

every exchange must meet rigorous Federal appraisal standards to ensure equal value.

The bill also includes significant protections for wildlife habitat, conservation lands, public access, and existing land uses. Federal lands specifically excluded include: areas of critical environmental concern, National Landscape Conservation System lands, research natural areas, military reservations, and lands designated for conservation purposes by Congress or the President.

Protected conservation areas and specially managed wildlife landscapes are not eligible for exchange under this legislation.

To be absolutely clear, the bill explicitly preserves all Indian treaty rights. In fact, this bill was shaped in consultation with Tribal leaders. It has strong support from Tribal nations in North Dakota.

Steve Sitting Bear is chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. He has plans to grow beef and bison production for Standing Rock, and what a great opportunity that is. They reside on the rolling prairies along the Missouri River in southwestern North Dakota, perfect for grazing cattle and bison.

This legislation would help correct this scattered ownership pattern that challenges Chairman Sitting Bear's vision. In his words, the current situation has made effective land management difficult for all parties.

Mark Fox, who is chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, says his nation was glad to help shape the legislation and supports restoring reservation land while preserving treaty rights.

Due to this collaboration and broad support, this legislation passed the United States Senate unanimously in the last Congress. It passed unanimously out of the House Committee on Natural Resources earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, this is a practical, commonsense solution that benefits Tribes, benefits North Dakota, and improves land management for future generations. I urge my colleagues to support the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act.

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

I again commend the gentlewoman for this legislation and thank my colleagues in the minority for helping us work on something that we could bring to the floor that is a commonsense bill that benefits all those involved. I think this is a good example of Congress doing what we should do, bringing forth commonsense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, H.R. 2252 is a practical and balanced approach to resolving a longstanding land management challenge in North Dakota. This legislation helps the State better manage trust lands that support schools and public institutions while also creating a pathway for greater Tribal land consolidation within reservation boundaries.

I thank Representative FEDORCHAK for her leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2252, 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.

□ 1550

STAR-SPANGLED SUMMIT ACT OF 2026

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4684) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a special use permit with respect to the maintaining of a flagpole bearing the flag of the United States at Kyhv Peak Lookout Point, Utah, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4684

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 "Star-Spangled Summit Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REMOVAL OF COVERED FLAGPOLE AT KYHV PEAK LOOKOUT POINT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—*In this section:*

(1) COVERED FLAGPOLE.—*The term "covered flagpole" means a flagpole bearing the flag of the United States.*

(2) KYHV PEAK LOOKOUT POINT.—*The term "Kyhv Peak Lookout Point" means the peak within the Uinta National Forest overlooking Utah Valley and located approximately at latitude 40°16'18.14" N, longitude 111°36'58.57" W.*

(3) QUALIFIED PERSON.—*The term "qualified person" means an individual that resides in, or a nonprofit entity or volunteer organization that carries out operations of the entity or organization in, Utah County, Utah, that has—*

(A) *experience placing, maintaining, or otherwise caring for a covered flagpole; and*

(B) *any other experience determined relevant by the Secretary.*

(4) SECRETARY.—*The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.*

(b) SPECIAL USE PERMIT.—*Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue a special use permit for a period of 10 years for the installation, operation, maintenance, and removal, if necessary, of a covered flagpole at Kyhv Peak Lookout Point to—*

(1) *an individual who has submitted a special use permit application to display the flag of the United States seasonally on Kyhv Peak prior to March 5, 2026;*

(2) *an individual who has placed or displayed the flag of the United States at Kyhv Peak Lookout Point as part of a longstanding seasonal practice prior to the date of enactment of this Act; or*

(3) *if an individual described in paragraphs (1) and (2) declines such permit, to a qualified person in accordance with this section.*

(c) SELECTION AND ISSUANCE.—

(1) APPLICATION.—*Except as provided in subsection (b), to be eligible to be selected for a special use permit under this section, a qualified person shall submit to the Secretary a proposal and application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.*

(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—*The Secretary may impose such terms and conditions on a holder of a special use permit under this section as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure the proper care and maintenance of a covered flagpole.*

(3) LAND USE FEE EXEMPTION.—*The Secretary shall not assess any land use fees with respect to a special use permit issued under this section.*

(4) NOTICE OF APPLICATION.—*The Secretary shall publish notice of the availability of any special use permit under this section on the website of the Forest Service and in a local Utah County, Utah, newspaper of record.*

(d) SUBSEQUENT SPECIAL USE PERMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*The Secretary shall renew or issue a new 10-year special use permit not later than 180 days after the date that is the earliest of the following:*

(A) *The date that is 10 years after the date on which the Secretary issued the preceding permit.*

(B) *The date on which the holder of the current special use permit requests revocation of such permit.*

(C) *The date on which a special use permit is subject to early termination under paragraph (2).*

(2) REVOCATION.—*If the Secretary determines that the holder of a special use permit under this section is not in compliance with the terms and conditions relating to such permit under subsection (c)(3), the Secretary may revoke the special use permit.*

(e) EXEMPTION FROM COST RECOVERY FEES.—*A holder of a special use permit under this section shall be exempt from any cost recovery fee under section 251.58 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.*

(f) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—*The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall not apply to the issuance, renewal, or administration of a special use permit under this section, including any activities associated with the placing, maintenance, or removal of a covered flagpole at Kyhv Peak Lookout Point.*

(g) ACCESS.—*The Secretary may authorize reasonable access to Kyhv Peak Lookout Point for the purpose of exercising rights under a special use permit issued under this section, subject to conditions necessary to protect public safety and natural resources.*

(h) LIMITATION.—*The Secretary shall ensure the activities and access authorized by this section are limited to the smallest practicable area.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. ELFRETH) 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 may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4684, 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.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4684, the Star-Spangled Summit Act of 2026, introduced by Representative KENNEDY from Utah.

This bill provides a simple, common-sense, and long-overdue fix that restores a longstanding patriotic tradition in Utah for generations to come.

For more than two decades, a Scoutmaster named Robert Collins and his local Boy Scout troop hiked to the summit of Kyhv Peak Lookout Point to raise the American flag above the city of Provo, Utah.

What began as a simple, patriotic gesture grew into a cherished community event. The annual raising of the American flag on this mountaintop has become not only a symbol of local pride for the Provo area but also a meaningful rite of passage for many young people in the community.

Unfortunately, that tradition came to an abrupt end in 2022 when the U.S. Forest Service ordered the flag's prompt removal due to the absence of a special use permit for the flagpole. Overnight, a patriotic tradition that had brought a community together for 20 years was snuffed out by bureaucratic process.

Since then, efforts to restore the tradition through administrative channels have moved slowly and without resolution.

H.R. 4684 provides a straightforward solution. The bill directs the Forest Service to issue a 10-year special use permit for the seasonal placement of the American flag at Kyhv Peak and establishes a clear framework to allow the tradition to continue in perpetuity. Importantly, the legislation also waives all fees associated with the permit because you shouldn't have to pay to be patriotic.

As our Nation celebrates 250 years of American independence, Congress should be encouraging patriotism and uplifting local traditions that bring communities together. This thoughtful legislation ensures that the Federal Government will no longer stand in the way of volunteers seeking to honor the American flag and show their love of country.

I thank Representative KENNEDY for his leadership on this effort and for his diligent work on the Committee on Natural Resources on behalf of his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4684, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 4684 would authorize the Forest Service to issue a permit authorizing the maintenance of a flagpole at Kyhv Peak Lookout Point in Utah.

This peak is located near Provo, Utah, in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Na-

tional Forest. It is a popular hiking destination that is used to feature the prominent flagpole displaying the American flag, which was first installed in 2000 by a Boy Scout troop.

However, U.S. Forest Service regulations prohibit the construction, placing, or maintaining of any structure on National Forest System land. The initial placement of this flagpole did not receive a permit, and consequently, the agency ordered the removal of the flagpole.

These agency policies are vital for the proper stewardship of our resources, and the support for this bill should in no way be seen as an attempt to undermine or weaken that very crucial standard.

We must continue to promote the simple but important principle of "leave no trace" to minimize the impact of our visits on the plants, animals, and ecosystems we all hold dear.

To be clear, the agency should be able to resolve this situation on their own. The Forest Service has testified before the Committee on Natural Resources that they are working to issue the necessary permit without congressional action. However, this patriotic display, especially in our 250th year, as the chair said, is important to the local community and visitors alike.

I support the moving of this legislation today to resolve this issue promptly and return the flag to Kyhv Peak.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair WESTERMAN for the opportunity to speak on this bill, and I also thank Ranking Member HUFFMAN and my colleague Congresswoman ELFRETH for their willingness to hear this bill on the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, it should not take an act of Congress to fly an American flag on a mountain, but here we are, as we often are, in Congress.

In 2000, a constituent of mine, Scoutmaster Robert Collins, led a Scout troop on a hike to Kyhv Peak above Utah Valley in Provo to raise the American flag at its summit. What began as a patriotic gesture by the Scouts evolved into an annual tradition.

Each year, for over two decades, Robert Collins, joined by relatives, friends, and community members, hiked to the summit to continue the tradition.

The flag standing at the peak became a symbol of local pride and a recognizable landmark in my district.

However, in 2022, the U.S. Forest Service restricted the display. An act of patriotism, one that asked nothing of the Federal Government and cost the taxpayer nothing, was shut down by Washington bureaucracy.

For years, my community waited for answers, but the Forest Service was never able to remediate the situation.

That is why I introduced the Star-Spangled Summit Act. This bill directs the Forest Service to issue the permit. In short, it is simple. It does one thing well: lets Mr. COLLINS carry our flag up that mountain again.

Mr. Speaker, in the grand scheme of issues this body confronts, this may seem like a small fix, but I believe this bill represents a larger challenge. This story reflects the challenge familiar to Utah and to communities across the West.

In Utah, two-thirds of our land is managed from Washington, and too often, the decisions made about that land are disconnected from the people who actually live there. Local traditions get tangled in Federal processes. Common sense gives way to bureaucracy. Good people doing good things are left waiting for years.

Utahns know our lands, and we know our communities. It is my belief that Utahns should not be buried under layers of bureaucracy when making decisions about the place that they call home.

For 250 years, Americans have raised our flag. We have raised it at Yorktown and at Gettysburg. We have raised it at Iwo Jima and on the surface of the Moon. Yes, we even raised it over the mountain peaks of Provo.

We raise the flag because it stands for something larger than any one of us: the idea that a free people can govern themselves.

As we mark 250 years of American self-governance, we owe our communities a government that works with them. The Star-Spangled Summit Act restores a measure of balance that returns a small piece of decisionmaking to the community it belongs to, and it ensures the American flag can continue to wave.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4684, the Star-Spangled Summit Act.

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I once again thank Representative KENNEDY for his leadership on the Star-Spangled Summit Act of 2026. This bill restores a meaningful community tradition, cuts through unnecessary red tape, and ensures that the American flag can continue flying over Provo in a way that respects both patriotism and responsible stewardship of our public lands.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4684, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4684, 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.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL HOUSE AS AN AFFILIATED AREA

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1352) to designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park 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. 1352

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

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL HOUSE AS AN AFFILIATED AREA.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, is established as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

(b) *DESCRIPTION OF AFFILIATED AREA.*—The affiliated area shall consist of the area generally depicted as the “General George C. Marshall House Property, Leesburg, Virginia” on the map titled “General George C. Marshall House, Proposed Affiliated Area”, numbered 999/189,974, and dated September 2023.

(c) *ADMINISTRATION.*—The affiliated area shall be managed in a manner consistent with—

(1) this Act; and

(2) any law generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(d) *MANAGEMENT ENTITY.*—The George C. Marshall International Center shall be the management entity for the affiliated area.

(e) *AGREEMENTS.*—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”)—

(1) may provide technical assistance and enter into cooperative agreements with the management entity for the purpose of providing financial assistance for the marketing, marking, interpretation, and preservation of the affiliated area; and

(2) shall enter into an agreement with the management entity that delineates the roles and responsibilities for the management of the area consistent with the policies and standards that apply to units of the National Park System.

(f) *LIMITED ROLE OF THE SECRETARY.*—Nothing in this Act authorizes the Secretary to acquire property at the affiliated area or to assume managerial or financial responsibility for the operation, maintenance, or management of the affiliated area.

(g) *PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.*—Nothing in this Act affects the land use rights of private property owners adjacent to the General George C. Marshall House.

(h) *NO BUFFER ZONES.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create buffer zones outside of the General George C. Marshall House.

(2) *ACTIVITY OR USE OUTSIDE THE GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL HOUSE.*—The fact that an activity or use can be seen, heard, or detected from within the George C. Marshall House shall not preclude, limit, control, regulate, or determine the conduct or management of activities or uses outside of the George C. Marshall House.

(i) *MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the management entity, shall complete a management plan for the affiliated area in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ar-

kansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Ms. ELFRETH) 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 may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1352, 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 today in support of H.R. 1352, which would designate the General George C. Marshall House in Virginia as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

General George C. Marshall was a war hero, statesman, master strategist, and one of the most important figures in modern American history. From his distinguished service in both World Wars to his prominent role in shaping postwar peace, he was the rare American whose service touched every dimension of national strength. He was immortalized through his namesake Marshall Plan, the monumental recovery effort to rebuild Western Europe after the Second World War, for which he was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize.

In rare times of quiet during those pivotal years, General Marshall would retire to his home in Leesburg, Virginia, where he could humbly tend his gardens and ease his mind.

Today, his estate remains an unusually intact window into his life, with the house and contents still in near-perfect condition.

In 2005, the home and its gardens were open to the public as a museum.

This bill recognizes George Marshall's legacy and ensures that Americans can continue to draw inspiration from his story by designating his home as an affiliated area of the National Park System. This designation conveys honor and recognition while keeping the management and fiscal responsibilities of the estate with the George C. Marshall International Center. This bill does not put the property under Federal management or add to the Federal estate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1600

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1352 would designate the General George C. Marshall House in Leesburg, Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System. This is a fitting tribute to a man who left an enduring mark on our national and, dare I say it, world history.

George Marshall is the namesake of the Marshall Plan, a strategy that helped rebuild Europe after World War

II. He understood that American leadership isn't found in the vacuum of isolation. It occurs from the steady, selfless work of building relationships to achieve global stability. He gave us a blueprint for a world held together by shared prosperity and common interests.

The Marshall House preserves and celebrates the historic contributions made by George Marshall throughout World War II and during the postwar economic recovery.

The property currently holds a collection of over 6,000 objects related to George and Katherine Marshall. It was found to be a worthy site for increased affiliation with the Park Service through a survey completed in 2023.

This bill is the next step in that process and will help forever cement the legacy of George Marshall.

This preservation of history also stands in stark contrast to the foreign policy of the Trump administration, which, unfortunately, continues to shoot first and aim later at the expense of decades of thoughtful diplomacy and alliances.

The bill before us today is also an important reminder of the need to support our national parks and the agencies tasked with protecting them.

Affiliated areas are vital public-private partnerships, as this bill establishes between the National Park Service and the George C. Marshall International Center, but they are just one component of our system. They are not a replacement.

Real stewardship requires the courage to designate new, fully funded national parks, not just when it is easy or convenient, but where the land and our history demand it.

H.R. 1352 ensures that the legacy of George Marshall and his significant contributions to American history are preserved, protected, and publicly accessible for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I commend both parties for working together to bring this legislation to the floor. I appreciate the gentleman from Virginia for sponsoring this legislation.

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

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM), who is the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1352, which designates the General George C. Marshall House on Dodona Manor in Leesburg as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

Many of us know the incredible legacy of General George Marshall, who was Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Chief of Staff of the Army. He was the only general, and