

(H.R. 6353) to authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6353

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 “National Service Animals Memorial Act”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Service Animals Monument Corporation (referred to in this section as the “Corporation”) may establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and handlers of service animals in the United States.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—The establishment of the commemorative work under this section shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Commemorative Works Act”).

(c) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the commemorative work under this section.

(2) RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE ANIMALS MONUMENT CORPORATION.—The Corporation shall be solely responsible for the acceptance of contributions for, and the payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work under this section.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If, upon payment of all expenses for the establishment of the commemorative work under this section (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Corporation shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) ON EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—If, upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work under this section, the Corporation shall transmit the amount of the balance to a separate account with the National Park Foundation for memorials, to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services, as appropriate, in accordance with the process provided in section 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for accounts established under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 8906(b) of such title.

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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 the measure under consideration today.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6353, the National Service Animals Memorial Act, introduced by my colleague, Representative SUSAN WILD.

The bill would authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia, and its surroundings, to commemorate the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals—and handlers of service animals—in the United States.

The bill recognizes the National Service Animals Monument Corporation’s mission to honor and recognize the broad scope of service animals through a memorial to educate the public of the contributions by service animals and of the human-animal bond between service animals and their handlers.

The memorial will ensure that the contributions of service and working animals are understood, and that their history is not forgotten.

In doing so, the bill recognizes the lifesaving and life-sustaining service these animals so generously provide to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative WILD, for introducing this legislation and championing this bill on behalf of her constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 6353, a “yes” vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6353, offered by Representative WILD, would authorize the National Service Animals Memorial Corporation to create a commemorative work on Federal land in Washington, D.C., to honor the heroic acts and sacrifices of service animals and their handlers.

The commemorative work would feature the contributions of animals, such as heroic service dogs, that have assisted humans for generations by serving as guides for those with disabilities and supporting law enforcement, search and rescue, and military personnel.

Some well-known examples of heroic dogs include Cairo, which was part of the Navy SEAL team that killed

Osama bin Laden. H.R. 6353 prohibits the use of Federal funds to create or maintain this work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WILD for her work on this legislation, and I urge adoption of this bill.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6353, 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.

KEEP AMERICA’S REFUGES OPERATIONAL ACT OF 2022

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6734) to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer services, community partnership, and refuge education programs of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6734

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 “Keep America’s Refuges Operational Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM VOLUNTEER SERVICES, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP, AND REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Section 7(g) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f) is amended by striking “2018 through 2022” and inserting “2023 through 2027”.

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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6734, the Keep America's Refuges Operational Act, introduced by our colleague, Representative HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

This bill will reauthorize the volunteer services, community partnerships, and refuge education programs of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge system spreads itself across 568 national wildlife refuges and protects nearly 837 million acres of land, water, and wetlands. These important lands serve as homes for over an array of species, including 700 birds, 220 mammals, 1,000 fish, and 250 reptile and amphibian species.

Volunteers in the refuge system are crucial to keeping the refuges running, encouraging millions of the tourists each year, and generating billions of local revenue while creating jobs for neighboring communities.

Reauthorizing these volunteer services allows the Fish and Wildlife Service to continue providing transportation, uniforms, lodging, awards, subsistence, and training for those who selflessly choose to volunteer on these projects.

During the March hearing on the bill, we heard from Ms. Caroline Brouwer of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and Ms. Joan Patterson from the Coalition of Refuge Friends and Advocates about the outside role that volunteers and friend groups play in keeping refuges running, as well as serving and connecting with the local community.

The Fish and Wildlife Service also testified in support of the legislation. In June, the National Resources Committee reported the bill to the House by unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the bill sponsor and my colleagues on the committee for the bipartisan support for this legislation, and I urge its adoption.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6734, the Keep America's Refuges Operational Act of 2022.

This bill introduced by my colleagues, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. GRAVES, reauthorizes volunteer programs at our national wildlife refuges.

Specifically, this bill would reauthorize for 5 fiscal years several U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services programs, including those related to volunteer services, community partnerships, donations and gifts, and education projects.

The Fish and Wildlife Services currently utilize volunteers for tours, restoring the habitat, plant and animal surveys, staffing refuge stores and visitor centers, and all other activities.

While I believe more work needs to be done to improve our overall man-

agement of our national wildlife refuges, the volunteer activities that this bill will reauthorize are an effective tool to perform needed work without increasing costs to taxpayers.

Solutions such as this legislation are especially welcome during times like these when our national debt continues to balloon, and inflation continues to soar because of reckless spending pushed forward by the majority and the current administration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chair for yielding, as well as his continued leadership of this all-important committee and in connection with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 6734, the Keep America's Refuges Operational Act. I thank my colleagues, Representatives THOMPSON and SABLAN, and certainly Representative WITTMAN for his leadership on the other side of the aisle.

This commonsense and bipartisan legislation reauthorizes the National Wildlife Refuge System volunteer, community partnership, and education program. Because of this program, refuges continue to benefit from volunteer support, which has successfully saved taxpayer dollars, generated millions for local economies, and promoted jobs in communities throughout America.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is comprised of over 560 refuges located in every United States territory and State. They make up over 800 million acres of habitat dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife. Each year, National Wildlife Refuge System hosts more than 60 million visitors, generating over \$3 billion in revenue for local economies and supporting more than 40,000 jobs.

Visitors come from all over to explore, hunt, fish, and enjoy America's natural beauty. Refuges help to mold the next generation of conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts by providing learning experiences and cherished memories.

But this wouldn't be possible without the dedicated refuge volunteers and community partners who donate their time and their energy to keep refuges open and operational. During fiscal year 2021, approximately 11,700 volunteers gave close to 649,000 hours of their time, which is the equivalent of nearly 318 full-time employees or a contribution of more than \$18 million.

Volunteers provide critical support to full-time staff in numerous ways. They operate visitor centers, conduct fish and wildlife population surveys, maintain visitor structures, roads and paths, fight invasive species, and protect native plants and animals. They also help refuges raise money for key

infrastructure projects and visitor centers.

Volunteers are of all ages, come from diverse walks of life, work in many different capacities, and truly represent the gorgeous mosaic of the American people. But one thing they all have in common is their commitment to preserving America's natural beauty so that we can all enjoy it for years to come.

In the 115th Congress, the House passed an identical reauthorization bill, which was signed into law by President Trump in April of 2018. Since that time, the program has continued to leverage volunteer hours allowing wildlife refuges to remain accessible for millions of visitors each year. It is my hope that we can again work across the aisle to support, in different ways, our National Wildlife Refuge System.

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I will take a moment to acknowledge the cosponsors of this legislation, Chairman GRIJALVA and Representatives GRAVES, THOMPSON, and SABLAN, with a particular special thanks to Representative WITTMAN for partnering with me, once again, to advance this legislation. I greatly appreciate their leadership and longstanding support for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Supporting this bill in this Chamber means supporting the economic benefits to be gained from being good stewards of the environment that God has given to this great country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6734.

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all involved on a significant partnership on this legislation that has brought benefits historically to our park systems and refuge systems and will continue to do so. Let me thank my friends across the aisle for their bipartisan support on that.

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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6734, 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.

DESIGNATION OF THE KOL ISRAEL FOUNDATION HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AS A NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7618) to designate the Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial in Bedford Heights, Ohio, as a national memorial.