

□ 1730

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, yes, I do. Not only that, but I remember the song that included Route 66. He will remember that, if he is young enough.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, it is running through my head right now.

This is a good piece of legislation. This is more than just nostalgia. This actually helps preserve our history. It is the right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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. 801, 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.

FREE VETERANS FROM FEES ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3997) to waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans demonstrations and special events at war memorials on Federal land, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3997

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 "Free Veterans from Fees Act".

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FEE FOR VETERANS DEMONSTRATIONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

(a) **WAIVER.**—*The application fee for any special use permit solely for a veterans demonstration or special event at war memorials on Federal land shall be waived.*

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—*In this section:*

(1) **DEMONSTRATION; SPECIAL EVENT.**—*The terms "demonstration" and "special event" have the meaning given those terms in section 7.96 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.*

(2) **VETERAN.**—*The term "veteran" has the meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.*

(3) **VETERANS DEMONSTRATION OR SPECIAL EVENT.**—*The term "veterans demonstration or special event" means a demonstration or special event whose primary purpose is to commemorate, or honor either a group of people because of their service as veterans or immediate family members of veterans.*

(4) **WAR MEMORIAL.**—*The term "war memorial" means any tangible object which has been erected or dedicated to commemorate—*

(A) *war, conflict, victory, or peace;*

(B) *casualties who served in, were affected by, or killed as a result of war, conflict, or peace-keeping; or*

(C) *those who died as a result of accident or disease while engaged in military service.*

(c) **APPLICABILITY.**—*This section shall apply to any special use permit application submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

(d) **APPLICABILITY OF EXISTING LAWS.**—*Permit applicants remain subject to all other laws, regulations, and policies regarding the application, issuance and execution of special use permits for a veterans demonstration or special event at war memorials on Federal land.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) 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 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS), the author of this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. I also thank the chairman, as well as members on the Subcommittee on Federal Lands, especially Chairman TOM MCCLINTOCK, for their unanimous support of my bipartisan bill, the Free Veterans from Fees Act. I would also like to thank my colleague, the Congresswoman from Hawaii, TULSI GABBARD, in co-leading this bipartisan effort.

Throughout the year, veteran groups visit our national war memorials to take part in honor buses and honor flights and other commemorations that require special use permits issued by the National Park Service. The permit application requires, without exception, that a fee be submitted along with the completed permit application. Specifically, here in our Nation's Capital, The National Mall charges \$120 for public gatherings and special events. The Free Veterans from Fees Act would waive the application fee associated with special use permits for any veteran demonstration or special event at war memorials on Federal land.

We have a solemn obligation to stand with our veterans. They stood for us. We must stand for them. This simple bill is about fostering a culture in which all veterans are valued for their service and sacrifice to our country. The least we can do is to make it easier for groups of veterans and their families to visit national war memorials so they can honor the contributions of our men and women in uniform.

I have the privilege of serving the many military members and veterans who live and work in western Pennsylvania. Many of these veterans come together to help their fellow veterans and their families by pooling their time, energy, and financial resources to organize bus trips.

In fact, a recent trip from western Pennsylvania happened just this past

month. I had the privilege to welcome these veterans and their families to the World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C. This honor bus was organized by a remarkable couple, Jerry and Lydian Fisher of Beaver County, who have a heart for service and a real commitment and devotion to these trips since 2006.

Veterans want to help each other, and this is proof. I consider it a privilege to meet the men and women whom Jerry and Lydian bring to Washington. On the most recent trip, we even welcomed a 100-year-old World War II veteran, Charles Wiggins from Wilkesburg.

The men and women who are willing to die for this country should be given every opportunity to commemorate their service, the sacrifices of their fellow servicemembers, and the hardships faced by those left behind. Assessing fees from the very people these memorials were built to honor is unacceptable and unnecessary.

Our veterans were willing to stop at nothing to defend our Nation. We, as a nation, should stop at nothing to ensure our obligation to honor them is fulfilled. Our veterans deserve this legislation. It is just one more simple step to honor them.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3997 waives the special use permit application fees for veterans' demonstrations and special events at national war memorials.

I agree with my colleague. It is time that we recognize that our veterans deserve to be able to use this holy land for special events at national war memorials. This is a commonsense bill that will make it easier for veterans' groups to organize events at national memorials and other public lands.

I thank Mr. BISHOP from the majority for helping us work to ensure that the bill covers Gold Star families. I thank him very much for that.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this is a very good piece of legislation.

For those who have served well, to subject them to another application fee is just ridiculous. If there was ever an example of a good idea, a no-brainer piece of legislation, this is it.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD).

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, our veterans, our servicemembers, and their families sacrificed greatly in service to our country, with some paying the ultimate price, sacrificing all.

For those who do come home, there are often visible and invisible wounds that they carry with them for a very long time—if not for the rest of their

lives. It is our solemn responsibility as a country to stand by them, to ensure that they receive the care and the services and the respect that they have earned and that they deserve through their service.

So the fact that, today, a veteran or a Gold Star family member who wants to use a national war memorial for a special event—whether it is a vigil, a religious service, a parade, or any other kind of event—is slapped with an application fee by the National Park Service costing anywhere from \$70 to over \$100 is, frankly, unacceptable.

Our war memorials are often a place of healing, a place where our brothers and sisters in uniform, our fellow veterans, gather to remember those whom they served with who never made that trip home, for Gold Star family members to go and pay homage to and share new memories with their loved one that has been lost. This is a gathering place that is so important both for those who have served and those who remember and honor those who have sacrificed everything. It is unacceptable that our Nation's heroes have to pay a fee to honor our fallen brothers and sisters in this way. This legislation is necessary, and we have the opportunity to get it passed today.

I appreciate the leadership of my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS), someone who I know personally is deeply committed to serving and honoring our veterans and never forgetting the cost of war and who pays the price.

We introduced this legislation to waive the application fee for veterans and Gold Star families applying for a permit at war memorials on Federal land because this legislation honors the special bond between veterans that spans across conflicts and generations that we see displayed in this country, most prominently on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, but something that goes on throughout the year. We must continue to honor this into the future.

This simple change in this legislation will lift this financial and bureaucratic burden that our veterans face as they pay their respects, remember the lives and sacrifices of their friends, and our Gold Star family members of their loved ones.

I want to thank the men and women of the National Park Service who work to make sure that our war memorials are kept up and reflective places for healing, and I thank my colleague for his leadership and the support of the committee to bring this bill to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers, but may I add that I agree with what Ms. GABBARD said. It is unnecessary to bill any kind of fee to our veterans or the organizations that honor them.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption, 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 pass the bill, H.R. 3997, 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.

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. REED) 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. 5005, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2991, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5655, 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.

SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF JAMES WELDON JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5005) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System, 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 Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 374, nays 5, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 231]

YEAS—374

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Abraham | Doggett | Kustoff (TN) |
| Adams | Donovan | Labrador |
| Aderholt | Doyle, Michael | LaHood |
| Aguilar | F. | LaMalfa |
| Allen | Duffy | Lamb |
| Amodei | Duncan (SC) | Lamborn |
| Arrington | Dunn | Lance |
| Babin | Emmer | Langevin |
| Bacon | Engel | Larsen (WA) |
| Banks (IN) | Eshoo | Larson (CT) |
| Barletta | Espallat | Latta |
| Barr | Estes (KS) | Lawrence |
| Barton | Esty (CT) | Lawson (FL) |
| Bera | Evans | Lee |
| Bergman | Faso | Lesko |
| Beyer | Ferguson | Levin |
| Bishop (GA) | Fitzpatrick | Lewis (GA) |
| Bishop (MI) | Fleischmann | Lewis (MN) |
| Bishop (UT) | Flores | Lipinski |
| Black | Fortenberry | LoBiondo |
| Blackburn | Foster | Loebach |
| Blum | Fox | Lofgren |
| Blumenauer | Frankel (FL) | Long |
| Blunt Rochester | Frelinghuysen | Loudermilk |
| Bonamici | Fudge | Love |
| Bost | Gabbard | Lowenthal |
| Boyle, Brendan | Gallagher | Lowe |
| F. | Gallego | Lucas |
| Brady (TX) | Garamendi | Luetkemeyer |
| Brat | Garrett | Lujan, Ben Ray |
| Brooks (IN) | Gianforte | Lynch |
| Brown (MD) | Gibbs | MacArthur |
| Buchanan | Gohmert | Maloney, |
| Buck | Goodlatte | Carolyn B. |
| Bucshon | Gosar | Maloney, Sean |
| Budd | Gottheimer | Marchant |
| Burgess | Granger | Marino |
| Bustos | Graves (GA) | Marshall |
| Byrne | Graves (LA) | Mast |
| Calvert | Graves (MO) | Matsui |
| Capuano | Green, Al | McCarthy |
| Carbajal | Green, Gene | McCaul |
| Carson (IN) | Griffith | McClintock |
| Carter (GA) | Grijalva | McCollum |
| Carter (TX) | Grothman | McEeachin |
| Cartwright | Guthrie | McGovern |
| Castor (FL) | Hanabusa | McHenry |
| Castro (TX) | Handel | McMorris |
| Chabot | Harper | Rodgers |
| Cheney | Hartzler | McSally |
| Chu, Judy | Hastings | Meadows |
| Cicilline | Heck | Meeks |
| Clark (MA) | Hensarling | Meng |
| Clarke (NY) | Herrera Beutler | Messer |
| Clay | Hice, Jody B. | Mitchell |
| Cleaver | Higgins (LA) | Moolenaar |
| Clyburn | Higgins (NY) | Mooney (WV) |
| Coffman | Hill | Moore |
| Cohen | Himes | Moulton |
| Cole | Holding | Mullin |
| Collins (GA) | Hollingsworth | Murphy (FL) |
| Collins (NY) | Hoyer | Nadler |
| Comer | Hudson | Napolitano |
| Comstock | Huffman | Neal |
| Conaway | Huizenga | Newhouse |
| Connolly | Hultgren | Nolan |
| Cook | Jackson Lee | Norcross |
| Cooper | Jayapal | Norman |
| Correa | Jeffries | Nunes |
| Costa | Jenkins (KS) | O'Halleran |
| Costello (PA) | Jenkins (WV) | Olson |
| Courtney | Johnson (GA) | Pallone |
| Cramer | Johnson (LA) | Palmer |
| Crawford | Johnson (OH) | Panetta |
| Crist | Johnson, E. B. | Pascarell |
| Crowley | Johnson, Sam | Paulsen |
| Cuellar | Jordan | Payne |
| Culberson | Joyce (OH) | Pearce |
| Curbelo (FL) | Kaptur | Pelosi |
| Curtis | Katko | Perry |
| Davidson | Keating | Peters |
| Davis (CA) | Kelly (IL) | Peterson |
| Davis, Danny | Kelly (MS) | Pingree |
| Davis, Rodney | Kelly (PA) | Pittenger |
| DeFazio | Kennedy | Pocan |
| DeGette | Khanna | Poe (TX) |
| Delaney | Kihuen | Poliquin |
| DeLauro | Kildee | Posey |
| DelBene | Kilmer | Price (NC) |
| Demings | Kind | Quigley |
| DeSantis | King (IA) | Raskin |
| DeSaulnier | King (NY) | Ratcliffe |
| DesJarlais | Kinzing | Reed |
| Deutch | Knight | Reichert |
| Diaz-Balart | Krishnamoorthi | Renacci |
| Dingell | Kuster (NH) | Rice (NY) |