

With that letter and this resolution, I am once again calling on the Department of State, the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, and other U.S. government entities to engage with Syria for the purpose of securing Austin's safe release.

From serving in Afghanistan and Iraq as a Marine to working as a journalist dedicated to delivering vital news to the American people, Austin Tice spent his life giving back and showing up for this country.

Now we need to do the same for him and bring him home.

I am honored to be a leader on this resolution, and I wish to thank my colleague and good friend from Texas, Representative AL GREEN, for his leadership on this resolution.

I urge all Members on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for H. Res. 17, "Expressing Concern over the Detention of Austin Tice, and for other purposes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 17, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution expressing concern over the detention of Austin Tice and Majd Kamalmaz, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF TREVOR REED

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1115) calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly sentenced to 9 years in a Russian prison, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1115

Whereas United States citizen Trevor Reed is a resident of Granbury, Texas, and a United States Marine Corps veteran;

Whereas Trevor Reed traveled to Moscow to visit his girlfriend on May 16, 2019;

Whereas Moscow's Police Service detained Trevor Reed on August 16, 2019;

Whereas Trevor Reed was accused of grabbing the arm of the police officer driving the vehicle and elbowing another officer while en route to the police station, causing the vehicle to swerve and therefore endangering the lives of the police officers;

Whereas the United States Embassy in Moscow has filed numerous diplomatic complaints with the Russian Foreign Ministry regarding Trevor Reed being denied consular access, communications, medical treatment, family visitations, and other violations of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations;

Whereas Trevor Reed's defense team presented video evidence from traffic camera footage to the courts that disproves the police officers' statements of supposed endangerment and wrongdoing;

Whereas Trevor Reed's defense team was denied access to additional video evidence from the police vehicle and police station that had the potential to prove his innocence;

Whereas the police officers claimed emotional and physical damages, but did not sustain any visible injury, or claim any time missed from work;

Whereas the Constitutional Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the Second Court of Cassation of General Jurisdiction concurred that Russian procedural law was violated in the way that Trevor Reed's bail was revoked;

Whereas the United States Embassy in Moscow has filed complaints with the Russian Foreign Ministry regarding denial of communications with Trevor Reed;

Whereas during the trial, the defense counsel presented 59 minutes of traffic camera video that showed the police car—

(1) did not change direction or leave its lane;

(2) did not swerve; and

(3) did not stop or slow down;

Whereas, on July 30, 2020, Golovinsky District Court Judge Arnout read a verdict that dismissed all defense evidence, witnesses, and government experts and included information from the investigator's case files that were not discussed or read into the court files;

Whereas the judge sentenced Trevor Reed to 9 years in prison camp and was ordered to pay 100,000 rubles to each police officer for moral and physical injuries;

Whereas Trevor Reed had already been detained in Russia for 1 year at the time of the judge's verdict; and

Whereas, the United States Ambassador to Russia, John Sullivan, upon Trevor's sentencing, stated that the prosecution's case and the evidence presented against Mr. Reed were "so preposterous that they provoked laughter in the courtroom", the conviction and sentence were "ridiculous", and "justice was not even considered": Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses support for Trevor Reed, Paul Whelan, and all prisoners unjustly imprisoned in the Russian Federation;

(2) condemns the practice of politically motivated imprisonment in the Russian Federation, which violates the commitments of the Russian Federation to international obligations with respect to human rights and the rule of law;

(3) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation, to raise the case of Trevor Reed and to press for his release;

(4) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Trevor Reed and all other prisoners arrested for political motivations;

(5) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to provide unrestricted consular access to Trevor Reed while he remains in detention as required under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations;

(6) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation—

(A) to provide Trevor Reed any necessary medical treatment and personal protective equipment;

(B) to notify the United States Embassy in Moscow of any medical problems or complaints that arise during his detention; and

(C) to provide the United States Embassy in Moscow with full access to all of Trevor Reed's medical records;

(7) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to respect Trevor Reed's universally recognized human rights; and

(8) expresses support to the family of Trevor Reed and commitment to bringing Trevor Reed home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1115.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1115, calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed.

I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. CONAWAY, for introducing this bipartisan resolution.

In 2019, U.S. citizen and former Marine Trevor Reed traveled to Russia. While on his trip, Moscow's Police Service detained and held Reed for over a year. On July 30, 2020, Reed was convicted of trumped-up assault charges and sentenced to 9 years in a Russian prison camp.

During his sham of a trial, Mr. Speaker, traffic camera footage disproved the charges, and even the Russian judge laughed at the prosecution's absurd attempts to provide evidence. Despite this, Trevor Reed's defense team was denied access to additional video footage from the police vehicle and station that could have provided further proof of his innocence.

While it is no surprise that Putin and his cronies didn't conduct a fair trial, it is appalling that Trevor is being held without medical treatment during a global pandemic and being denied consular access and communication with his family.

H. Res. 1115 not only calls for the immediate release of Trevor, but expresses support for all unjustly detained prisoners in Russia and urges U.S. officials to raise Trevor's case during all interactions with the Russian Government. The resolution also demands that Russia provide the regular consular access and proper medical care afforded to Trevor through the Vienna Convention.

Again, I thank Mr. CONAWAY for his commitment to bringing Trevor, a fellow Texan, home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Trevor Reed is a 29-year-old Texas resident and former United States Marine who served his country with distinction. He was an Eagle Scout and a Texas Rangers fan, a dedicated son and brother.

He is not a criminal; yet the Putin regime treated him like one, sentencing him to 9 years in a Russian prison for a crime he did not commit. In fact, Trevor was only charged with a fabricated crime after the Russian police discovered that he was a former U.S. Marine and, thus, in their eyes, a political pawn that could be used.

The evidence presented in the courtroom during his case was so flimsy that it induced laughter from those in the room, including the Russian judge. What a joke.

So I stand here today once again to call for Trevor Reed's immediate release so he can return home to his family, where he belongs.

This is an issue very close to my heart. Just a few months ago, Trevor's mother flew out to D.C. to join me and Congressman CONAWAY as we introduced this resolution. Paula told us how her son was attending college in pursuit of the American Dream before Putin took that away from him. And she told us how her husband, Joey Reed, spends most of his time in Russia, working every single day to bring his son home where he belongs.

As a father of five myself, I cannot imagine being in their shoes, knowing their son is suffering in a Russian prison for a crime he did not commit and feeling helpless to do anything about it.

Mr. Speaker, Paula and Joey and Trevor, they need us. They need their Congressmen and -women to fight for them today.

Passing this resolution will send a strong message to Putin and his cronies that America will not stand by idly as they hold American citizens as political pawns, including Michael Calvey and Paul Whelan. It will demonstrate that Congress stands firmly with Trevor, Paula, Joey, and their entire family, along with the other American hostages abroad, and that we will continue to fight until we bring Trevor home and give him back his future.

The holiday season is here upon us once again, and Trevor deserves to spend this Christmas with his family in the comfort of his home, not alone in a cold prison cell.

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

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, if I can take a point of personal privilege, this may be perhaps the last time I appear with my dear friend MIKE CONAWAY on this distinguished floor. We came in together, Mr. Speaker, with you, as well. I remember it 16 years ago. My, has time gone fast.

But the time you have served, Mike, in this Congress and spoken in this Chamber, as you chaired the Agriculture Committee and served on the House Intelligence Committee, sir, let me just say how proud I am to call you a friend. You have served your country and your constituents with honor and distinction, and I am proud to have

served with you and proud to call you a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding and for those very kind words. I thank Chairman ENGEL and Mr. MCCAUL, the ranking member, for bringing this resolution forward.

I rise today in strong support of the passage of my resolution calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed.

For the past 475 days, Trevor Reed, an eighth-generation Texan, Eagle Scout, and, more importantly, a United States Marine veteran, has been held in a Russian prison camp for crimes he did not commit.

The Putin regime is clearly using Trevor as a political pawn. If they do not release him, he will be forced to serve an additional 9 years in a Russian prison camp, making it almost 10 years, total, that Trevor and his family will endure this nightmare.

Trevor was initially detained by Moscow's Police Service in August of 2019 for public intoxication, but after the Russian intelligence agency identified him as a U.S. Marine, they upped the charge, now accusing him with endangering the lives of two police officers.

□ 1700

Their claims were undeniably disproved by Trevor's defense team. The accusation, and the lack of evidence to support it, was so absurd that even the Russian judge erupted in laughter during his trial. Yet the judge disregarded all evidence, witnesses, and government experts by choosing to sentence Trevor to the harshest punishment ever given for this alleged crime in this particular classification.

Vladimir Putin has repeatedly threatened our Nation and bullied our allies around the globe. His antagonism and animosity towards our country, our people, and our ideals holds no bounds.

We are now seeing our own innocent citizens and their families caught in the middle of Putin's reprehensible political games.

Mr. Speaker, an entire decade of this man's life is at stake. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution with a strong message to Vladimir Putin: the House of Representatives solidly stands against an American citizen being used as a political pawn. Free Trevor Reed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his kind words again.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER).

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for bringing this to the floor.

When we think about Russian prisons, we don't often think about justice

because, frankly, justice is at the whim of Vladimir Putin, the man who poisons citizens on NATO territory and uses the bludgeon of a hammer to actually get his will and power.

So sometimes I think when we as Americans look at our political debates, we look at it as a form of dysfunction when, in reality, while the debate can be dysfunctional, it is very functional that we are having them.

But in this case, I think it needs to be clear that we stand up for American citizens no matter what, and we don't care what their political stripes are when they are detained by somebody like Vladimir Putin.

This resolution calls for the immediate release of Trevor Reed. He is a U.S. citizen, he is a Marine Corps veteran, and he was unjustly sentenced to 9 years in a Russian prison.

He has been detained for over a year now on baseless charges filed through an overtly corrupt trial.

His lawyers have been denied access to the so-called evidence that the Russian authorities used to detain Trevor.

After speaking with his mother, I have learned that his family has had a difficult time talking to him on the phone, limited interaction, because the authorities will not let Trevor communicate in English and they give him only a few calls home.

It is an abuse of power and it is a clear attempt by the Russians to make an example of Trevor, an American, and this must be rectified immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues for bringing up this important measure to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CONAWAY and I thank the chair and ranking member. I thank Chairman ENGEL for his many, many years of service as well on the committee and in this House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank my friend and fellow Texan, Representative CONAWAY, who represents the family, for introducing this important resolution.

I have engaged the highest levels of government in this case, Trevor's case, from Deputy Secretary Biegun to Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs, Roger Carstens.

And now I am proud to join many of my colleagues and fellow Texans from both sides of the aisle in supporting this resolution and raising more awareness about Trevor's case.

So to Trevor and the Reed family, I would just like to say to you that Texas is with you and America is with you. We will stand by you and with you here in the Congress every day until we finally bring Trevor home.

So, again, Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, Congressman CONAWAY, who sponsored the legislation. I thank Chairman ENGEL.

Another point of personal privilege: I think that this will not be the last day

we speak on the floor. I believe on Monday we will have another opportunity to be together, and I would love to deliver some special remarks about my favorite chairman.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Mr. CONAWAY for his work on this bipartisan measure that calls on the Russian Government to drop the trumped-up charges against Trevor Reed and immediately release him from prison.

Trevor and all those unjustly detained in Russia deserve to be released and safely reunited with their families for this holiday season.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this measure and I urge all Members to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, let me comment on my friend's remarks. It has been a pleasure for me to work with Mr. McCAUL as the ranking member of the committee and when he was the chairman. We have done incredible work on our committee, both Democrats and Republicans, working together in a bipartisan way. I am very proud of the work we have all done and very proud of the work I have done personally with Mr. McCAUL. I know we are going to continue to fight the good fight, because we stand for something. We are so blessed to live in this country, and we want to make sure that other people get the same kinds of freedoms that we have.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I support this measure, and I urge all Members to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1115, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT OF 2020

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1049) to authorize a National Heritage Area 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. 1049

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “National Heritage Area Act of 2020”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. National Heritage Area System.

Sec. 4. National Heritage Area System management.

Sec. 5. Study areas.

Sec. 6. Local coordinating entities.

Sec. 7. Property owners and regulatory protections.

Sec. 8. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 9. Statutory Clarification.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The term “feasibility study” means a study conducted by the Secretary, or conducted by one or more other interested parties and reviewed and approved by the Secretary, in accordance with the criteria and processes required by section 5, to determine whether a study area meets the criteria to be designated by Federal statute as a National Heritage Area.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” means any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or other community the name of which is included on the list most recently published by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

(3) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The term “local coordinating entity” means the entity designated by Federal statute to—

(A) carry out, in partnership with other individuals and entities, the management plan for a National Heritage Area; and

(B) operate a National Heritage Area, including through the implementation of projects and programs among diverse partners in a National Heritage Area.

(4) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “management plan” means the management plan for a National Heritage Area required under this Act.

(5) NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.—The term “National Heritage Area” means—

(A) each National Heritage Area, National Heritage Corridor, Natural Preservation Commission, National Heritage Canalway, National Heritage Route, Heritage Corridor, Cultural Heritage Corridor, Heritage Partnership, and National Heritage Partnership, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District, or other area designated by Federal statute with the explicit purpose of establishing a national heritage area designated by Congress before or on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) each National Heritage Area designated by Federal statute after the date of enactment of this Act, unless the law designating the area exempts that area from the National Heritage Area System by specific reference to this Act.

(6) NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA SYSTEM.—The term “National Heritage Area System” means the system of National Heritage Areas established by this Act.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” means a specific geographic area that is the subject of a feasibility study under section 5.

(9) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal government” means the governing body of an Indian Tribe.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to recognize certain areas of the United States that tell nationally significant stories and to conserve, enhance, and interpret the areas’ natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources that together illustrate significant aspects of our country’s heritage, there is established a National Heritage Area System through which the Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance to local coordinating entities to support the establishment, develop-

ment, and continuity of National Heritage Areas.

(b) NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA SYSTEM.—The National Heritage Area System shall be composed of all National Heritage Areas.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—

(1) RELATIONSHIP TO NATIONAL PARK UNITS.—The Secretary shall encourage participation and assistance by any unit of the National Park System located near or encompassed by any National Heritage Area in local initiatives for that National Heritage Area that conserve and interpret resources consistent with an approved management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.—National Heritage Areas shall not be—

(A) considered to be units of the National Park System; or

(B) subject to the authorities applicable to units of the National Park System.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA SYSTEM MANAGEMENT.

(a) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after a National Heritage Area is included in the National Heritage Area System outlined by this Act, the local coordinating entity of the National Heritage Area shall submit to the Secretary for approval a management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The management plan shall—

(A) incorporate an integrated and cooperative approach for the protection, enhancement, and interpretation of the natural, cultural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(B) be developed using a comprehensive planning approach that includes—

(i) opportunities for stakeholders, including community members, local and regional governments, Tribal governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties—

(I) to be involved in the planning process; and

(II) to review and comment on draft management plans; and

(ii) documentation of the planning and public participation processes, including a description of—

(I) the means by which the management plan was prepared;

(II) the stakeholders involved in the process; and

(III) the timing and method of stakeholder involvement;

(C) include—

(i) an inventory of—

(I) the resources located in the National Heritage Area; and

(II) any other property in the National Heritage Area that—

(aa) is related to the themes of the National Heritage Area; and

(bb) should be preserved, restored, managed, or maintained because of the significance of the property;

(ii) comprehensive policies, strategies and recommendations for the conservation, funding, management, and development of the National Heritage Area;

(iii) a description of actions that the Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments, private organizations, and individuals have agreed to take to protect the natural, historical, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(iv) a program of implementation for the management plan by the local coordinating entity that includes a description of—

(I) actions to facilitate ongoing collaboration among partners to promote plans for resource protection, restoration, and construction; and