

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.

In the more than three decades since his death, Judith has been a fierce advocate for her fellow Gold Star Mothers and Families. She represents thousands of loved ones and family members who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy today.

It is that sacrifice that we seek to honor in the Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act. By passing this bill, we can give Gold Star Families, like Judith's, the time they need to complete a monument acknowledging that sacrifices aren't just made by those in uniform, but by the loved ones left behind.

This is a monument that has a site selected; that won't cost taxpayers a single dime; and that has truly bipartisan support. If we don't pass this bill, the authorization for this monument will expire.

Our Gold Star Families have already been through so much. They have already endured and sacrificed beyond what so many of us here can understand; the least we can do is support them by giving them the time to remember and honor those lost.

The futility in finding the words and actions to thank loved ones like Judith isn't new. In a letter to Lydia Bixby of Massachusetts in 1864, President Lincoln wrote: "I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming."

Lincoln understood that there is nothing we can ever do to truly repay patriots like Judith. But he continued: "But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save."

Let us show the thanks of the Republic that so many brave men and women have given all to save. Let us show the thanks of the Republic that so many Gold Star Families have given so much to keep free. We can do that by passing this bipartisan bill and allowing the completion of this monument.

I hope you will support me, my co-lead, Congressman RATCLIFFE, and the Gold Star Mothers and Families across the country in this effort.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE).

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman NEGUSE and Ranking Member MCCLINTOCK for their leadership on this committee.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2819, the Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this bipartisan bill, along with my Democratic colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman KIM, on behalf of our Nation's Gold Star Families.

The term "Gold Star Family" dates back to World War I, when flags were displayed bearing a blue star to represent a family member serving abroad

and gold stars used to designate family members who had been lost in combat.

As the Representative of a congressional district in northeast Texas with more than 50,000 veterans, and thousands and thousands of active duty servicemembers, this bill very much hits home.

My home State of Texas is home to 1 of every 10 U.S. servicemembers, and nearly 25,000 Texas families have joined the National Gold Star Family Registry since World War II.

The families of all the individuals who serve our country know the great sacrifices that are made when a loved one answers the call of duty because, unfortunately, all of our heroes don't always make it back home; and it is their families who will forever bear the burden of that ultimate sacrifice when they don't return home.

As a grateful Nation, it must be our constant priority to honor our fallen heroes and their families. After all, we owe our freedom to their great sacrifice.

I am confident that the Gold Star Families National Monument will help ensure that we honor our fallen heroes and their families on a national scale by extending the authorization for the establishment of a national monument located right in here in Washington, D.C.

The Gold Star Family Monument will be constructed at no cost to taxpayers, as all of the funds that are being raised are being raised by the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation.

I am grateful for the opportunity that the Gold Star Family Monument will provide to all of our citizens to pause and honor the ultimate sacrifices made by our fallen servicemen and servicewomen on our behalf as they visit our Nation's capital.

Despite the often polarized political climate in Washington, this is an issue that people across the political spectrum should all be able to stand behind.

Again, I thank my Democratic colleague, Congressman KIM, for his leadership on this important effort, and I urge the rest of our colleagues for their strong support on the floor today.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I thank Representative KIM and Representative RATCLIFFE for bringing the bill forward.

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. 2819, 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.

INCLUDING CALIFORNIA IN NUTRIA ERADICATION AND CONTROL ACT OF 2003

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3399) to amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to include California in the program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3399

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

SECTION 1. NUTRIA ERADICATION.

The Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-16) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking "Wetlands and tidal marshes of the Chesapeake Bay and in Louisiana" and inserting "Wetlands, tidal marshes, and agricultural lands";

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking "in Maryland and Louisiana"; and

(iii) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) Traditional harvest methods to control or eradicate nutria have failed. Consequently, marsh loss, loss of public and private wetlands, and loss of agricultural lands are accelerating."; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana" and inserting "any State that has demonstrated the need"; and

(2) in section 3—

(A) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the 'Secretary'), may provide financial assistance to a State, in an amount that is in proportion to the total impacted area of such State affected by nutria, that has demonstrated to the Secretary sufficient need for a program to implement measures to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland, public and private wetlands, and agricultural lands damaged by nutria.";

(B) by striking subsection (b);

(C) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking "the program may" and inserting "a State program referred to in subsection (a) may"; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking "the program may" and inserting "a State program referred to in subsection (a) may";

(D) in subsection (e), by inserting "to a State" after "provided";

(E) in subsection (f), by striking "\$4,000,000" and all that follows and inserting "\$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025."; and

(F) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f) as subsections (b) through (e).

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