

Asian American Native American Pacific Islander serving institutions of higher education on par with other minority serving institutions and make them eligible for important historic preservation education and training.

I would like to recognize my colleague, Mr. GRIJALVA, for his leadership in introducing H.R. 1541, and also working closely with me on my amendment to also include Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions.

Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed to our nation's rich history and unique cultural heritage. AAPI contributions to this nation's history are evident from New Orleans being a stop on the Spanish Galleon trade route, to the salmon canneries in Alaska, to early Chamorro villages in the Mariana Islands, to pineapple fields in Hawaii, or to the tremendous efforts AAPIs made in constructing the railroads that crisscross our country. Making Hispanic serving institutions and Asian American Native American and Pacific Islander serving institutions eligible for preservation training and degree programs will further enrich and ensure our diverse history is shared for generations to come.

This bill has bipartisan support, and I commend my colleagues for their support. I encourage support of H.R. 1541.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1541, 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.

TAKING LAND INTO TRUST FOR THE SUSANVILLE INDIAN RANCHERIA

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2212) to take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2212

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

SECTION 1. LAND INTO TRUST FOR THE SUSANVILLE INDIAN RANCHERIA.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The land described in subsection (b) is hereby taken into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, subject to valid existing rights.

(b) *LAND DESCRIPTION.*—The land taken into trust pursuant to subsection (a) is the approximately 301 acres of Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management identified as "Conveyance Boundary" on the map titled "Susanville Indian Rancheria Land Conveyance" and dated December 31, 2014.

(c) *GAMING.*—Class II and class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) shall not be allowed at any time on the land taken into trust pursuant to subsection (a).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMALFA. 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2212, which would direct the Secretary of the Interior to place into trust 300 acres of Bureau of Land Management land for the Susanville Indian Rancheria. These isolated and surplus BLM lands are adjacent to existing tribal lands in Lassen County, California.

Since 2005, the tribe has worked with the local California BLM office to one day complete the transfer of these lands, which are culturally and historically significant to the tribe.

Comprised of the descendants of four tribes within the region—the Mountain Maidu, Northern Paiute, the Pit River, and the Washoe—the Susanville Indian Rancheria has a long history of relocation and adversity. The Rancheria's ancestors were party to 18 unratified treaties with the Federal Government, and their lands were taken after passage of the Land Claims Act of 1851.

Displaced during the California gold rush of the 1850s, the tribe was homeless until 1923, when the Federal Government purchased and placed into trust 30 acres. Since that time, another 120 acres were added by Congress in 1978 and approximately 950 acres have been added by BIA action.

The Rancheria has long ties to this land, which holds a number of cultural, historical, and archeological sites, including grinding stones, petroglyphs, and other important artifacts. Rancheria members also gather traditional herbs, medicines, and vegetables on the land and continue to hunt game in the area as their ancestors did.

The land has been classified as surplus by the BLM, which has written in support of transferring the parcel to the Rancheria, and it is adjacent, again, to the Rancheria's existing lands.

The Rancheria intends to continue using the land for traditional purposes as well as eventually constructing a cultural center, a museum, and recreational facilities, including sports fields.

At the request of the tribe, the bill includes a prohibition on gaming. The Rancheria has long proven to be a conscientious and thoughtful neighbor to the City of Susanville, and I have no doubt that it will prove to be a good steward of this land.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was passed by the Natural Resources Committee with unanimous support. The Senate counterpart, sponsored by Senator BOXER, who we found agreement on this legislation on, also received unanimous support in the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

I urge your support and thank you for your consideration of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 2212, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), our colleague, is indeed a good piece of legislation. Three hundred acres of BLM land in the Hidden Valley area of Lassen County, California, will be put into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria.

The land in question is not only adjacent to Susanville's current trust land, it is also part of their aboriginal territories. There are numerous cultural and archeological sites on the land that the Susanville members seek to protect, including the remains of a historic Native American village.

In addition, the area is an important traditional hunting ground and is utilized for traditional ceremonies. The land has been identified by BLM as excess inventory and a cost burden to the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a win-win for all parties involved. The Susanville Rancheria members will finally have a portion of its historic land returned, and the Federal Government will save money on administrative costs on land that it does not want.

I want to congratulate the sponsor of the legislation. I urge its swift passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), the committee's ranking member, and the unanimous effort to move this bill out of committee.

Mr. Speaker, I seek support for my legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2212, 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.

BILLY FRANK JR. TELL YOUR STORY ACT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2270) to redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine

Creek Treaty National Historic Site within the wildlife refuge, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2270

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 “Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act”.

SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION OF THE NISQUALLY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(a) **REDESIGNATION.**—*The Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, is redesignated as the “Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge”.*

(b) **REFERENCES.**—*Any reference in any statute, rule, regulation, Executive Order, publication, map, paper, or other document of the United States to the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge is deemed to refer to the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.*

SEC. 3. MEDICINE CREEK TREATY NATIONAL MEMORIAL, WASHINGTON.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—*There is established the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial within the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge to commemorate the location of the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854 between the United States Government and leaders of the Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Puyallup, and Squaxin Island Indian Tribes.*

(b) **ACREAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.**—*The Secretary of the Interior shall establish the boundaries of the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial and provide for administration and interpretation of the memorial by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.*

(c) **COORDINATION.**—*The Secretary of the Interior shall coordinate with representatives of the Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Puyallup, and Squaxin Island Indian Tribes in providing for the interpretation of the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial.*

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMALFA. 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 2270, introduced by my friend, Congressman DENNY HECK of Washington, and cosponsored by the entire Washington delegation would redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge and establish within the refuge the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial.

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This bill is intended to honor the life and legacy of Billy Frank Jr., who dedicated his life to bringing together

tribes, government officials, and others to improve treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, environmental stewardship, and salmon recovery in the Puget Sound area. Frank Jr., who passed away in 2014, was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism and the Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010.

The bill also establishes a national memorial within the refuge to commemorate the signing of the 1854 Medicine Creek Treaty, which established reservation land and the right to fish for Puget Sound area tribes.

Congressman HECK has worked tirelessly to honor the treaty and the life and work of Billy Frank Jr. I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 2270.

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

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

H.R. 2270 designates the national wildlife refuge on the Nisqually River Delta as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Renaming this refuge will honor Billy Frank Jr.’s legacy on the river where he spent his life. Billy Frank Jr., who passed away last year, has been recognized for his work defending treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, and salmon recovery efforts in his home State of Washington.

Aside from the awards that were noted by my colleague that he has received, on November 24, President Obama presented his family with the Medal of Freedom honor that he so justly deserved.

The bill also creates a national memorial to commemorate the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty in 1854.

I want to congratulate and thank my colleague from Washington, Representative HECK, for his tireless work and advocacy on behalf of this legislation.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I again commend the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), my friend, for his quality legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, just last week we were home celebrating Thanksgiving, and we were giving thanks for everything we are blessed with, everything we cherish—frankly, probably a lot of the things we take for granted.

For those of us in the Pacific Northwest, we give thanks for the Puget Sound, we give thanks for our salmon, we give thanks for all the natural beauty that surrounds us, and we give thanks that Billy Frank Jr. was in our lives.

As was indicated earlier, in addition to the many other awards he received in his lifetime, just last week the President conferred upon Billy Frank

Jr., posthumously, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It is literally no exaggeration to suggest that what Martin Luther King meant to civil rights and Nelson Mandela meant to South Africa, Billy Frank Jr. meant to the entire Pacific Northwest, indeed, to indigenous people throughout the globe.

He is a fitting person for the prestigious honor that we hope to bestow on him today. We have an opportunity to do something today—and I recommend we seize it—to preserve his legacy in the place he called home.

Billy Frank Jr. was, indeed, the foremost advocate for restoration of Native American fishing treaty rights in the Pacific Northwest. He cherished clean water and healthy salmon runs. He was a key voice in the recovery of the Puget Sound.

He also, as has not been mentioned, proudly served our Nation in the United States Marine Corps. He was an MP, I believe, during the Korean war.

He got along with everyone. He was open and inclusive. His energy was, literally, infectious.

We were deeply stunned in May of 2014 that he passed away even though, at the age of 83, we thought Billy would live forever. He is gone, but his spirit is not and his story is not. His courage and belief in us is here because, you see, Billy wandered the Halls of Congress frequently and testified numerous times. He respected this institution, and he was a powerful voice within our Chambers.

His story is in the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge in the 10th Congressional District, which I have the privilege to represent, which we now protect to give our wildlife a clean and sustainable home.

Billy grew up at a place called Frank’s Landing, which is literally just a hop, skip, and a jump from the refuge. He fished in the Nisqually River, in and next to the area where the refuge is now. That is the location where he was arrested more than 50 times for advocating for his treaty fishing rights.

This bill will rename that refuge after Billy Frank Jr. Also, as has been indicated, it calls for the establishment of a national memorial at the exact place of the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty in 1854. That was the first treaty in the State of Washington between Indian people and the newly established territorial government. In this case, it was between the people of the Nisqually, the Puyallup, Squaxin Island, and the Muckleshoots.

Throughout his storied career, people often asked Billy: How is it you do this, get up every day and so effectively advocate on behalf of clean water and good fish runs? How do you do that decade after decade?

He would always tell them the same thing: Tell your story.

So when people go to the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, they will be able to see why he held fish-ins. They will see why he risked

arrest. They will see why he ultimately worked with others to help protect his home. Like many young people today, he fought for what he believed in, but later worked with lawmakers to build consensus. He started out as a civil rights protestor, civilly disobedient and an advocate. He ended up being one of the great uniters in the history of the Nation and certainly the Pacific Northwest.

I hope that when people drive by the sign that directs them to the refuge, maybe they will feel a little of that Billy magic, too. Maybe they will wonder: Well, who was this Billy Frank Jr.? What did he do? For those of us who knew him, it will be a frequent reminder of this hero.

They say you die twice: the first time, and the second time when they stop speaking about you. It is our goal that they never stop speaking about Billy Frank Jr. and the lessons he taught us all. The refuge will be a constant reminder.

I knew Billy for almost 40 years. I loved him like a beloved uncle. In fact, I called him Uncle Billy. But I was absolutely not special in that regard. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people did the same thing. Indeed, at his memorial service, the official estimate of the number in attendance was 10,000. That is how beloved this man was.

I would like to thank the members of the House Committee on Natural Resources who unanimously approved this bill and all the members of the House delegation from Washington State. I would also like to especially recognize Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and the hard-working committee staff, both for the majority and the minority, for their help on this legislation.

In conclusion, Billy once famously said: "I don't believe in magic. I believe in the sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, the wind talking. They're measurements. They tell us how healthy things are. How healthy we are. Because we and they are the same."

Let's remind visitors that we and they are the same at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, again, Mr. HECK is to be commended for bringing forward such a worthy piece of legislation to honor a man who has done so much in that area. Indeed, this legislation will make sure that his story continues to be told and that he will always be commemorated and memorialized in that region because of that. Congratulations to you on this.

I am proud to support the bill.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in standing up today for a true American hero, Billy Frank Jr.

For Billy, protecting our natural world and everything that depends on it wasn't a political issue; rather, it was an innate calling. Folks responded to that.

They followed his fearless protests by standing up for civil rights. They followed his example by becoming fishermen themselves in places like South Puget Sound. They followed his lead in championing clean water and fish runs and protecting Puget Sound. They listened to his ideas about keeping communities vibrant by building tribal youth centers.

In the marble Halls of Congress, he convinced so many that tribal treaty rights could not be held back and that we can't keep damaging our environment, that we have got to stand up for extraordinary bodies of water like Puget Sound. He left tracks all across our State and our Nation, and his advocacy will live on.

To help honor this legacy, I encourage my colleagues to vote for this bill sponsored by Congressman HECK that I was proud to cosponsor, renaming the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge the Billy Frank Jr. National Wildlife Refuge. It is the right thing to do to honor all the work that Billy did for all of us. It should serve as a reminder that we need to keep fighting for all of those things he fought for.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, before I yield back the balance of my time, let me thank the chair of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Ranking Member TSONGAS for their work and the staff's work on this.

Again, to Mr. HECK and the delegation from Washington, this is a great piece of legislation. I urge its passage.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. 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 California (Mr. LAMALFA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2270, 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. LAMALFA. 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.

ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR 2016 LOCALITY-BASED COMPARABILITY PAYMENTS—A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-81)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Gov-

ernment Reform and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am transmitting an alternative plan for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2016.

Title 5, United States Code, authorizes me to implement alternative pay plans for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems if, because of "national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare," I view the adjustments that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate.

Civilian Federal employees have already made significant sacrifices as a result of 3-year pay freeze that ended in January 2014. In January 2014 and again in January 2015, increases for civilian Federal employees were limited to a 1.0 percent overall pay increase, an amount lower than the private sector pay increases and statutory formula for adjustments to the base General Schedule for 2014 and 2015. However, as the country's economic recovery continues, we must maintain efforts to keep our Nation on a sustainable fiscal course. This is an effort that continues to require tough choices.

Under current law, locality pay increases averaging 28.74 percent and costing \$26 billion would go into effect in January 2016. Federal agency budgets cannot sustain such increases. Accordingly, I have determined that under the authority of section 5304a of title 5, United States Code, locality-based comparability payments for the locality pay areas established by the President's Pay Agent, in the amounts set forth in the attached table, shall become effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2016. These rates are based on an allocation of 0.3 percent of payroll as indicated in my August 28, 2015, alternative pay plan for adjustments to the base General Schedule. These decisions will not materially affect our ability to attract and retain a well-qualified Federal workforce.

The adjustments described above shall take effect on the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 30, 2015.

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 5 o'clock and 30 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