

our society. When Natalie visits our Nation's Capitol, she will hopefully be able to visit this statue and learn of the great struggle to ensure her equality and be assured America's sons and daughters stand on equal footing at the doors of opportunity.

In reverence to the brave women who fought for equality in the past, and on behalf of all of those who will follow, I thank my fellow Members for their consideration in support of this legislation.

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

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 473, 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.

CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2490) to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2490

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

SECTION 1. CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY.

Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(xx) CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—The Chief Standing Bear Trail, extending approximately 550 miles from Niobrara, Nebraska, to Ponca City, Oklahoma, which follows the route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during Federal Indian removal, and approximately 550 miles from Ponca City, Oklahoma, through Omaha, Nebraska, to Niobrara, Nebraska, which follows the return route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2490, introduced by Representative FORTENBERRY of Nebraska, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail.

The proposed trail would extend approximately 550 miles from Niobrara, Nebraska, to Ponca City, Oklahoma, tracing the route taken by Chief Standing Bear during Federal Indian removal and their return to Nebraska.

The trail would commemorate and elevate the story of Chief Standing Bear, and the trail would memorialize the honor, the courage, and the fortitude of Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people as they struggled to return to their homeland. It would serve as a reminder of their fight to achieve justice, freedom, and equality.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative FORTENBERRY for championing this important legislation and for his efforts to bring about a greater understanding of Tribal sovereignty and rights.

Madam Speaker, I certainly urge my colleagues to support this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The statue of Chief Standing Bear can be found in this Capitol, honored by the State of Nebraska as one of its favorite sons.

Chief Standing Bear led the Ponca Tribe through the crisis that began with its displacement by a flood of westward-bound settlers encouraged by the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The Tribe was pressured to abandon its most productive lands and, essentially, made wanderers by a series of broken promises by the United States Government. When they sought refuge on the Omaha Reservation, Chief Standing Bear and his surviving tribesmen were arrested and detained at Fort Omaha, with no legal recourse.

The legal case that followed established, in 1879, the legal principle that American Indians were indeed American citizens protected under the Constitution and accorded all the due process rights enshrined in it. During that case, the words of Chief Standing Bear, pleading on behalf of his Tribe, moved the entire Nation and endure to this day.

H.R. 2490, authored by Congressman FORTENBERRY, directs the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail. The Chief Standing Bear Trail, extending approximately 550 miles from Nebraska to Oklahoma, follows the route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during their forced removal.

If supported by this study, any designation of the trail would require additional action from the Committee on Natural Resources and the Congress.

This legislation passed the House in the 114th Congress. It is long overdue to become law.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), the author of the measure.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me thank Chairman NEGUSE for his profound words, generous words, kind words, and committed support to this bill. I also thank Ranking Member MCCLINTOCK for his review of this impactful history of our Nation.

This is the reason that Nebraska chose to honor Chief Standing Bear and to share his legacy with the entire United States with a statue recently placed in Statuary Hall.

In fact, Madam Speaker, I was walking through there recently, and I stopped for a moment and paused. I watched the young children gather around the Chief Standing Bear statue because it is so impressive and so dignified, and the words that are below it are so impactful: “I am a man.”

You see, as Ranking Member MCCLINTOCK traced some of this history, in 1877, the Ponca people were forced off their land in Niobrara, Nebraska, forcibly relocated in a harsh march down to Oklahoma—Indian territory, as it was called at the time.

Chief Standing Bear's little child, his daughter, died along the way. His son later became ill, perhaps because of the trauma of the journey. But he promised his son that he would bury him in their native homeland, and that is what led to this tale.

That really is what led us here today, Chief Standing Bear honoring a promise to his son. With other members of the Tribe, in the winter of 1878, they started northward back to Nebraska in the harshest of weather conditions. He was arrested for leaving the reservation. The predecessor to today's paper in Nebraska, the Omaha World-Herald, picked up on the story. It became a famous court case that was followed throughout America.

At the end of the trial, Chief Standing Bear simply raised his hand and said this:

That hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be the same color as yours. I am a man. God made us both.

With that profound statement, the court was so moved that the judge ruled, as Ranking Member MCCLINTOCK said, that Native Americans for the first time—this was 1879—would be declared persons for purposes under the law.

It is an amazing, traumatic, difficult, but poignant civil rights story.

Today, what we are doing is potentially talking about the establishment

of the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail that would honor both the courage of this brave individual and his great contribution to the idea of freedom and civil liberties for all Americans. This bill is a first important step toward establishing this trail, and I am really thankful to my colleagues for their support.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I again thank my colleague from Nebraska for his leadership and for bringing this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2490, 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. NEGUSE. Madam 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.

GOLD STAR MOTHERS FAMILIES NATIONAL MONUMENT EXTENSION ACT

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2819) to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star Families, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2819

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 “Gold Star Mothers Families National Monument Extension Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMEMORATIVE WORK.

Notwithstanding section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, the authority provided by section 2859 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2164; 40 U.S.C. 8903 note) shall continue to apply through January 2, 2024.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2819, introduced by Representative KIM, would extend the authorization for the establishment of the commemorative work to Gold Star Families until 2024.

I thank my freshman colleague, Representative KIM, for bringing forward this critically important bill and for his leadership in the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business.

The Gold Star Families National Monument would honor the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifices for our country. This commemorative work was initially authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, but the authorization expired in January 2020.

Madam Speaker, the Gold Star is a widely recognized tradition that dates back to World War I, when families displayed service flags bearing a blue star for each family member serving in combat. If a relative was lost in combat, the star’s color would be changed to gold.

In November 2015, the Commission of Fine Arts approved a location for the memorial on National Park Service property immediately west of the Arlington National Cemetery visitor center. Since then, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission has consulted with the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation on design concepts for the memorial.

While we can never repay the debt that we owe our Nation’s Gold Star families, extending the authorization for this memorial helps take a step toward fully honoring the sacrifices they have made, which is why this bill is so important and why I would like to, again, thank Representative KIM for his leadership in introducing it.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, H.R. 2819 would extend the authorization of the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation so that it can construct the Gold Star Mothers National Monument.

The Gold Star Mothers of our Nation have sacrificed more on the altar of liberty than any among us. They have lost their children so that our children can be safe and sound and free.

No words can begin to express the debt that we owe to them. While other families are celebrating Memorial Day with barbecues and frivolities, Gold Star families are gathered around the hallowed graves of their loved ones.

The monument contemplated by this legislation is a small recognition of this. We do as much as we can to honor those who fall in defense of our country and its Constitution, and well we should. But we don’t do nearly enough to honor those who they leave behind.

Our fallen heroes come from our communities, from our high schools and churches, but most importantly, they come from the homes of loving families. When we as a nation lose a soldier and a patriot, these mothers lose a child. We must remember that for the families of these fallen heroes, every day is Memorial Day.

Time, sadly, does not heal all wounds. The grief of our Gold Star Mothers is just as great today as the day when the casualty officer came to their door. Their loss is a heavy burden that they carry with them every single day of their lives. Nonetheless, they persevere to keep alive the spirit of their brave children.

Legislation signed into law during the 112th Congress authorized the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to erect a monument on Federal lands in our Capital City that would honor mothers whose children gave that last full measure of devotion defending the United States as part of our armed services. The extended authorization will allow more time for the foundation to ensure that the monument’s construction and completion can be brought to fruition by 2027.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM).

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado, my friend, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifices of America’s Gold Star Mothers and families and to further the cause of building a monument to acknowledge their contributions to our country.

One of these Gold Star Mothers is Judith Young, a neighbor of mine down the street in Morristown, New Jersey. In October 1983, Judith lost her son, Jeffrey, in the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut.

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Judith said that Jeffrey always wanted to be a soldier. He graduated from high school in 1980 and went right into the Marines. He was proud to be a Marine. He was proud to serve his country.