

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I thank the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and the ranking member, Mr. NUNES, for their strong support of this bill. It is very important.

I will be introducing a bill next week on this, and I hope to work with the House Intelligence Committee on that as well.

I am very concerned the administration may be planning to send U.S. personnel back to our Havana Embassy. I just got off of a big rally across the street from the White House with a lot of Cubans. They are searching for freedom and democracy over tyranny, oppression, and communism.

But our personnel, we can't send them back until we can say who or what caused these brain injuries that prompted the Trump administration to pull our people out of there for their own safety in 2017.

Over these last few weeks, the world has watched Cuba's brutal police state in action. The Venezuelan military is there as well, silencing people just for exercising freedom of speech, which they don't have under a communist dictatorship.

The same surveillance system that tracks dissidents and censors the internet has been unwilling to share necessary information about these attacks against Americans. I have no doubt that Cuban intelligence is involved in this.

If the administration sends U.S. personnel back to Havana without holding the regime accountable, all American diplomats are at risk.

Again, I support this bipartisan HAVANA Act. I urge my colleagues to support it as well. I think these men and women, both State Department diplomats and our intelligence officers, deserve better from our Nation. They need to receive the proper care that they deserve.

Again, I thank Chairman MEEKS and the Intelligence Committee, and I look forward to its passage.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is imperative that we, as the elected representatives of the American people, working with the executive branch, get to the bottom of exactly who is behind these events, why they are occurring, and how to stop them.

But we must also make sure to do our part to take care of the public servants who put themselves on the line every day for our own interests.

I want to say thank you to the President, to the Secretary of State, and to the State Department for taking these cases seriously, for listening to the

families and all the trauma that they have gone through, and for showing them nothing but the utmost respect.

This bill is an excellent contribution to this effort, and I look forward to working on a bipartisan basis on this critical issue going forward.

I thank Chairman SCHIFF for his hard work, and I ask all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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 Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1828.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL ROUTE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2278) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2278

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

SECTION 1. SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL ROUTE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “September 11th National Memorial Trail Route Proposed Trail Route,” numbered 669/176,670A, and dated July 2021.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(3) TRAIL ROUTE.—The term “Trail Route” means the September 11th National Memorial Trail Route designated under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAIL ROUTE.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—There is designated a Trail Route, to be known as the “September 11th National Memorial Trail Route”, to link the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City, the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, and the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. The September 11th National Memorial Trail Route shall—

(A) provide for a tribute to the family members and loved ones who were victims of the attack and the heroes of September 11th, including the first responders in the days, weeks, and months after the attack;

(B) be a trail of remembrance to honor the fallen in a tangible way that keeps their memories alive and reaffirms the exceptionalism of our country; and

(C) be a celebration of our Nation's resilience and perseverance since September 11, 2001.

(2) ROUTE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Trail Route shall consist of a series of trails as generally depicted on the Map.

(B) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Map shall be available in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(C) REVISION.—The Secretary may revise the Map by publication in the Federal Register of a notice of availability of a new Map.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Trail Route program shall be administered by the Secretary in consultation with the affected landowners, including any Federal, State, Tribal or local agencies that manage the affected lands, but shall not be considered to be a unit of the National Park System or a part of the National Trail System.

(d) ACTIVITIES.—To facilitate the administration of the Trail Route program and the dissemination of information regarding the Trail Route, the Secretary shall—

(1) produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials regarding the Trail Route, such as handbooks, maps, exhibits, signs, interpretive guides, electronic information, and other interpretive materials;

(2) coordinate the management and planning of the Trail Route with participating property owners, other Federal agencies, State, Tribal, and local governments, and nonprofit entities;

(3) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device to mark the Trail Route;

(4) issue guidelines for the use of the symbol or device adopted under paragraph (3); and

(5) if deemed appropriate by the Secretary, authorize signage on lands managed by the General Services Administration or the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, without regard to the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 8901).

(e) AGREEMENTS.—To ensure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal properties along the Trail Route, the Secretary may enter into agreements with, and provide technical and financial assistance to, other Federal agencies, the State, localities, regional governmental bodies, and private entities.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2278, introduced by Representative GERRY CONNOLLY, would designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail Route to honor the family members and loved ones who were victims of that day's attack, as well as the heroes of September 11.

The route will consist of a series of trails and roadways linking the three

sites of the September 11 attack: the World Trade Center in New York; the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia; and the Flight 93 Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of this horrific act of terrorism, this bill would honor the memory of the nearly 3,000 Americans who lost their lives and would serve as a lasting reminder of the heroism and perseverance of our Nation's first responders.

I thank Representative CONNOLLY for introducing this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this year, as the gentlewoman pointed out, marks the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11. While almost two decades have passed since that tragic day, we will never forget the thousands of innocent people who lost their lives and the brave first responders who put their lives on the line in our country's time of need.

Memorials have been established nationwide to honor the victims and first responders who were killed in the attacks, including the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in Virginia, the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania, and the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York.

H.R. 2278, offered by Congressman CONNOLLY, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate a memorial trail, approximately 1,300 miles in length, to link the three existing September 11 memorials in Virginia, New York, and Pennsylvania. The tour route will intersect Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., and will be administered by the National Park Service.

This bill will help preserve the memory of the 2,977 innocent people who lost their lives on 9/11 and ensure that we never forget the horrors of that fateful day. I hope it also serves as some solace to the families of the victims, who can use this trail to remember and honor their lost loved ones.

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), the author of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, Congresswoman DINGELL, for her support, and the distinguished ranking member, the Republican manager, for his support.

In a troubled time, when we seem like we can't get together, here is an opportunity to come together, as we did 20 years ago on September 11.

I rise in support of H.R. 2278, designating the September 11th National

Memorial Trail Route, a 1,300-mile system of trails and roadways that connect all three sites attacked on September 11, 2001: The World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon here in Washington, D.C., and the Flight 93 Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

As our Nation prepares for the 20th anniversary of September 11, we have an opportunity to create a lasting legacy connecting all three sites.

The trail provides trail-goers with a chance to reflect and learn about our Nation's resilience and perseverance following that dreadful day.

In addition to the three 9/11 memorials anchoring this route, travelers can learn about our founding with stops at Valley Forge National Historical Park and Independence Hall in Philadelphia or visit the Antietam National Battlefield or the Gettysburg National Military Park to remember some of the other darkest days in our Nation's history.

This trail route connects travelers with these points in our history and majestic landscapes, while driving further tourism and recreation along its route.

It starts at the Pentagon Memorial in Arlington and extends northwest to the Shanksville site in Pennsylvania. It continues east to New York City's National September 11 Memorial & Museum. It then heads south, following the East Coast Greenway, connecting to the Garden of Reflection 9/11 Memorial. It then connects to the National Mall here in Washington, D.C., and ultimately returns to the Pentagon Memorial, remembering that dreadful incident at the Pentagon that cost so many lives.

It extends through six States and the District of Columbia. It is a multiuse trail, with more than 50 percent of the route off road. The idea for the trail was born in the wake of September 11 at the Mid-Atlantic Governors Conference on Greenways, Blueways, and Green Infrastructure.

Conference chair and then-director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, David Brickley, presented the vision for a trail route connecting the Pentagon and the site of Flight 93 and the Twin Towers in New York City. David founded the September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance in the following year to develop the September 11th National Memorial Trail.

This route would be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the affected landowners but would not be considered as a unit of the National Park System or as part of the National Trail System.

The Secretary would be authorized to produce and disseminate educational materials and create an official symbol or trail marker to mark the trail routes.

The bill authorizes the Secretary to enter into agreements with and provide technical and financial assistance to

other Federal agencies, States, localities, and private entities, as may be required.

Designating the September 11th National Memorial Trail route will serve as a natural embodiment of our pledge to never forget the heroes and the victims of that terrible day.

It honors the memories of nearly 3,000 family members and loved ones we lost on that day, and it is a tribute to the bravery of the heroes that responded.

When I was a local board of supervisors member, I was in a fire station, Fire Station 30, and I saw firsthand those first responders who went to the Pentagon to try to save lives, putting their own lives at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this bill gives anyone touched by the tragedy of 9/11 an opportunity for reflection, comfort, and healing. It is also a moment for us to come together once again to remember the heroes and the victims of that day, to honor them, and to come together as Republicans and Democrats in that pursuit.

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2278, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

FREE VETERANS FROM FEES ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1029) to Waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1029

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 "Free Veterans from Fees Act".

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FEE FOR VETERANS' SPECIAL EVENTS.

(a) WAIVER.—The application fee for any special use permit solely for a veterans' special event at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the