

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for supporting the bill.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), my good friend.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5242, the School Resource Officer Assessment Act of 2018, as amended. I am the author of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, so far, in 2018, there have been 21 school shootings that have resulted in injuries or loss of life. While it is impossible for us to anticipate every attempt and impossible to enact regulations that would prevent them, one thing we can do is to ensure that honorable, patriotic, public servants are available to guard our schools, students, and teachers against acts of violence. Considering the recent string of school shootings, it has become clear that increasing the use of school resource officers should play a major role in protecting our schools.

Currently, there are 95,230 public schools in the United States. Our research has clarified that hard data does not exist regarding law enforcement assets at these schools. We estimate—and we can only estimate—that there may be a 30 percent utilization of school resource officers across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the first step in promoting school safety is evaluating what SRO assets we have on the ground and how public schools are using them. After we have a clear understanding of the field, we in Congress will be able to more effectively direct resources to where they are most needed. That is why I have introduced this bill.

My bill would simply give Congress the information we need to make effective decisions regarding school safety by requiring the U.S. Attorney General and the U.S. Secretary of Education to gather data regarding the number and status of school resource officers assigned to each public school in the United States.

My bill is a commonsense, information-gathering bill that has bipartisan support and has been endorsed by the National Association of School Resource Officers. This legislation is the first piece of several initiatives I will be introducing and supporting to secure our schools.

I would like to thank Chairwoman FOXX and Ranking Member SCOTT, who are on the Education and the Workforce Committee, and their staffs for their help in getting this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the cosponsors of my bill, in particular, Representative RUPPERSBERGER, for his help in this process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for introducing this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), my friend, for introducing this bill. I am bringing it forward as an opportunity to support safer communities and those who take on the responsibility and make the sacrifices to make our schools safer.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HIGGINS for his service not just to this institution and to his constituents, but to the citizens of this country he protected as a military police officer, as well as those in Louisiana, where he served as local law enforcement. Like all of the men and women we honor for National Police Week this week, our colleague from Louisiana has “walked the walk” and it is an honor to serve with him.

Mr. Speaker, I simply urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5242, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ZELDIN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5242, 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.

MEDGAR EVERS HOME NATIONAL MONUMENT ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4895) to establish the Medgar Evers National Monument in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4895

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 “Medgar Evers Home National Monument Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MONUMENT.—The term “Monument” means the Medgar Evers Home National Monument established by section 3.

(2) HISTORIC DISTRICT.—The term “Historic District” means the Medgar Evers Historic District, as included on the National Register of Historic Places, and as generally depicted on the Map.

(3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Medgar Evers Home National Monument”, numbered 515/142561, and dated February 2018.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(5) COLLEGE.—The term “College” means Tougaloo College, a private educational institution located in Tougaloo, Mississippi.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDGAR EVERS HOME NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there is established the Medgar Evers Home National Monument in the State of Mississippi as a unit of the National Park Sys-

tem to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations resources associated with Medgar Evers’ pivotal role in the American Civil Rights Movement.

(2) CONDITIONS.—The Monument shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary—

(A) has entered into a written agreement with the College providing that all parcels within the Medgar Evers Home National Monument boundary as depicted on the Map shall be donated to the United States for inclusion in the Monument to be managed consistently with the purposes of the Monument; and

(B) has otherwise acquired sufficient land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Monument to constitute a manageable unit.

(b) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the Monument shall be the boundaries as generally depicted on the Map.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(d) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may only acquire any land or interest in land located within the boundary of the Monument by—

(1) donation;

(2) purchase with donated funds; or

(3) exchange.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Monument in accordance with—

(A) this Act; and

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

(ii) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to the Secretary for this purpose, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the Monument in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

(B) On completion of the general management plan under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall submit it to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) MONUMENT.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the College for interpretive and educational programming related to the Monument, and may enter into other cooperative agreements for the purposes of carrying out this Act.

(2) HISTORIC DISTRICT.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the owner of a nationally significant property within the Historic District, to identify, mark, interpret, improve, restore, and provide technical assistance with respect to the preservation and interpretation of the property.

(g) NO BUFFER ZONES.—Nothing in this Act, the establishment of the Monument, or the management of the Monument shall be construed to create buffer zones outside of the Monument. The fact that an activity or use can be seen, heard, or detected from within the Monument shall not preclude the conduct of that activity or use outside of the Monument.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I know this is somewhat unusual, but I really would like to have the sponsor of this bill have the first opportunity to speak towards it. It is one of my favorites, so I am going to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for being so kind in yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider H.R. 4895, the Medgar Evers Home National Monument Act, a bipartisan bill to designate the home of civil rights leader Medgar Evers as a national monument.

Located in Jackson, Mississippi, the Evers family home, which was designated a national historic landmark in 2017, is hallowed ground for those of us who lived through the struggle for racial equality and desegregation.

That single-story ranch-style house bore witness to one of the most consequential moments in the civil rights era: the assassination of Medgar Wiley Evers, a son of Mississippi, who was assassinated in his driveway by those who saw his efforts at making America a more perfect and just Union as a threat.

Through his work for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Medgar Evers earned an indelible place in the annals of American history and the civil rights movement. Mr. Evers was a hero for change, resistance, and equal rights for African-American citizens in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to, in my capacity as a Congressman of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, author this legislation to honor the sacrifice of not just civil rights icon Medgar Evers, but his widow, Myrlie, by designating their home as a national monument.

Medgar Evers had a vision to defeat injustice for African Americans in the State of Mississippi as well as throughout the United States. Born in Decatur, Mississippi, Mr. Evers lived through the Jim Crow South and wrangled with the overwhelming plight of racial discrimination head-on.

Mr. Evers was a 1952 graduate of what is now known as Alcorn State University, a great institution situated in my district. After graduating, Evers worked on the Regional Council of

Negro Leadership, which provided him with critical training in activism. Then, in 1954, he applied to the University of Mississippi School of Law, and despite the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision, his application was rejected.

After the rejection by the University of Mississippi School of Law, Mr. Evers accepted the position of State field secretary for the NAACP. Over a 9-year period, Mr. Evers crisscrossed the State, working to get African Americans involved in civil rights activism and to register to vote.

Even though racial discrimination and oppression had polluted the minds of an overwhelming majority of Whites in Mississippi and throughout the South, Mr. Evers led many of the fights against injustice. His dogged pursuit for justice made him a target for hate, and on June 12, 1963, Mr. Evers was gunned down in the driveway of his home and later died at a local hospital.

Designating the home of Medgar Evers a national monument will be an everlasting tribute to his legacy and journey that countless Americans undertook for equality.

This legislation is of great personal importance to me because I, like many others, was inspired by the magnitude of the determination of Mr. Evers to dedicate himself to others and fight against adversity. I am honored to walk the path paved by such a civil rights icon.

H.R. 4895 is a bipartisan measure. Representative ROB BISHOP of Utah is an original cosponsor.

Additionally, it adds significant support from stakeholders. I received letters of support for H.R. 4895 from Tougaloo College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the Jackson Historic Preservation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I include these letters of support in the RECORD.

TOUGALOO COLLEGE,
Tougaloo, MS, January 29, 2018.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Natural Resources Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BISHOP: I have discussed with the leadership of Tougaloo College's Board of Trustees the plan to designate the Medgar Evers Home Museum as a national monument through congressional legislation. We have reviewed the proposed draft legislation and spoken with Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, our congressional representative. We have also spoken with the Mrs. Myrlie Evers Williams and her daughter. We have received no opposition to the plan to move forward with this designation through congressional legislation.

We support the transfer of ownership to the National Park Services, if the legislation passes. We are inspired by the distinction this designation would mean for the Medgar Evers Home and the legacy of Medgar Evers. We are also encouraged to know the Home would be maintained by the National Park Services. We are equally encouraged that there will be opportunities for the College to continue to play a role with the Home through interpretative and educational programming as well as other learning opportunities that might be available for our students.

Thank you for contacting Tougaloo College. We look forward to hearing from you regarding the next steps.

Sincerely,

BEVERLY W. HOGAN,
President.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION,

Jackson, MS, February 5, 2018.

Re Medgar Evers National Monument.

Mr. TERRY CAMP,

Professional Staff, Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

DEAR MR. CAMP: The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) is pleased to know that the Committee of Natural Resources will be considering House Bill 4895, which would establish the Medgar and Myrlie Evers House in Jackson, Mississippi, as a National Monument. The Medgar and Myrlie Evers House was designated as a Mississippi Landmark in 1993 and for the past two decades, MDAH has worked closely with the property's owner, Tougaloo College, on the house's restoration. In 2017, the Medgar and Myrlie Evers House was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior. Thanks to all those efforts, the house is now an important venue for telling the stories of Mississippi's Civil Rights struggle and explaining how the dedication and labors of one couple changed not only Mississippi but the nation as a whole. With the recent opening of the new Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, those stories have an even wider audience.

We certainly appreciate the efforts of Congressman Thompson in drafting this legislation and join our friends and colleagues at Tougaloo College in wholeheartedly endorsing House Bill 4895.

Sincerely,

KENNETH H. P'POOL,
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION,
Jackson, MS, February 5, 2018.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Natural Resources Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BISHOP: I have reviewed the Bill H.R. 4895 and the Legislative Hearing Memo on this bill with other Jackson Historic Preservation Commissioners. I enthusiastically support the establishment of the Medgar Evers National Monument under the purview of the National Park Service.

Medgar Evers was Field Secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi from January 1955 until his assassination on June 12, 1963, in front of this house. The house was designated as Jackson local landmark in 1992 and the neighborhood surrounding the house was designated a local historic district, called the Medgar Evers Neighborhood Historic District, in 1994.

We are inspired by the establishment of the Medgar Evers National Monument would mean for the Medgar Evers Home, the legacy of Medgar Evers, and for the Medgar Evers historic neighborhood. We are also encouraged that there will be opportunities for Jackson Historic Preservation Commission to continue to play a role in preserving Medgar Evers Neighborhood Historic District.

Thank you for contacting Jackson Historic Preservation Commission. As the chairman of Jackson Historic Preservation Commission, I urge the committee to offer favorable consideration to this request for establishing

the Medgar Evers National Monument in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes. Sincerely,

JEFF SEABOLD,
Chairman.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his very kind yielding of time.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for, one, chronicling the legacy and untimely death of Medgar Evers, a favorite son of Mississippi and civil rights hero, and also for his personal remarks on how he inspired him.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. THOMPSON introducing this bill, and introducing it with his remarks so far. This is an important one to me, too, which is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill.

I remember this gentleman, and I remember the events of his assassination. I think it had an impact on everybody.

Medgar Evers was born in 1925 and served in the military during World War II in both Germany and France and then became one of those who fought to try and integrate a law school in the 1950s.

He was assassinated, as Mr. THOMPSON said, in 1963, and I clearly remember watching that on the news at the time and being impacted by it.

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Mr. SOTO probably wasn't even born then, but the rest of us still remember this event going on there.

He tragically died within an hour after that shooting and is now buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The home was donated to Tougaloo University, and it is currently being operated as a museum with period pieces, as well as the memorabilia that talks about the legacy of this icon of the civil rights movement.

I am happy that we are doing this particular bill, because these are the kinds of projects that should be national monuments. These are the historical sites that need to be in the National Park System so that people can go there, they can learn, and, more importantly, so they can remember. Because it is in forgetting in which we sin; in remembering is when we will never forget the legacy of Medgar Evers and what he sacrificed to move this country forward in some particular way.

So I commend Representative THOMPSON for introducing this legislation. I am very proud of the way we are doing it. This is the proper way of creating a national monument: by legislative action and going through the legislative process, during the hearing, during the committee, bringing it to the floor, and then taking it over to the Senate.

I expect this to be passed very quickly. I expect this to become a reality. And I expect this to be an illustration of how Congress should be creating national monuments going forward in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, while I was born 15 years after the untimely death of Mr. Medgar Evers, we live in a more just and perfect union as a result of his sacrifices.

So I thank his sacrifices and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for bringing this bill.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I will not say the gentleman is just a child.

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 Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4895, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to establish the Medgar Evers Home National Monument in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY BOUNDARY EXPANSION ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 35) to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 35

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 National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CEMETERY.—The term "Cemetery" means the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, South Dakota.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means the approximately 200 acres of Bureau of Land Management land adjacent to the Cemetery, generally depicted as "Proposed National Cemetery Expansion" on the map entitled "Proposed Expansion of Black Hills National Cemetery-South Dakota" and dated June 16, 2016.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. TRANSFER AND WITHDRAWAL OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND FOR CEMETERY USE.

(a) CONDUCT OF DUE DILIGENCE ACTIVITIES BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the transfer of administrative jurisdiction and withdrawal of the Federal land under subsections (b) and (c), respectively, and subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall complete any appropriate environmental, cultural resource, and other due diligence activities on the Federal land that would enable the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to confirm that the Federal land is suitable for cemetery purposes.

(2) NOTICE; REQUIRED COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(A) before conducting any due diligence activities under paragraph (1), notify the Secretary of the activities to be conducted;

(B) as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines to be necessary in the conduct of the due diligence activities under paragraph (1), coordinate the activities with the Secretary; and

(C) if the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines, on completion of the due diligence activities under paragraph (1), that the Federal land is suitable for cemetery purposes, submit written notice of the determination to the Secretary.

(b) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—

(1) TRANSFER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—On receipt by the Secretary of written notice of a determination that the Federal land is suitable for cemetery purposes under subsection (a)(2)(C), except as provided in subparagraph (B), and subject to valid existing rights, administrative jurisdiction over the Federal land is transferred from the Secretary to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for use as a national cemetery in accordance with chapter 24 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Federal land under subparagraph (A) shall not include the land located within 100 feet of the center of the Centennial Trail, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Expansion of Black Hills National Cemetery-South Dakota" and dated June 16, 2016.

(2) LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice containing a legal description of the Federal land.

(B) EFFECT.—A legal description published under subparagraph (A) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical and typographical errors in the legal description.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—Copies of the legal description published under subparagraph (A) shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of—

(i) the Bureau of Land Management; and

(ii) the National Cemetery Administration.

(D) COSTS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall reimburse the Secretary for the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this paragraph, including the costs of any surveys and other reasonable costs.

(c) WITHDRAWAL.—On receipt by the Secretary of written notice of a determination that the Federal land is suitable for cemetery purposes under subsection (a)(2)(C) and subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land—

(1) is withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral leasing laws, and the geothermal leasing laws; and