better educate our country.”

In 2008, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution published landmark research containing the names and communities of these African American patriots. The research is continuously updated with the discovery of new heroes. Scores of African American men and women have been accepted by heritage societies that had not been previously open to their membership.

The desire to honor these brave men and their descendants in a permanent and meaningful way had long been championed by a distinguished Member of this body who has since passed away, Congressman Donald Payne, Sr. Congressman Payne introduced authorizing language as far back as 2005. After Congressman Payne's death, I have worked to get this effort to the finish line, guided by his words that “this memorial is an important chapter in the reclamation of African American history.”

There are over 2 million descendants of these Revolutionary War patriots nationwide. This eventual memorial will show the Nation, and it will show the world, Mr. Speaker, that the sacrifices and heroic efforts of African Americans—both slave and free—who took up arms to secure America's independence are not forgotten. It will permanently affirm what we know to be true: these patriots and their service to our then-infant Nation will forever be of preeminent historical and lasting significance to our country that they fought to create.

Again, I thank you for the time, Mr. LOWENTHAL.

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Representative BUTTERFIELD from North Carolina for helping us get this across the finish line.

We are really going to honor these brave Americans, both slaves and free blacks, who fought for American independence, and I think this is a wonderful bill.

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 joint resolution, H.J. Res. 120.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 5089, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5019, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4283, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DANIEL M. FERGUSON POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5089) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Mulford Road in Mulberry, Florida, as the “Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson Post Office”, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 0, not voting 30, as follows: