

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

still is the only general, to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize. You also may know the famous Marshall Plan, Mr. Speaker.

What you may not know is the incredible work of the George C. Marshall International Center, which operates there in Dodona Manor, and the George C. Marshall House is a part of their mission.

The center looks after the property and hosts thousands of visitors every year from around the world. They also have a regular speakers series on the property and lots of programming for children.

They do a lot of amazing work in our community, and the property is a testament not just to the legacy of George C. Marshall, but to how he gave back to the community.

This official National Park System designation would be a big deal not just for the manor and not just for the center, but for our entire community. It helps preserve the property for generations and allows the center to expand their programs, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1352. When it passes, you are all invited to the center as well, Mr. Speaker, and we will have a big party there.

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge my colleagues to support this critical piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, H.R. 1352 would designate the General George C. Marshall House as an affiliated area of the National Park System, improving national recognition while keeping the site privately managed without taxpayer support.

This is an appropriate bill to consider during our Nation's 250th anniversary celebrations, as it bestows recognition to one of the most hardworking and pivotal Americans of the postwar era.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1352, 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. 1352, 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.

#### VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE SCHEDULING IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3482) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an online program through which an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs may schedule an appointment for a covered veteran with a non-Department health care provider under the

Veterans Community Care 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. 3482.

*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 "Veterans Community Care Scheduling Improvement Act".

#### SEC. 2. SCHEDULING OF APPOINTMENTS UNDER THE VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.

(a) ELECTRONIC PROCESS.—Subsection (d) of section 3101 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(d) ELECTRONIC PROCESS.—(1) The Secretary shall implement an electronic process through which a scheduler of the Department, using an information technology system, may schedule an appointment for health care furnished by the Department or through the Veterans Community Care Program, under section 1703 of this title, by a non-Department health care provider.

"(2) The electronic process under this subsection shall allow a scheduler, with regards to appointments described in—

"(A) either clause of subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(1), to view, search, and sort such appointments by type of care, location, and date; and

"(B) clause (ii) of such subparagraph—

"(i) to schedule such an appointment;

"(ii) to provide referral and authorization documents directly to a non-Department provider; and

"(iii) to perform any other function the Secretary determines necessary.

"(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the electronic process allows a scheduler to schedule an appointment for health care furnished by the Secretary through a health care provider of the Department.

"(4) The Secretary shall implement the electronic process through an existing agreement if practicable.

"(5) The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the following regarding the electronic process:

"(A) Not later than 90 days after the Secretary makes a determination under subparagraph (B)(iii) of paragraph (2), a briefing regarding the functions the Secretary has determined necessary.

"(B) Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of Veterans Community Care Scheduling Improvement Act, and semiannually thereafter during the following three years, a report regarding operation of the electronic process during both the semi-annual period preceding the date of the report and the cumulative period since the date of the enactment of such Act. Such a report shall include the following for each such period:

"(i) The number of non-Department health care providers that participated in such electronic process, disaggregated by—

"(I) category of hospital care or medical services provided; and

"(II) medical center of the Department;

"(ii) The number of appointments scheduled pursuant to the electronic process, disaggregated by—

"(I) category of hospital care or medical services provided;

"(II) medical center of the Department; and

"(III) month.

"(iii) A comparison of the average wait time for appointments scheduled through the electronic process and through non-electronic methods, disaggregated by medical center of the Department.

"(iv) The rates at which veterans cancelled appointments scheduled through the electronic process.

"(v) The rates at which veterans did not appear for appointments scheduled through the electronic process."

#### (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) DATE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement the electronic process under subsection (d) of section 1703H of such title, as added by this section, not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish guidelines. Such guidelines shall include the following:

(A) Procedures for schedulers and other employees of the Department involved in the scheduling of appointments described in such section.

(B) A directive that employees described in subparagraph (A) use the electronic process to the extent practicable.

(C) A directive that employees described in subparagraph (A), when scheduling an appointment for a covered veteran (as such term is used in section 1703 of such title) for health care furnished by the Secretary, inform such covered veteran of available appointments through providers of the Department and through providers under the Veterans Community Care Program when eligible.

(D) Procedures for engaging with non-Department health care providers in specialized cases.

(E) Standards regarding timeliness and accuracy.

(F) Escalation protocols for scheduling failures or delays.

(3) TRAINING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement a mandatory training program for employees described in paragraph (2) regarding the guidelines under paragraph (2).

(4) EVALUATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe performance benchmarks and outcome-based metrics for the electronic process under such section, including—

(A) time between a referral and a scheduled appointment;

(B) patient satisfaction; and

(C) the percentage of appointments scheduled exclusively through the electronic process.

(5) OUTREACH.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall plan and carry out an outreach strategy to encourage non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers that participate in the Veterans Community Care Program to participate in the electronic process under such subsection. Such outreach shall—

(A) include contacting each such provider during such 90 days;

(B) include seeking to enter into an agreement with each such provider under which the provider shall participate in the electronic process;

(C) include collaborating with State hospital associations and rural health associations to promote such participation;

(D) focus on providers in specialties or underserved areas, as determined by the Secretary; and