

control and redesign of various IHS activities on a permanent basis. In short, what was a demonstration project would become a permanent IHS self-governance program. Tribes which have already contracted for IHS services under existing law will continue under the provisions of their contracts while an additional 50 new tribes would be selected each year to enter into contracts.

H.R. 1167 also allows for a feasibility study regarding the execution of tribal self-governance compacts and funding agreements of Indian-related programs outside the IHS but within the Department of Health and Human Services on a demonstration project basis.

H.R. 1167 is an important piece of legislation which is a result of extensive negotiations between the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Indian Affairs in the other body, the Indian Health Service, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, and a special task force representing the many Indian tribes around the Nation.

After negotiations and some minor changes, we have all reached agreement. It is my understanding that H. Res. 562, as it is now being considered by us today, incorporates H.R. 1167 as it has been agreed to by everybody working on the bill, including administration officials and tribal representatives.

I support this legislation as we have amended it and urge my colleagues to pass it today and send it back to the other body so that the other body will again have the opportunity to pass it in its final form and send it to the President.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters for inclusion in the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 5, 2000.

Hon. TOM BLILEY
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 17, 1999, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1167, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide for further self-governance by Indian tribes. This noncontroversial bill had been referred solely to the Committee on Resources. On April 4, 2000, the Senate amended the bill and returned it to the House. Section 12 of the Senate amendments establishes the office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Health in the Department of Health and Human Services. I believe this provision affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce, as demonstrated by the referral of H.R. 403, which accomplishes the same end, to the Committee on Resources and additionally to the Committee on Commerce.

I propose to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 1167 with an amendment which would strip out Section 12. I ask your cooperation in allowing this to occur when we return after the Memorial Day district work period. My understanding is that the Senate would then take up the amended version of H.R. 1167 and send it to the President for signature.

Of course, by allowing this to occur, the Committee on Commerce does not waive its

jurisdiction over Section 12 or any other similar matter. If the Senate insists on its amendments and requests a conference, I would support the Committee on Commerce's request to be named to the conference. Finally, this action should not be seen as precedent for any other Senate amendments to Committee on Resources bills which affect the Committee on Commerce's jurisdiction. I would be pleased to place this letter and your response in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the bill on the Floor to document this agreement.

I appreciate your cooperation in moving this bill, which is very important to the Native American community.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR DON: Thank you for your recent letter regarding H.R. 1167, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide for further self-governance by Indian tribes. As you know, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives grants the Committee on Commerce jurisdiction over public health and quarantine. Accordingly, you are correct in your conclusion that section 12 of H.R. 1167, as amended by the Senate, falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce.

Because of the importance of this legislation and your commitment to strike those matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce when the bill comes to the floor, I will not exercise the Committee's right to a sequential referral. I appreciate your acknowledgment that by agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Committee on Commerce does not waive its prerogatives with respect to this legislation or similar legislation, including authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. Thank you for your commitment to support any request by the Commerce Committee for conferees on H.R. 1167 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response as part of the RECORD during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

TOM BLILEY,
Chairman.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third time this important piece to the ongoing struggle for Indian tribes to provide governmental services to their membership has been before us. This bill provides a process through which tribes shall step into the shoes of the Federal Government and administer programs to their members previously run by the Indian Health Service.

Similar legislation passed the House in the 105th Congress and again just last November when we passed H.R. 1167. The bill has passed the Senate,

and today we are here to agree to changes we have worked out with the Senate. This is one of, if not the most, important pieces of legislation this Congress will pass affecting American Indian tribes as it reaffirms our commitment to tribal self-governance.

The nature of self-governance is rooted in the inherent sovereignty of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. From the founding of this Nation, Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages have been recognized as distinct, independent, political communities exercising powers of self-government, not by virtue of any delegation of powers from the Federal Government but rather by virtue of their innate sovereignty. The tribes' sovereignty predates the founding of the United States and its Constitution and forms the backdrop against which the United States has continually entered into a relationship with Indian tribes and Native villages.

We did not make any changes to the bill as it passed the Senate. We decided to delete a section of the bill relating to the application of the FLRA, which is further addressed in the more appropriate setting. Language included in the bill permits tribes to receive waivers from certain regulations to help tribes administer certain programs. We are all agreed, however, that this language does not alter the obligation of the Indian tribes to comply fully with the laws enacted by Congress.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and all the members of the committee and all of the Indian tribes who worked so hard on this legislation, the Indian Health Service, and our friends in the other body who labored long and hard to get us where we are today, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), for his leadership and support on this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers at this 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 Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 562.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WEKIVA WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 2773, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2773, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

"A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Wekiwa River and its tributaries of Wekiwa Springs Run, Rock Springs Run, and Black Water Creek in the State of Florida as components of the national wild and scenic rivers system."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMEMBERING OUR HEROES, JACOB J. CHESTNUT AND JOHN M. GIBSON

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, today is a time of remembrance and deep appreciation. It was 2 years ago that we lost our brave friends, J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. As we recall their sacrifices, I wish to place the accomplishments of these two great heroes into a larger context.

The shock of tragedy we all felt at their loss has grown into the deeper pain of longing. We wonder how can it be that God chooses to allow tragedy to visit the homes of good people, people we honor, love and respect? This we cannot know.

Scripture teaches that God pursues his own purpose in his own time.

But there are questions we can answer. What did these men live for? What drove them to revere their work and to carry out their duty even in the face of terrible danger?

The simple truth is that they lived to defend freedom that is cherished and loved by us all. This passion for liberty is the foundation of our democracy. It is the sturdiest support upholding democracy across the globe.

These officers loved their jobs despite the risks because they embraced a broader commitment to a most noble purpose. In doing so, Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut have taken their place in the continuum of freedom.

From the New England farmers who routed the British on the road to Saratoga to the volunteers who marched south to San Antonio, as the determined men who charged into destiny at Gettysburg, Americans have always answered freedom's summons. From the fearless defenders of Corregidor, to the besieged ranks of guarding the Chosin Reservoir, to the GIs in the heat of the Ia Drang Valley, the call has been answered.

From our sailors under the strange stars of distant oceans, to our pilots flying above the hostile lights of unfam-

iliar lands, the work of freedom goes on. From the Marine stationed at a tiny embassy in a strife-torn nation, to the officers on duty today under the dome of this Capitol, the tradition endures and America goes on.

It is a continuous line of Americans demanding the most from themselves, freedom for our Nation and the best for this world.

This unwavering commitment is the foundation of our democracy.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he states, "If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver or costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is because the day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward."

Mr. Speaker, these men were tested. They endured the flames. Their work still stands, and I know in my heart that having received their reward they are now enjoying a peace and joy beyond our worldly understanding.

God bless John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut and their families. Let us never forget their awesome sacrifice.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

INDONESIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protest the widespread violence and killing of innocent people occurring daily in the Malukus, the Spice Islands and Ambon in Indonesia.

The mass killings in Ambon are deeply disturbing. There are members within the current Indonesia government and former government and the military who do not care how many innocent lives are stamped out. These people simply care about their ultimate goal of controlling Indonesian society and keeping their hold on power. It is deeply disturbing and offensive, Mr. Speaker, that these individuals would allow this. They are in the same league as those who ordered the deaths of innocent people in the concentration camps of World War II.

Horrifying reports and photos arrive each day in my office. I have photos of destroyed homes, businesses, churches, places of worship. I have photos of men, women, children, lying in streets with severed limbs, heads blown off, photos much too graphic to bring to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I traveled to Indonesia at the end of May, met with various leaders, including President Wahid and leaders from both the Christian and Muslim communities.

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They long for peace to reign again. But it seems impossible because of numerous reports of behind-the-scenes maneuvers by Suharto, Habibie, their cronies, various military officers and others who want to destabilize the present government.

These former government leaders and military leaders are really people with no hearts. Why do I say that? Because only uncivilized people could coldly and callously calculate to cause the deaths of whole societies simply to maintain their power.

Mr. Speaker, the mass killings continue. Day after day, more and more people in these islands become refugees with no access to food, clothing, medicine or shelter.

Reports suggest that the tension in the Malukus is not simply an economic issue; it is a religious issue as well. Members of the more extremist Islamic community, including the current leader of the People's Consultative Assembly, Dr. Amien Rais, openly have supported calls for "jihad" or an Islamic holy war against the Christians and other religious minorities in Indonesia.

The influx of Laskar Jihad fighters into Maluku has only happened through complexity of members of the military who have allowed a mass influx of men and arms into the Ambonese communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a couple of excerpts from letters and reports that we have received:

"Before the military arrived, we were fine. There was no fighting. They came and the attacks came with them. When we were boarding the evacuation ship, the soldiers had stolen most of our things, including our rings, necklaces, et cetera, and sold them in front of us for almost nothing. A chain saw that costs several hundred dollars was sold for \$10. If we carried two bags of clothes to bring, they threw one out. We took only part of what we had fled with. The clothes I have on are the only ones I now own. This shirt I wore during the attacks. I had no long pants."

"For the 3 days of the fighting, soldiers were shooting at us, many of them died. Two of our kids died. One was handicapped, and the soldiers hung him and burned him alive. These two had not died in the fighting; it was after when the soldiers rounded us up. The soldiers murdered these two."

"The attacks continued until the evening the 3rd of July in the village. The next day, the attack continued. When it was known that the mobs planned to burn down the university, the villagers again asked the military's help to stop the mobs. Again, the request was ignored with the excuse that there are villagers, civil security personnel, and the students regiment who could guard the university campus."

Here is an AP article from July 17: "The leaders of an armed Muslim militia have vowed to rid the islands of Christians. Most members come from