

Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge approval of H.R. 1931. The sponsor of the legislation, Representative MATSUI, and also Representative CASE have made, I think, the profound argument for the legislation and its support.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1931 the Japanese American Confinement Education Act that would provide education to elevate understanding about the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II. In addition to a museum-based educational program, this bill would permanently reauthorize the Japanese American Confinement Sites Preservation Program.

H.R. 1931 will direct the Department of the Interior to establish a program of grants to Japanese American museums to educate about the confinement of Japanese Americans as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, the use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans.

Two months after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, President Roosevelt signed an Executive Order that authorized the relocation of Japanese Americans, most of whom were U.S. citizens, to designated camps nationwide.

Teaching about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII would emphasize the importance of understanding the terrible social injustices that have been inflicted upon racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States.

Highlighting this subject would create a thoughtful, deep awareness about our community, our world, and ourselves.

We must teach that the incarceration of Japanese Americans was wrong, and that racism is wrong.

This sort of hysteria may occur again, and people must do their part to make sure that it never happens again.

Illuminating and confronting the tragedy inflicted upon Japanese Americans during WWII can help shape the citizens who will lead us into a more socially aware future.

Keeping the memories of incarceration alive also gives Japanese Americans the ability and responsibility to speak out when other groups are unfairly targeted on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or other identity.

My former colleague Congressman Norman Mineta, who represented the constituents of California's 13th and 15th Congressional districts, is a survivor of the Heart Mountain internment camp near Cody, Wyoming.

In his remarks during a House debate on the passage of the Civil Liberties Act, he exclaimed that he, and all the other prisoners, "lost [their] most basic human rights. [Their] own government had branded [them] with the unwarranted stigma of disloyalty which clings to [them] still to this day."

Secretary Mineta helped lead the efforts to pass the Civil Liberties Act, which offered a formal apology from the United States Government for its policies toward Japanese Americans and paid each of the 80,000 living survivors \$20,000 in compensation.

His tenacity and faith led him to become a member of Congress for 20 years, Secretary

of Commerce under President Bill Clinton, and Secretary of Transportation under President George W. Bush.

It is our duty as Members of Congress to honor and commemorate Secretary Mineta, and all other survivors of this unjust racial attack, by passing this bill and educating everyone on these atrocities to ensure nothing like this will ever happen again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1931, 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.

GUAM NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2899) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2899

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

SECTION 1. THE GUAM NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate regional and local organizations or agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study areas as National Heritage Areas.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study areas—

(A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that—

(i) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;

(ii) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use by residents and visitors; and

(iii) would be best managed—

(I) through partnerships among public and private entities; and

(II) by linking diverse and sometimes non-contiguous resources and active communities that share a common heritage;

(B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;

(C) provides—

(i) outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and

(ii) outstanding recreational and educational and cultural tourism opportunities;

(D) contains resources that—

(i) are important to any identified themes of the study area; and

(ii) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(E) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, including museums and heritage organizations, and State and local governments that—

(i) are involved in the planning of the National Heritage Area;

(ii) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the Area, including the Federal Government; and

(iii) have demonstrated support for the designation of the Area;

(F) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in subparagraph (E) to develop the Area while encouraging State and local economic activity; and

(G) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(b) PRIVATE PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall consider the potential impact that designation of the study area as a national heritage area would have on private property on Guam.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the third fiscal year after the date on which funds are first made available for this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AREA.—The term "Area" means a National Heritage Area located in Guam.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means the island of Guam.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2899, introduced by my Committee on Natural Resources colleague, Delegate SAN NICOLAS.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2899 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designated areas within the island of Guam as national heritage areas. The study would cover the entire island of Guam and identify areas of natural, historic, and cultural importance that reflect the traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that represent distinct and nationally significant aspects of the American story.

I congratulate Delegate SAN NICOLAS for his strong advocacy in promoting this legislation on behalf of his constituents, and I urge support from my colleagues on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2899, offered by Mr. SAN NICOLAS of Guam, requires the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a national heritage area.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the Mariana Islands were one of the first places settled by seafaring peoples. The last 400 years of Guam's history are marked by administrations of three different nations: Spain, the United States, and Japan. After the Spanish-American War in 1898, Guam was ceded to the United States as an unincorporated territory.

Guam's rich history and culture merit consideration for national heritage area status.

I support Congressman SAN NICOLAS' bill to study areas within the island of Guam to determine whether they merit designation as a national heritage area in the future.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, Guam would like to begin by thanking the committee chairman for his leadership on this measure, as well as the ranking member, the gentleman from Arkansas, for the unanimous support of the committee for this legislation, H.R. 2899, and the majority leader for us being able to bring this measure to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, this bill would authorize the National Park Service to conduct a study throughout the territory of Guam to identify sites that will be eligible for designation as national heritage areas.

The first such designation occurred in 1984, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. Since that time, 54 other sites throughout the country have been so designated as national heritage areas, enjoying the rightful support of this Federal Government to preserve, promote, and enhance the significance of these sites in the fabric of America.

Madam Speaker, Guam, in relation to our capital, is our westernmost territory, situated closer to Asia than America. Our island possesses one of the largest contiguous coral reefs in the country; a deep history that includes sites of Imperial Japanese occupation, devastation, and decimation during World War II; over 300 years of Spanish colonization and subjugation; 124 years as a U.S. possession; and 3,000 years of present-day indigenous history carried on by the indigenous CHAMORU people, who this month recognized CHAMORU culture and history month with Mes CHAMORU.

Guam holds stories of resiliency, loyalty, triumph over struggle, and the struggle that is our present-day unreconciled relationship with these United States. It is the birthplace of patriots who gave their lives for this country; veterans who proudly served; and Americans through and through, who patiently yet persistently seek full inclusion in this great Nation.

This legislation is but one of many steps we must take to fully acknowledge the fabric of the territory of Guam and all territories in the tapestry that is American democracy.

Our national heritage is not contiguous to a single landmass, nor is it homogeneous to any single people. It is, in fact, everything and everyone we are today and the confluence of circumstances that have brought us to this day.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues throughout this Congress to join our colleagues on the committee to secure unanimous passage of H.R. 2899 as symbolic of the unanimity of this great Nation, the United States, Tribes, and territories of America.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, again, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Ms. JACKSON, LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2899, "To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area, and for other purposes."

Different from national parks, national heritage areas are community-based efforts that preserve and share stories about a region's history and character. Heritage areas contain a mixture of public and private property, including towns, historic sites, parks, trails, commercial districts, and even working farms.

National Heritage Areas are a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, NHA entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. Leveraging funds and long-term support for projects, NHA partnerships foster pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

When an area is designated as an NHA, its inhabitants don't have to leave. An important aspect of NHAs is that they are intended as a celebration of a living environment, and they improve the local economy around them.

The National Parks Service estimates NHAs average \$5.50 for every \$1.00 of federal investment, bolstering the local economies through their unique "heritage tourism."

Not only are NHAs economically friendly, but they are also climate friendly. Many NHAs improve water and air quality in their regions through restoration projects and encourage people to enjoy natural and cultural sites by providing new recreational opportunities.

Guam is much more than sun, sea, and sand. The island is awash with a history that dates back to the Latte Period of 2000BC, the

period of Ancient Chamorro life before a Spanish expedition led by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan arrived on March 6, 1521.

With 131 sites around the island listed on the National Register of Historic Places, these historical landmarks weave a fascinating tale of the island's struggles, resilience, and victories over thousands of years. Though the island's colorful history spans the Spanish era, the American period, and Japanese WWII occupation, today Guam is most widely celebrated for its native Chamorro culture and pride.

Chamorros are the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands of which Guam is the largest and southernmost on an island chain. Archaeological evidence identified civilization dating back 5,000 years.

Their vernacular, called the Chamorro language, is interestingly not a Micronesian dialect but a distinct language with its own vocabulary and grammar.

Therefore, considering the richness of Guam's land and its peoples, it brings me much joy to rise in strong support of H.R. 2899. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

It is for that reason, Madam Speaker, that I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2899.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC LAND ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3113) to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3113

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 "Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means any land managed by a Federal land management agency.

(2) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term "Federal land management agency" means—

- (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;
- (B) the National Park Service;
- (C) the Bureau of Land Management;
- (D) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
- (E) the Forest Service; and