

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of the Hershel "Woody" Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act, which would locate the new National Medal of Honor Monument near the Lincoln Memorial on The National Mall here in Washington, D.C.

Woody was an American hero from my home State of West Virginia. When he passed away last year, we paid tribute to him as he was laid in honor in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. It was his dream to honor the final Medal of Honor recipient in our Capitol, never dreaming that it would have been himself.

Woody was a country boy. He tried to enlist at the age of 16. He wasn't very tall and he wasn't allowed in then, but he made it in at 17 years old. He grew up hunting on a farm and was always a good shot. He loved his country more than anything, and he would do anything possible to defend it, so he did. He really epitomized that great, great Greatest Generation.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1945 for his courage in the battle of Iwo Jima where he singlehandedly—he was the guy that made the shot—fought the Japanese with the flamethrowers, clearing the path for more American troops.

Marines raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi—we can visualize that picture because we have all seen it—that very day, resulting in the iconic photo that showed that America was winning the war in the Pacific.

Woody was not just a constituent and a hero; he was a friend. I served with him for years in Rotary, right there in little Milton, West Virginia. His legacy of service, dedication, and patriotism will live through the countless lives that he touched. His impact on our West Virginia community cannot be overstated, as his service to our veterans has continued and continued long after his career in the Marine Corps.

With Veterans Day on Saturday, this bill couldn't be more timely to honor our servicemen and -women who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

This monument pays tribute to the recipients of America's highest military honor for valor in combat.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the monument will remind future generations of the values that shaped and preserved our great Nation. I urge every Republican and Democrat in the House and Senate to vote for this bill.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Let me just comment on all the commentary from the sponsors of the legis-

lation, Mr. WESTERMAN, and our other colleagues, who outlined the importance of the legislation and the memorial.

There is a border community in my district, Douglas, and very prominent in their plaza is a memorial to all the men and women who have died in combat from that region, from the community of Douglas and from the county of Cochise.

I was talking to one of the VFW commanders on that visit, and he said: In this plaque, in this piece of granite, we have every ethnicity, every creed, representing different histories and cultures, and they all bled, and some died together in defense of this country.

I think this memorial will go a long way to say if that kind of sacrifice and that kind of unity is possible under the most extreme of circumstances, certainly being able to live in some sense of unity should be an ongoing goal. I think that will be part of what this memorial will mean to people.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member GRIJALVA and all the cosponsors of this bill and the great bipartisan work that has gone into making this happen. What a fitting tribute to Mr. Williams to name this bill after him.

I think back about a codel we made this past summer down to the country of Palau. We went out to a small island called Peleliu where one of the most bitter battles of World War II was fought. On that small island, really in a very hard place to get to, there stands a small monument to commemorate eight U.S. servicemembers who received the Medal of Honor in one battle.

As we were there, I thought not many Americans are ever going to get to see this small monument, and it made me realize how important it is that we do this monument here in Washington, D.C., to recognize not just Mr. Williams but all those who have served, to honor their memory, to remember their legacy, and to stand unwavering in our commitment to upholding the principles for which they fought so valiantly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this 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. 2717, 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. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-

ceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT LOCATION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1318) to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1318

*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 "Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act".

#### SEC. 2. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) SITE.—Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the Women's Suffrage National Monument shall be located within the Reserve.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Except as provided in subsection (a), chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act"), shall apply to the Women's Suffrage National Monument.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The term "Women's Suffrage National Monument" means the commemorative work authorized to be established under Public Law 116-217 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note).

(2) RESERVE.—The term "Reserve" has the meaning given such term in section 8902(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) 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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1318, 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, this year marks the 175th anniversary of the beginning of the women's suffrage movement in 1848. For the first 144 years of our Nation's history, women were not afforded the right to vote.

During the 19th century, the women's suffrage movement emerged with the goal of securing this important constitutional right for women across the Nation. It took years of hard work and dedication. Securing this important

change took over 40 years to accomplish. Finally, in 1920, the 19th amendment was formally ratified, and women were finally given the right to vote in our Nation's elections.

Now, 175 years after this important movement began, we are coming to the House floor to ensure that the monument honoring this movement is placed in the most prominent location in our Nation's capital—on The National Mall. I think it is significant to note that out of the 40 monuments and memorials on the Reserve, zero are dedicated to women's history. The Women's Suffrage National Monument would be the first.

That is why I support H.R. 1318, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act. This is a worthy cause and will enhance the interpretation of The National Mall, which is visited by millions of Americans annually.

This monument, which was originally authorized by legislation signed by President Trump in 2020, would not use any Federal funds. In fact, the foundation supporting the monument even has plans to address the multimillion dollar deferred maintenance backlog in Constitution Gardens, the preferred location of the women's suffrage monument. This is a true win-win and a great model for future commemorative works.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention my disappointment with the Biden administration, which testified against this legislation earlier this year. The administration argued that The National Mall is already complete and there would be no space for this monument. I find this hard to believe, considering that the preferred location for this monument is currently occupied by food trucks.

This is a good, bipartisan and bicameral bill, and I thank Representatives LESKO and NEGUSE for leading this effort. I support the bill and reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1318, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, introduced by my colleague from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Federal lands.

This legislation authorizes a commemorative work on The National Mall to recognize the tireless work of suffragists who fought to secure women the right to vote.

While there may be some hesitation regarding the authorization of new memorials in the Reserve of The National Mall, I cannot think of a better addition to the Reserve than this particular monument.

Over 100 years ago, Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Yet today, not one monument or memorial on The National Mall is dedicated to American women's history.

As our Nation's Capital sees more than 25 million visitors annually, it is

only fitting that we pass this legislation to ensure that we honor and recognize the women who championed these efforts and inspire future generations of strong women leaders.

I thank Representative NEGUSE for his leadership on this effort and all the women who have brought this issue before us today and for their continuing advocacy.

The Women's Suffrage National Monument will serve not only as a reminder of our Nation's history but also as a hope to continue to shape this Nation for a better future.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the legislation and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan H.R. 1318, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, which I am an original cosponsor of.

First of all, I thank my colleagues Representatives NEGUSE and LESKO for presenting this legislation that will rightfully allow for a Women's Suffrage National Monument to be placed on The National Mall.

In 1919, Congress passed, and a year later ratified, the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women's right to vote. At the time, only one woman had served in Congress: Jeannette Rankin from Montana, in 1916. Today, I am proud to be one of the 154 women serving in Congress—the highest number in the history of our Nation.

Women continue to rise across all levels of government, in the military, and in the private sector. Although we still have more work to do, it is crucial that we celebrate what we have accomplished in the past 104 years, while teaching and inspiring young generations about the role of women in democracy.

Women have cherished their right to vote. Report after report showcases female voters have exceeded the number of male voters in elections nationwide.

With this monument, we honor the suffragists who paved the way that allows women from all walks of life to take part in this democratic process and that also allows me to stand here as the first woman elected to represent Puerto Rico in Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1318 and allow this part of America's story to be told.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), the sponsor of this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank my colleague from Puerto

Rico, as well as the chairman and the ranking member for their support, their partnership, and their leadership in helping facilitate this bill in its journey to the House floor today. I thank them all for eloquently articulating the reasons why I am such a strong supporter of this legislation and why I decided to introduce it with a broad coalition of lawmakers.

I would be remiss if I didn't also say a word of gratitude to Representative DEBBIE LESKO, who has been my partner on this bill, as well as Senators BALDWIN, BLACKBURN, and BENNET who are leading the bicameral legislation in the Senate, the companion bill.

This bill, as you have heard, Mr. Speaker, is a simple bill but a profoundly important bill. It is bipartisan, and it is bicameral.

Now, by way of background, and as the chairman articulated, I was proud to work on legislation in the 116th Congress that authorized the construction of the Women's Suffrage National Monument on Federal lands here in Washington, D.C.

We secured the first outdoor statue in honor of the brave women behind the women's suffrage movement, a monument that will honor the contributions made by a diverse group of women in the fight for women's suffrage.

This bipartisan legislation passed both chambers and was signed into law. This effort, Mr. Speaker, has been locally led from the start, driven by constituents in my Congressional District back home in Colorado, and in my view, a prime example of what we can accomplish when we display and demonstrate Colorado's ingenuity and passion and put it to good work.

In the years since, the sponsors of the monument have been hard at work to determine the best location for it to be placed within Washington, D.C.

As the chairman stated, the decision was that women's history deserves to have a place on our National Mall.

Right now, as the chairman articulated, of the 40 monuments on The National Mall, there are none dedicated and committed to women's history.

This proposed placement has broad support, including from all of our Nation's living First Ladies who serve as honorary chairs of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation.

Placing a monument, as you know, Mr. Speaker, specifically on our National Mall, does require an additional act of Congress, which is the legislation before us today.

This legislation simply allows the monument to be placed on the Reserve area of The National Mall. As the chairman articulated, it will be privately funded. It will not cost the Federal Government a dime.

I might just add on a more personal note, I, like many of my colleagues, am a father. I have a 5-year-old daughter and a 5-month-old son.

My daughter, Natalie, had her first trip to Washington, D.C., when she was

just a few months old. She joined me here on the floor in January of 2019 when I was sworn into office here for the first time.

I simply cannot wait for her to one day be able to come to Washington, D.C., and to see women's history reflected in the monuments and the memorials that are at the core of our Nation's Capital—not just her, but of course, all children, all Americans to be able to come and see that firsthand. This bill is an important step to doing just that.

I am hopeful that we will earn the support of our colleagues across both sides of the aisle. I think this bill is an important step in making our National Mall representative of American history, honoring the legacy of the women who fought for their rights all these years ago.

I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the comments by Representative NEGUSE and Chairman WESTERMAN were appropriate.

This is a link to the history of this Nation that needs to be acknowledged and needs to be there for the rest of America to see, appreciate, and understand.

In women's history the struggle for political representation and equality in that field and in other fields is ongoing. I think this is an important memorial.

The other issue is this is a stark reminder for all of us that you cannot erase history, that you cannot change it by ignoring it or avoiding it.

I hope that after we take action on this legislation that we seek a way to revitalize the Latino museum that has already been approved and whose funding was eliminated in the appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior.

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

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

Again, I thank Representatives LESKO and NEGUSE and all the Members in the House who have come together to support this bill.

I thank my colleague Ranking Member GRIJALVA for his support and for working together on this and also the Senate for their bipartisan support.

It has bipartisan support because it is a good bill that will provide a place of prominence on our National Mall for the Women's Suffrage Monument.

It will forever enshrine the dedication and sacrifice of countless women who worked toward the goal of women's suffrage.

For those reasons, I urge adoption of this 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. 1318.

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.

# RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1729

# AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA) at 5 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.

# TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. 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 materials on H.R. 4820, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 838 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4820.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1730

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4820) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. BACON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to stand before you today as we consider the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill for fiscal year 2024.

I am glad that we are back at work moving appropriations bills through the House floor under our new Speaker. We are continuing to fulfill our constitutional duties.

I thank Chairman GRANGER, Ranking Member DELAURO, and my partner on this bill, Ranking Member MIKE QUIGLEY.

This bill responsibly funds our most critical transportation and housing needs and will have a positive impact on every congressional district in the country.

At the same time, the bill meets the challenge before us to reduce spending and get our debt under control. The bill reduces spending 25 percent below fiscal year 2023 levels, with a CBO score of \$65 billion. We achieve these savings through a rescission of IRS funds and by reducing billions in excessive spending.

To really compare this bill to last year, we need to be honest about what was in the fiscal year 2023 bill, what it actually contains.

First, I will point out that last year, my Democratic friends labeled an extra \$3.6 billion as emergency funding. We do not repeat that mistake this year.

Second, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill uses receipts from HUD-backed mortgages and refinancing to offset spending. In fiscal year 2023, this provided \$10 billion to offset spending. For fiscal year 2024, that receipt number is down over 70 percent.

Why?

It is because few people want to refinance at an 8 percent interest rate.

The real level of spending in the T-HUD bill was \$101 billion in 2023 compared to \$93 billion in the same bill before us today. This is a decrease of \$8 billion, bringing the total slightly below the 2022 level.

Every year across government we face unavoidable cost increases in some programs. I believe we need to be responsible when addressing these costs. This bill does just that by cutting excess, removing duplication, and even trimming some programs that are, quite frankly, popular on both sides of the aisle.

Nevertheless, we also made sure to prioritize the core missions of DOT and HUD. We prioritize transportation safety on our railways, roads, and airways. I am proud that we provide resources for the Federal Aviation Administration to hire 1,800 new air traffic controllers to backfill the retiring workforce and deploy air traffic controllers to understaffed facilities. We also provide funding for the most critical air traffic control modernization programs. We all feel the impact of a strained air traffic control system. This bill will address some of those strains.