

executing. This has led to conflicts between our domestic regulatory regime and the treaty structure. Making the necessary changes in the statute to allow the United States and its regulatory agencies to fully implement the treaty amendments will ensure that they are carried out effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, for her leadership on this important issue and urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1792, the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023, will ensure the continued effective management of tuna fisheries and the conservation of marine resources in the South Pacific, benefiting American fisheries in the South Pacific and contributing to the stability of the region.

Specifically, this legislation would implement the South Pacific Tuna Treaty, a multilateral treaty between the United States Government and the Pacific Island States. This treaty authorizes a small U.S. purse seine vessel fleet to fish in specific and exclusive economic zones of Pacific Island countries that are party to the treaty. These parties are Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The South Pacific Tuna Treaty entered into force in 1988 and was extended in 1993 and then again in 2002. Most recently, the parties began to renegotiate the treaty and its annexes starting in 2009.

□ 1600

The treaty has been vital for almost three decades, fostering a mutually beneficial strategic and economic relationship between the United States and the Pacific Island countries.

The treaty provides access to lucrative tuna fishing grounds and facilitates cooperation on various issues.

H.R. 1792 proposes adjustments to the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 to implement the amended treaty, mainly providing more flexibility for U.S. vessels and the Pacific Island countries to negotiate access levels while ensuring a stable operating environment.

This legislation will enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to efficiently implement annual access and fee agreements and new operational requirements, thereby allowing the United States and its vessels operating under the treaty to better utilize its benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, thank Mrs. RADEWAGEN for leading on this issue and for understanding the needs that we see in the Blue Continent and understanding the needs of the nations, the freely associated States and territories in pursuing this kind of legislation.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN).

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1792, the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act, which I introduced along with my original cosponsor, ED CASE of Hawaii.

As Representatives of the beautiful islands of American Samoa in the South Pacific, a marine economy which depends on a fishing economy like Hawaii, I applaud our Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee Chair CLIFF BENTZ of Oregon and Ranking Member JARED HUFFMAN of California for their bipartisan support implementing this treaty with my friends and neighbors in the South Pacific.

This bill implements into statute the most recent changes to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty that was negotiated between NOAA and other signatory countries to the treaty.

These changes are important to support the American fishing fleet in the South Pacific where many boats call the port in American Samoa home.

These changes improve the operation, condition, and flexibility for the fleet, which is America's last true distant water fishing fleet.

The 1987 treaty enables American tuna purse seine vessels to fish in the exclusive economic zones of 16 Pacific Island nations and is key to the ongoing operations of America's South Pacific tuna fleet, including the 11 purse seiners based in American Samoa.

In 2016, the treaty signatories agreed to several amendments to the treaty; however, those changes have not yet been reflected in U.S. law, leaving South Pacific tuna fishermen in a state of uncertainty for years.

H.R. 1792 will fix these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries Kelly Kryc and American Tunaboat Association Executive Director William Gibbons-Fly who testified in support of the bill at last July's hearing.

Finally, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIMALVA who guided the Natural Resources Committee to unanimously approving H.R. 1792 at last October's markup.

"Live long and prosper." "Soifua ma ia manuia."

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation so that we can continue to protect our fishing fleet, protect the waters, and, importantly, protect the tuna that provides such economic vitality to those fishermen in those countries which rely on their ability to both capture the tuna. All of those restaurants and households really want to make sure that we continue to ensure that tuna is caught in an environmentally and sound way.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, when President Ronald Reagan signed the initial legislation establishing this treaty, he spoke of the longstanding cooperation and partnership between the United States and the South Pacific. He stated that the legislation would "reinforce the bonds of friendship and affection that unite our peoples."

The bill we are considering today furthers that effort.

By updating the South Pacific Tuna Treaty in accordance with the 2016 amendments, we begin the next chapter of the partnership between the United States and the South Pacific. Strengthening these relationships could not be more important at a time when the United States' leadership is needed in this region to counter the growing malign influence of the Chinese Communist Party.

I, once again, thank Mrs. RADEWAGEN for her leadership on this important issue. I urge the adoption of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLOUD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1792, 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.

#### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY RECOGNITION ACT

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3250) to recognize the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3250

*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 "National Museum of Play Recognition Act".

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION.—Congress—

(1) recognizes that the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum, DBA Strong Museum, located in Rochester, New York, is the only museum of its kind that exists for the exclusive purpose of exploring the ways in which play encourages learning, creativity, and discovery, and how it illuminates cultural history; and

(2) officially designates the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum as the National Museum of Play.

(b) EFFECT OF RECOGNITION; DESIGNATION.—The National Museum of Play recognized in subsection (a) is not a unit of the National Park System and the designation under subsection (a) shall not be construed to require

or permit Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to the Museum.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3250, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3250, the National Museum of Play Recognition Act, which recognizes the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York, as the National Museum of Play.

This bipartisan bill, led by Representatives MORELLE and LANGWORTHY, provides Federal recognition without adding to the Federal estate or burdening taxpayers.

Inspired by her parents' passion for traveling, Margaret Woodbury amassed more than 27,000 dolls from around the world.

After her passing, Ms. Woodbury left a large portion of her financial resources for a museum, which opened in downtown Rochester in 1982.

Today, the museum spans over 100,000 square feet, serving as a reminder of the importance of play to visitors from around the country. As our country evaluates the implications of technology in our children's lives, this bill recognizes how play can be utilized to encourage learning, creativity, and discovery in child development.

This bill recognizes the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum, which draws over half a million visitors annually, in no small part, due to its unique important purpose.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, with much delight and joy in my heart, I rise in support of H.R. 3250, the National Museum of Play Recognition Act, introduced by my esteemed colleague—and very playful, I might say—from New York, Representative JOE MORELLE.

This legislation would designate the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York, as the National Museum of Play.

The Strong Museum is a unique institution dedicated to the exploration of how play serves to promote learning, creativity, discovery, and cultural history.

Who among us has not been in kindergarten or Head Start or preschool either as a child or as a parent of the child and recognize the importance of play in the growth of our children.

Indeed, I was recently reading a book this weekend that pointed out the importance of play and how we tap into the divinity and the creativity in each of us.

That is why this museum, which was established in 1969, initially housing the personal collections of the Rochester local, Margaret Woodbury Strong, is so important.

As one of the largest museums in the country, the Strong Museum displays the most comprehensive collection of historical materials related to play and provides families with interactive exhibits and programs.

This institution hosts the National Toy Hall of Fame and the World Video Game Hall of Fame and publishes the peer-reviewed American Journal of Play.

H.R. 3250 recognizes and honors the distinct and special role that the Strong Museum contributes to our national story.

I thank Representative MORELLE for his leadership in this effort and the representatives of the Strong Museum for their advocacy.

This is a straightforward, bipartisan, and commonsense effort to honor and recognize the contributions of a unique and dynamic institution. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE), the very serious but also very playful sponsor of the bill.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank my good friend, the gentlewoman from New Mexico, who is also playful but serious, for yielding. I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming for her support of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 3250, the National Museum of Play Recognition Act. This bipartisan bill will designate the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York, where I am grateful and privileged to represent, as the National Museum of Play.

As has been described by my colleagues, the museum was founded by Margaret Woodbury Strong in 1968. It is the only museum of its kind that exists for the exclusive purpose of exploring the ways in which play encourages learning, creativity, and discovery, and how it illuminates cultural history.

Children are the hope of each and every community across this country. We must continue to inspire future generations to learn, grow, and innovate, and we know the best way to do that is through play.

In 2023, the Strong Museum completed its most recent 90,000-square foot expansion of new exhibit space, bringing the museum total square footage to 282,000 square feet of areas of play.

The museum also features the Toy Hall of Fame. Each year, the Hall of Fame selects inductees like the Fisher-Price Corn Popper, the American Girl dolls, the board game Monopoly, the Atari 2600 game system, Slinky, and last year's new inductee, Cabbage Patch Kids.

I am incredibly proud to have such a noteworthy institution in my district, working to serve the children and families from upstate New York and the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, I extend an invitation to all of my colleagues to come to Rochester and spend time at the National Museum of Play.

I also thank Representative LANGWORTHY for his partnership with this legislation, as well as Chairman WESTERMAN, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and the House Committee on Natural Resources for advancing this bill on a bipartisan and unanimous basis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3250.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as noted above, this bill is quite worthy of our support. While we have been talking about it with a smile in our hearts, we must recognize that it is incredibly important, and we must be thankful to those who have compiled this collection because it is so essential for us to understand our history and the history of play in our country and the contributions it makes to our society.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill provides recognition to a museum that is a source of local pride without draining taxpayer resources or increasing the burden on the National Park Service. I support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3250.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1615

# CONVEYANCE OF PLEASANT VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE SITE TO GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1829) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1829

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

## SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PLEASANT VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE SITE TO GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Gila County, Arizona.

(2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Pleasant Valley Admin Site Proposal” and dated September 23, 2021.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Subject to this section, if the County submits to the Secretary a written request for conveyance of the property described in subsection (c) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the County all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (c).

(c) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The property referred to in subsection (b) is the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally depicted as “Gila County Area” on the map, consisting of approximately 232.9 acres of National Forest System land located in the Tonto National Forest in Arizona.

(2) MAP.—

(A) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct minor errors in the map.

(B) AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(3) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the National Forest System land to be conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (b) shall be—

(1) subject to valid existing rights;

(2) made without consideration;

(3) made by quitclaim deed; and

(4) subject to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (b), the County shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—

(1) a survey, if necessary, under subsection (c)(3);

(2) any environmental analysis or resource survey required under Federal law; and

(3) any analysis required to comply with division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “National Historic Preservation Act”).

(f) ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.—Notwithstanding section 120(h)(3)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)(3)(A)), the Secretary shall not be required to provide any covenant or warranty for the land and improvements conveyed to the County under subsection (b).

(g) USE OF LAND.—The land conveyed to the county under subsection (b) shall be used by the County only for the purposes of serving and supporting veterans of the Armed Forces.

(h) REVERSION.—If any land conveyed under subsection (b) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirements of subsection (g), all right, title, and interest in and to the land shall revert to the United States, at the discretion of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. 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. 1829, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Representative CRANE's bill, H.R. 1829. This is a good bill that would transfer land from the Forest Service to create a retreat facility in Gila County, Arizona, for veterans and their families to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Gila County is home to more than 5,000 veterans. Overall, the State of Arizona has a population of more than 500,000 veterans. Creating this facility will help those who have served our country find healing and reconnect with nature, and it will help ease the transition back to civilian life.

Almost 60 percent of the land in Gila County is federally owned, which creates significant limitations on available land for laudable efforts like this proposed retreat for veterans. This retreat center would be created from a Forest Service site that was scheduled to be torn down. In total, this 232-acre site includes 17 buildings, 2 residences, 2 barracks, a historic ranger house and barn, and helipads.

Gila County intends to remodel many of the buildings to provide an excellent experience for veterans and their families. Repurposing the site in this way is a win-win, as it will be a great resource for Arizona's veterans while freeing the Forest Service from maintaining the property that it no longer needs.

I applaud Representative CRANE for his leadership in this effort. His diligent work with Gila County and the Forest Service has led to an important effort which will make a meaningful difference in the lives of Arizona's veterans. I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1829, which would authorize the Sec-

retary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona.

Adjacent to the rural town of Young, Arizona, the parcel was previously an administrative site for the Forest Service but is no longer in use for this purpose. The conveyance authorized by this bill would provide Gila County with the opportunity to establish a veterans retreat and community center that would support the communities in Young and the surrounding area.

Supporting and uplifting our Nation's veterans is a goal that we can all get behind. It is never enough to tell our veterans: “Thank you for your service.” We must always act to show our gratitude by providing veterans the services they need wherever they live.

Our rural and Native American veterans deserve to have a place of their own on their own land to carry out the services we owe these patriotic rural and first Americans. This bill contributes to that goal by conveying Forest Service land to create a vibrant veterans center with family housing, resources, meeting and event spaces, a VA mobile clinic, ceremonial grounds, and access to outdoor recreational opportunities. The partnership made possible by this bill will provide new life to deteriorating buildings, barns, barracks, and existing wastewater systems.

During our hearing on the bill, the chair of the Gila County Board of Supervisors noted the goal of creating “the ultimate experience for veterans and their families.” This bill is a win-win.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CRANE).

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of my bill, which was the first piece of legislation I introduced and is a testament to veterans in Arizona. Specifically, my bill would enable Gila County, Arizona, to operate a veterans center on 232 acres in Young, Arizona.

As a veteran myself, I know the importance of providing these resources cannot be overstated. This legislation will serve our State and its heroes well.

The veterans center would protect and maintain the rich history of the property while providing family housing, meeting and activity spaces, resource rooms, veteran ceremonial grounds, and outdoor recreation. It would be the first of its kind in northern Arizona, providing resources and support to primarily rural veterans and their families.

Furthermore, this legislation is an exemplary model of efficient land management. Out West, the Federal Government retains vast amounts of land, limiting States' ability to maintain, conserve, recreate, and responsibly produce on the lands within their own States.