

JAMES K. POLK PRESIDENTIAL HOME STUDY ACT

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 443) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 443

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 “James K. Polk Presidential Home Study Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) in 1961, the James K. Polk Home was designated as a National Historic Landmark; and

(2) in April 2015, the National Park Service completed a reconnaissance survey of the James K. Polk Home, in which the National Park Service—

(A) determined that—

(i) the James K. Polk Home is conclusively nationally significant; and

(ii) a special resource study is needed to fully analyze the suitability, feasibility, and need for management of the James K. Polk Home by the National Park Service; and

(B) recommended that Congress consider authorizing a special resource study for the James K. Polk Home and associated properties.

SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a special resource study of the site of the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, and adjacent property (referred to in this Act as the “site”).

(b) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall conduct the study under subsection (a) in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

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

(1) evaluate the national significance of the site;

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

(3) include cost estimates for any necessary acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of the site;

(4) consult with interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or other interested individuals; and

(5) identify alternatives for the management, administration, and protection of the site.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the study under subsection (a), 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 that describes—

(1) the findings and conclusions of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1730

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

Mr. Speaker, President James K. Polk lived in Columbia, Tennessee, from 1819 until 1824. Other than the White House itself, the Columbia, Tennessee, site is the only surviving residence of our 11th President. It is the repository of many original artifacts from his life.

Although he served a single term, Polk left our Nation with a remarkable legacy of public accomplishments, including expansion of our Western territories and the establishment of the U.S. Naval Academy. My home State of California owes him a particular debt of gratitude.

Indeed, he made four campaign promises and, in 4 years, he fulfilled all four.

President Polk left office in 1849, and returned to Nashville, Tennessee, where he lived for 3 months before his death.

The James K. Polk home in Columbia, Tennessee, was designated as a national historic landmark in 1961. In April of 2015, the National Park Service completed a reconnaissance survey of the home and determined that the site warrants a special resource study.

H.R. 443 would authorize the special resource study of the James K. Polk home to evaluate its national significance and the suitability and feasibility for a potential designation of the area as a unit of the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 443 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability of designating the James K. Polk home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System. The home is the only surviving residence of our 11th President, President Polk, and contains over 1,300 artifacts and original documents.

The National Park Service has previously testified in support of this bill. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill and helping us preserve an important part of our Nation's history.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to

the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DESJARLAIS), the author of this measure and another tireless advocate for Tennessee.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, as mentioned, the James K. Polk Presidential Home Study Act would require the Department of the Interior to study adding our 11th President's only surviving residence to the National Park Service. The aim of my bill is to help the charity that currently maintains the property in Columbia, Tennessee, to preserve it for future generations.

Two hundred years ago, Columbia was a frontier town in a new State. Nobody knew the United States would eventually stretch from sea to shining sea, but James Polk had confidence and vision.

He was a country lawyer who rose from the Tennessee State house to the Governor's office, then to the House of Representatives here in Congress. James Polk was the only Speaker of the House to ever be elected President.

Polk oversaw the establishment of the U.S. Naval Academy, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Department of the Interior.

Most importantly, he fulfilled his promise to Western settlers to expand the country's boundaries to the Pacific. Without James Polk's contributions, the United States might not look like it does today, a strong, prosperous Nation spanning a continent.

The outcome was not always certain; however, today, we enjoy the fruits of President Polk's often overlooked legacy. Many historians consider him to be the most successful pre-Civil War President. People in Columbia consider him a local hero. He is a national hero and deserves a place of honor in our National Park System.

I appreciate Representative MARSHA BLACKBURN's support for my legislation to accomplish this goal. I also thank Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, who has offered companion legislation in the Senate, and we all anticipate progress.

I want to thank the Columbia city leaders and the many volunteers who have tirelessly worked on this project and helped bring this issue to my attention. We all look forward to its continued prosperity and recognition.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, if I may inquire as to whether the gentleman from California has any more speakers.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and helping us preserve an important part of our Nation's history.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA)

for her support, and I ask for adoption of the measure.

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. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 443.

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.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO FALLEN EDUCATORS ACT

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 167) to designate a National Memorial to Fallen Educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 167

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 “National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act”.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The memorial to fallen educators located at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas, is designated as the “National Memorial to Fallen Educators”.

(b) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—The national memorial designated by this section is not a unit of the National Park System and the designation of the National Memorial to Fallen Educators shall not require or permit Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to that national memorial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 167 designates the existing memorial to fallen educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas, as the National Memorial to Fallen Educators.

We all know the life-inspiring and life-changing role that teachers play in each of our lives. I dare say that we, all of us, have had teachers whose influence looms large through our lives because of something they once did to in-

spire, motivate, or equip us for the lives we lead through the decades that follow.

Often, their influence on us only becomes obvious as we look back on their role in our lives through the perspective of the years, by which time we have often lost them or lost touch with them. It is through official acts like this before us today that we can express our gratitude, if not individually, then collectively as a Nation.

I would also like to say, on a personal note, that our daughter, Shannah, began her career as a first grade teacher, and her mother and I couldn't be more proud of her.

The bill before us today is a small token of recognition to a small group of teachers, who not only dedicated their lives to teaching, but who gave their lives during the performance of their duties.

On June 12, 2014, the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas, dedicated the memorial to the 119 educators who have lost their lives while teaching since 1764.

This bill gives Federal recognition to this memorial, while retaining it under the jurisdiction of the National Teachers Hall of Fame. No taxpayer money will be used for it, and management will not be transferred to the National Park Service. But the bill will give official Federal recognition to it as a small token of respect and appreciation from the American people.

I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 167 establishes Federal designation to an existing memorial recognizing fallen educators from across our country at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas.

The Fallen Educators Memorial currently includes the names of educators and faculty from Columbine to Sandy Hook and many others who have lost their lives while serving our Nation's youth. The bill's designation will serve to further honor the countless educators that have given everything while on the job.

I support this legislation, and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of passing this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

This concludes six bills, all bipartisan, that have been reported out by the Natural Resources Committee today, and I think that is worthy of note. I want to again thank my Democratic colleague, Ms. HANABUSA, for her support and bipartisan cooperation on these measures. I urge adoption of the 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 California (Mr.

MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 167.

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. MCCLINTOCK. 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.

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 40 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. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5192, PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM IDENTITY THEFT ACT

Mr. NEWHOUSE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-640) on the resolution (H. Res. 830) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5192) to authorize the Commissioner of Social Security to provide confirmation of fraud protection data to certain permitted entities, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5444, TAXPAYER FIRST ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5445, 21ST CENTURY IRS ACT

Mr. NEWHOUSE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-641) on the resolution (H. Res. 831) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5444) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5445) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve cybersecurity and taxpayer identity protection, and modernize the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings