

President's condition from the American public are complicit in a coverup that is causing our country great pain.

Enough is enough. Mr. Speaker, it is time to restore accountability and respectability to this White House and the American people. It is the least the Tennesseans I serve back home deserve: A President of the United States capable of doing the job.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, God of now and all eternity, we approach You this day overwhelmed by everything that is far from holy, overtaken by concerns that even just this one day presents.

There is so much confusion and uncertainty. We ask that You would speak Your living and powerful word into our worrisome moments. Divide our troubled souls from our wearied spirits and discern and guide the actions and intentions of our hearts.

The darkness of our lives and the shadows of fear and frustration have descended in our workplaces, our politics, and our homes. Show us we have nothing to fear when we let Your light shine upon our lives, that You alone are our light and salvation.

There is so much that needs to be done, but we are paralyzed in our failures and incapacitated by our inadequacies. Remind us again that Your grace is sufficient for us; Your power is made perfect when we yield our whole selves, flaws and weaknesses, to Your will.

Among the many gods who will pursue or threaten to entrap us this day, there will be none like You. In these moments may we always choose You. May we demonstrate our praise for You, in all that we face today, for You alone are God.

In Your immortal and merciful name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ONE CANNOT REWRITE HISTORY

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is attempting to gaslight the American people by touting a 40 percent drop in daily illegal border crossings from the last couple of weeks.

He even implied that the so-called drop shows a more secure border than the one he inherited from President Trump. That is a gross misrepresentation.

No matter what the border numbers from June turn out to be, one month won't change the more than 9.6 million immigrant encounters under this President.

Let's look at the facts. May marked 39 straight months of more illegal immigrant encounters than even the highest month under the Trump administration. President Biden simply cannot rewrite history.

Each time the President boasts about a drop in encounters, he is acknowledging that he could have acted 3½ years ago but instead put our Nation at risk with his open-border policies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING SERVICEMEMBERS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman MIKE MCCAUL responded the day after the bizarre Biden debate performance where Biden claimed no U.S. servicemembers died under his watch. Mr. MCCAUL correctly identified this claim as a lie as 13 were murdered in the Abbey Gate terrorist attack alone.

Sadly, this year, three Georgia Army reservists were killed on January 28 by Iran puppet Hezbollah at Tower 22 in Jordan. America will not forget Specialist Kennedy Sanders, Sergeant William Rivers, and Specialist Breonna Moffett.

The unintended reelection of Donald Trump by corrupt Judge Merchan is more evident every day. Polls for Trump overwhelmingly recognize judicial subversion with Merchan earning my invitation to be my guest for the Trump inauguration.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who have successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

CONGRATULATING KATIE MOON

(Mr. MILLER of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this summer, northeast Ohio native Katie Moon will compete in her second Olympic Games.

Four years ago, she won the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in the pole vault. In her career, she has won golds at the Olympics, the World Athletics Championships, the Diamond League, and the NCAA Championships.

An alumna of Olmsted Falls High School in Cuyahoga County, she is a shining example of what our district has to offer. Her hard work and desire to give back to the community exemplify what it means to be an American.

From 2018 to 2023, Katie has won gold medals every year in various competitions. This summer, Katie, along with hundreds of other American athletes, will head to the Paris Olympic Games to represent our country and to once again bring home the gold.

I thank her for bringing inspiration to young people across the district and the country. I look forward to seeing her on the highest podium. Go Team USA.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules

on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

ALABAMA UNDERWATER FOREST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 897) to provide for the establishment of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 897

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 “Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) An ancient cypress forest dating back 50,000 to 70,000 years has been exposed in the Gulf of Mexico off the Alabama coastline.

(2) The cypress trees, which were uncovered by massive waves associated with Hurricane Ivan, are still rooted in the mud they were growing in at least 50,000 years ago.

(3) The Underwater Forest site is unique on a global scale, the only known site where trees between 50,000 and 70,000 years old have been preserved intact with the ecosystem they were growing in.

(4) Exploration of the site continues to yield invaluable scientific insight in a variety of fields, though scientists have just begun to study the ancient forest.

SEC. 3. POLICY AND PURPOSE.

(a) **POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to protect and preserve the ancient cypress trees located off the coast of Alabama, known as the Alabama Underwater Forest.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to protect the resources of the area described in section 5(b), to educate and interpret for the public regarding the ancient Alabama Underwater Forest environment, and to manage human uses of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary consistent with this Act.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) **SANCTUARY.**—The term “Sanctuary” means the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary designated under section 5(a).

(2) **SECRETARY.**—the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 5. SANCTUARY DESIGNATION.

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—The area described in subsection (b) is designated as the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary pursuant to title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.).

(b) **AREA INCLUDED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Sanctuary shall consist only of all waters and submerged lands within the boundary described in paragraph (2).

(2) **BOUNDARY.**—The boundary referred to in paragraph (1) shall encompass only the area within the following coordinates:

(A) 30 degrees, 7 minutes, 20.2116 seconds north latitude; 87 degrees, 49 minutes, 15.7404 seconds west longitude.

(B) 30 degrees, 7 minutes, 20.2116 seconds north latitude; 87 degrees, 43 minutes, 44.8536 seconds west longitude.

(C) 30 degrees, 5 minutes, 42.6552 seconds north latitude; 87 degrees, 49 minutes, 15.7404 seconds west longitude.

(D) 30 degrees, 5 minutes, 42.6552 seconds north latitude; 87 degrees, 43 minutes, 44.8536 seconds west longitude.

(E) 30 degrees, 7 minutes, 20.2116 seconds north latitude; 87 degrees, 49 minutes, 15.7404 seconds west longitude.

(3) **CHARTS.**—The Sanctuary shall be generally identified and depicted on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration charts that shall be maintained on file and kept available for public examination during regular business hours at the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and in online format and which shall be updated to reflect boundary modifications made pursuant to this section.

SEC. 6. PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES.

(a) **PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.**—The following activities are prohibited and are unlawful for any person to conduct or to cause to be conducted within the Sanctuary:

(1) Cutting, removing, or any kind of subsurface salvage of the cypress trees.

(2) Lowering below the surface of the water any grappling, suction, conveyor, dredging, or wrecking device.

(3) Detonating below the surface of the water any explosive or explosive mechanism.

(4) Drilling or coring the seabed.

(5) Lowering, laying, positioning, or raising any type of seabed cable or cable-laying device.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The prohibitions in subsection (a) shall not apply to the following:

(A) Fishing, diving, mooring, or similar recreational or commercial activities.

(B) Necessary operations of public vessels, including operations essential for national defense, law enforcement, and responses to emergencies that threaten life, property, or the environment.

(C) Construction or placement of artificial reef structures for the purpose of enhancing fishery resources, fishing opportunities, or recreational diving opportunities.

(D) Exploration, development, or production of oil or gas pursuant to a lease, permit, or other authorization, provided such lease, permit, or authorization is issued on or before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **OTHER ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, may allow a person to conduct an activity that would otherwise be prohibited under subsection (a) if such activity meets the standards of Title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 7. COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **PREPARATION OF PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, and local government authorities and with the advisory council established under section 8, shall develop a comprehensive management plan and implement regulations to achieve the policy and purpose of this Act.

(2) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—In developing the comprehensive management plan and implementing regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall follow the procedures described in sections 303 and 304 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1433 and 1434).

(3) **PLAN DETAILS.**—The comprehensive management plan required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) facilitate all public and private uses of the Sanctuary compatible with the primary objective of Sanctuary resource protection, with a focus on facilitating—

(i) fishing, diving, or similar recreational or commercial activities; and

(ii) construction or placement of artificial reef structures for the purpose of enhancing fishery resources, fishing opportunities, or recreational diving opportunities;

(B) consider temporal and geographical zoning, to ensure protection of Sanctuary resources;

(C) identify needs for research and ecological monitoring; and

(D) ensure coordination and cooperation between Sanctuary managers and—

(i) other Federal, State, and local authorities with jurisdiction within or adjacent to the Sanctuary; and

(ii) owners, operators, and stakeholders with respect to existing oil and gas operations within or adjacent to the Sanctuary.

(b) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—The Secretary shall provide for the participation of the general public in the development of the comprehensive management plan.

SEC. 8. ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish an advisory council pursuant to section 315 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1445a) to advise the Secretary with respect to the designation and management of the Sanctuary.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Secretary shall include a representative from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as a voting member of the advisory council.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 897, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 897, the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act.

Representative CARL's legislation seeks to protect an underwater forest located 10 miles off the coast of Gulf Shores, Alabama, in the Gulf of Mexico.

At roughly 60,000 years old, this forest provides a window into our past in a way that is not found anywhere else on Earth. Protecting this resource is critical for the research efforts that it supports.

This forest was first discovered by local fishermen in 2004 in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan and has received attention from scientists and universities around the world.

H.R. 897 designates the forest as a sanctuary in a manner which embraces the multiple use of our Nation's natural resources. The legislation protects the forest by prohibiting the cutting or removing of the forest's trees while also providing protections for national