

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROCK CREEK NATIONAL PARK ACT OF 2021

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to redesignate the National Park Service (NPS)-owned Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia as "Rock Creek National Park." Renaming this park will highlight its significance to the nation, including visitors to the nation's capital, and will draw much-needed funding for the park's inviting trails, waterways and other unique features.

Rock Creek Park is already a "national" park, as it was established by Congress in 1890 "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States." Rock Creek Park was the first federally managed urban park and the third federal park ever created, after Yellowstone and Sequoia. Rock Creek Park was designed to preserve animals, timber, forestry and other interests in the park, and to ensure that its natural state is maintained as much as possible not only for D.C. residents, but for all Americans. The park also preserves the ancient history of the land, as it was used for temporary settlements and as a quarry for weapons and tools by Native Americans from 7000 BCE until the 1600s.

Since Congress first designated Rock Creek Park, several structures and properties have been established or donated to further preserve Rock Creek Park, creating a vast connected park area that falls under a central NPS jurisdiction. In 1892, the federal government acquired Peirce Mill in Rock Creek Park, one of the mills used by local farmers during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. In 1950, the Old Stone House located in Georgetown, with its great pre-Revolutionary War architecture, was acquired by the park. The building was restored and programs explain the house's rich history from the colonial period to the present day. The Fort Circle Parks were also acquired to interpret and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington, which created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War. The Carter Barron Amphitheater, established in honor of the 150th anniversary of the nation's capital, became an integral part of D.C.'s live music scene, and has featured acts including Ella Fitzgerald, Diana Ross and Earth, Wind and Fire, as well as local artists. The redesignated "Rock Creek National Park" would encompass these later additions to the park.

Today, Rock Creek Park offers residents of D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia, as well as thousands of visitors, an escape from our increasingly urban environment. Residents and tourists alike enjoy many activities in the park's 2,000 acres, including hiking and biking on the historical trails, horseback riding, picnicking, tennis and other recreational activities in some of the open fields. Our residents have expressed their appreciation by volunteering to clean up and maintain the forests, trails and waterways.

In 1918, landscape architects John Charles Olmstead and Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. wrote of Rock Creek Park, "No matter how perfect the scenery of the park may be or may

become, no matter how high its potential value, that value remains potential except insofar as it is enjoyed by large and ever larger numbers of people, poor and rich alike." Redesignating Rock Creek Park as Rock Creek National Park will help recognize the national status of the park and protect and revitalize this remarkable resource in our nation's capital.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

H.R. 4350, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on September 23, I voted in opposition to H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. While I support several Democratic policy priorities included in this legislation, I also have significant concerns with numerous provisions, including the irresponsibly bloated topline defense spending of \$768 billion that this legislation authorizes.

I strongly support the well-deserved 2.7 percent pay raise that this legislation grants our men and women in uniform. This is the very least we can do for those who continue to make extraordinary sacrifices for our country.

This legislation includes additional vital benefits for military servicemembers and their families, such as expanded parental leave, improved mental health care services, a new basic needs allowance for lower income servicemembers, and more.

I also strongly support the provisions included to combat the scourge of sexual assault in the military, including by creating an Office of Special Victim Prosecutor to prosecute these crimes, removing the commanding officer from decisions related to sexual assault, and finally criminalizing sexual harassment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

As a long-time advocate for strengthening Congress's constitutional war powers authorities and limiting executive authority to engage in armed conflict without Congress's consent, I cosponsored an amendment to prohibit unauthorized U.S. participation in the Saudi-led coalition's war in Yemen. I am pleased that this amendment passed the House and will push my colleagues to keep this amendment in the final NOAA conference legislation.

While I strongly support provisions in this year's NDAA, I ultimately voted against it because I believe this legislation should have included additional provisions to rein in our bloated and wasteful defense spending, take back Congress's constitutional war powers authority, and more.

Instead of increasing the defense budget by several billion dollars for yet another year in a row, I strongly believe this legislation could have made responsible cuts to our defense budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops or undermining our national security. It's beyond time for us to invest in domestic priorities for Oregonians and the American people here at home.

That's why I supported an amendment to responsibly reduce the Pentagon budget while retaining exceptions to protect service members, civilian employees, and the vital Defense Health Program from this reduction. Unfortunately, this amendment failed to pass the House.

For years, Congress has continued to increase the Pentagon's budget despite overwhelming evidence of its waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer money. It's absolutely ridiculous and irresponsible to continue throwing increasing amounts of taxpayer money at the Pentagon and lining the pockets of greedy defense contractors and special interests every year, when the Pentagon cannot even account for where this money goes.

I have long supported a financial audit of the Pentagon. Unlike every other federal agency, the DOD has yet to ever pass a financial audit. For three years in a row, the Pentagon has spectacularly failed full audits, each of which highlighted numerous examples of waste and abuse. It is ridiculous to provide the Pentagon a massive spending increase—as this bill does—when the Pentagon cannot even account for how it spends taxpayer money. That's why I'm a cosponsor of legislation to require and incentivize every component of the DOD to finally pass an audit.

This legislation should have included more provisions to take back Congress's constitutional war powers authority, including repealing the long-outdated 2001 and 2002 authorizations for the use of military force (AUMFs). I also cosponsored and voted in favor of an amendment to end unauthorized U.S. military involvement in Syria. The U.S. military has maintained a years-long presence in Syria without congressional approval, in contravention of the Constitution and the War Powers Resolution of 1973. While this amendment unfortunately failed, I will continue fighting to stop this unauthorized, endless war.

I am also disappointed that amendments I supported either failed to pass the House or were not made in order. This includes amendments to curb the irresponsible expansion of U.S. nuclear weapons, to strengthen Buy America provisions to ensure the military supports U.S. manufacturers, to ensure veterans who were wrongfully dishonorably discharged for their sexual orientation are able to receive the veterans benefits they earned, and more.

I also strongly oppose provisions in this legislation that would expand military draft registration to all Americans aged 18–25, including women. I have long opposed military draft registration and have introduced legislation to repeal the Selective Service System (SSS) altogether. The SSS is an archaic, unnecessary, unwanted, and wasteful bureaucracy that violates Americans' civil liberties and subjects Americans who fail to register—largely through no fault of their own—with unnecessarily severe, lifelong penalties, all without due process. These penalties can include denial of employment, job training, educational benefits, student loans, grants, citizenship, driver's licenses, and more—at both the federal and state levels—and they disproportionately affect low income individuals and people of color.

The military itself and presidents of both parties have consistently agreed there is no military or national security imperative to ever reinstate a draft.

That's why I co-lead amendments to repeal military draft registration and eliminate these

extrajudicial penalties. While these amendments were not made in order, I will continue fighting to repeal the SSS and end military draft registration. No American, regardless of gender, should ever be subject to or forced to register for an obsolete military draft.

The bottom line is that fiscal responsibility and accountability at the DOD would allow for taxpayer funds to be better spent supporting the needs of our troops, meeting our obligations to veterans, and ensuring our legitimate defense needs are prioritized while also bolstering long-underfunded domestic priorities. I will continue fighting to responsibly lower our bloated defense spending and finally put an end to our endless wars.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 282 On Agreeing to the Amendment, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 282.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP HARRY S. GRAYSON AND HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MESSIAS TEMPLE CHURCH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop Harry S. Grayson, of Ypsilanti, Michigan. He is an extraordinary leader in faith and an example of compassion personified. His lifetime of service and dedication to our community is worthy of commendation.

Bishop Grayson grew up on the southside of Ypsilanti, Michigan. He became Bishop of Messiah Temple Church in Ypsilanti on September 1991 with the support of his congregation, he was installed by Bishop Willie Burrell in January 1992. In 1999, he became a District Elder and in 2011 was named Suffragan Bishop. In 2018, he was elevated to the office of Diocesan Bishop of the 60th Episcopal District Council of the Western Cape, South Africa. His ministry in Africa has led him across the continent from Egypt in the north to Zimbabwe in the south. After a ten-day stint in Harare, Zimbabwe spent spreading the word, Bishop Grayson was able to provide the needed funding for a new church sanctuary and for the construction of a new medical clinic to be named in his honor.

A man of conviction and steadfast faith, Bishop Grayson is a trusted leader and friend to those who know him. He is mentor to children and adults alike, from the youth of the church to government and educational leaders—they all benefit from his wisdom and love. Even in the face of a lengthy battle with COVID-19, his strength has never once faltered. We are grateful that he is a distinguished leader in our community who continues to give back to the place where he

came of age. Where some see hopelessness, he can see opportunity. Whether it is in cleaning up local parks, mentoring the formerly incarcerated, or helping out with Messiah Temple Church's expansive "We Care We Share" ministry—Bishop Grayson provides compassion to those who need it the most. Never once in his thirty years has he given up in the face of a challenge.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bishop Harry S. Grayson, a pillar of our community, a son of Ypsilanti, a leader, and a man of true faith. We extend our thanks to his family for their everlasting support—his wife First Lady Mary Grayson, and his children Evan, Maya, and Shari. We join with his congregation, friends, and family in wishing Bishop Grayson the best in the years to come and thank him for his work in bettering the community for us all.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 29

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on Administration efforts regarding energy security, including Nord Stream 2.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine protecting consumer privacy.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the threat of worsening natural disasters.

SD-342/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine Texas's abortion law.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and C.B. Sullenberger III, of Texas, for the

rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to Ireland, Kent Doyle Logsdon, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Sharon L. Cromer, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, Virginia E. Palmer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana, and Howard A. Van Vranken, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

VTC

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

SEPTEMBER 30

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Beth Robinson, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Jennifer Sung, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Rahul Gupta, of West Virginia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, and Elizabeth Prelogar, of Idaho, to be Solicitor General of the United States, Jessica D. Aber, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Carla B. Freedman, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, William J. Ihlenfeld II, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, Christopher R. Kavanaugh, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, Darcie N. McElwee, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maine, Breon S. Peace, of New Jersey, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Rachael S. Rollins, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, William S. Thompson, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia, and Damian Williams, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, all of the Department of Justice.

SR-301

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Afghanistan.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Todd M. Harper, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, and Judith DeZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be First Vice President, and Owen Edward Herrnstadt, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors, both of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

SD-106

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Laura S. H. Holgate, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be Representative of the United States of