

time. It would allow the termination or suspension of cellular telephone contracts upon the request of servicemembers undergoing deployment outside the United States. That is good.

And finally, Madam Speaker, the legislation would improve the administration of veterans' education and employment programs and of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Madam Speaker, passage of this manager's amendment will provide improved benefits to our Nation's veterans. These heroes have sacrificed so much for our Nation's, freedom and we must ensure that their needs are met.

So I urge my colleagues to support the bill as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Madam 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 S. 1315, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to all the men and women who have served and are currently serving in our Armed Forces. It is there courage and sacrifice that has paved for the rights and freedoms we enjoy.

Since September 2001, more than 1,700,000 members of the Armed Forces have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and nearly 611,000 have been deployed more than once. Many of our men and women in the armed forces have given the ultimate sacrifice to secure the freedoms of others. As of May 3, 2008 over 4,500 died and over 32,000 wounded while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan).

The members of our Armed Forces and their families deserve all the medical, financial, education, and moral support that our Nation can provide. The resolution we considered today provides an opportunity for each of us, regardless of political views, religion, ethnicity, gender, or background to come together, and to recognize and honor our nation's heroes and those that support them and their families.

Though we may be divided by our positions on the war in Iraq, we stand together to support our veterans. Our nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion this grateful nation can bestow.

All too many of our veterans are left without the help and support they need to transition from the horrors they bravely face on the front lines of battle to successful civilian life. According to the Veteran's Affairs Department, as of 2006, on any given night, 196,000 veterans of all ages were homeless.

The V.A. also reports 400 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan alone have already become homeless, and this figure only takes into account those who have sought services from V.A.-sponsored programs. Ex-

perts have predicted that the trauma resulting from the extreme horrors of these modern wars could lead to a surge in homeless veterans in the coming years.

Though I have opposed the war in Iraq from its inception, I remain absolutely committed to ensuring that we recognize, celebrate, and honor the service of our sons and daughters in and returning from, Iraq and Afghanistan.

I am proud to support S. 1315 by my colleague in the Senate, Senator AKAKA. I firmly believe that we should celebrate and support our armed forces and their families, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to both meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to provide a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving. Current serving military personnel and veterans have kept their promise to serve our nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to them.

S. 1315

The Veteran's Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007 will assist with: life insurance issues, housing matters; better coordination and more money for educational work recognition of the contribution of Filipino World War II Veterans, assists retired judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Court, adds osteoporosis to the list of diseases presumed to be service-oriented and therefore compensable with respect to former Prisoners of War (POWs), authorizes supplemental benefits for burial and funeral expenses of veterans, provides for specially adapted housing assistance for disabled veterans whose disability due to severe burn injury, assistance in the purchases of automobiles for disabled veterans, authorizes the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to maintain and manage the assets (including electronic data files and biological specimens of study participants) transferred to the Agency from the Air Force Health Study. Also, for them to conduct additional research toward the goal of understanding the determinants of health, and promoting wellness, in veterans. Requires an Agency report to Congress assessing the feasibility and advisability of conducting additional research on such assets after the end of FY2012, and provides funding for the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs to contract with the Institute, to conduct a comprehensive epidemiological study to identify any increased risk of developing multiple sclerosis as a result of service in the Persian Gulf or in the Post 9/11 global operations theaters; and (2) an interim and final results report from the Institute to the Secretary and the veterans' committees.

Currently, there are over 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. I hope we will all take the time to show appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As the Winston Churchill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting our troops, their families, and those groups that are working to support them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1315, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 160) to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 160

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 "Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act".

SEC. 2. BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM FOR BATTLEFIELDS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812.

(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—*The American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (section 604 of division I of Public Law 104-333; 16 U.S.C. 469k) is amended—*

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

"(e) BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM FOR BATTLEFIELDS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) BATTLEFIELD REPORT.—The term 'battlefield report' means the document entitled 'Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States', prepared by the National Park Service, and dated September 2007.

"(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a State or local government.

"(C) ELIGIBLE SITE.—The term 'eligible site' means a site that—

"(i) is not within the exterior boundaries of a unit of the National Park System; and

"(ii) is identified in the battlefield report.

"(D) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program.

"(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under which the Secretary may make grants to eligible entities to pay the Federal share of the cost of acquiring fee-simple or lesser interests from willing sellers in eligible sites for the preservation and protection of those eligible sites.

"(3) NONPROFIT PARTNERS.—An eligible entity may acquire an interest in an eligible site using a grant under this subsection in partnership with a nonprofit organization.

"(4) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the total cost of acquiring an interest in

an eligible site under this subsection shall be not less than 50 percent.

“(5) **LIMITATIONS ON LAND USE.**—An interest in an eligible site acquired under this subsection shall be subject to section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–8(f)(3)).

“(6) **REPORTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the activities carried out under this subsection.

“(B) **UPDATE ON BATTLEFIELD REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that updates the battlefield report to reflect—

“(i) preservation activities carried out at the 677 battlefields and associated sites identified in the battlefield report during the period between publication of the battlefield report and the update;

“(ii) changes in the condition of the battlefields and associated sites during that period; and

“(iii) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields and associated sites during that period.

“(7) **AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to provide grants under this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

“(B) **UPDATE OF BATTLEFIELD REPORT.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out paragraph (6)(B), \$500,000.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **REFERENCES TO OTHER BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**—Subsection (d) of the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996, as added by section 3 of Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–359; 116 Stat. 3016), is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM” and inserting “BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM FOR BATTLEFIELDS OF THE CIVIL WAR”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “grant program” and inserting “grant program for battlefields of the Civil War”; and

(2) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (f) of the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “REPEAL” and inserting “EXPIRATION”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “is repealed” and inserting “expires”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 160, the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act was introduced by my colleague on the Natural Resources Committee, the

Honorable Congressman RUSH HOLT. This bill would provide Federal matching grants to help in the acquisition and preservation of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

Urbanization, suburban sprawl and unplanned commercial and residential development have increasingly encroached upon these battlefield sites, threatening their historical integrity, and even resulting in the loss of some sites all together. A 2007 National Park Service study concluded that as many as 170 Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields and associated sites face imminent injury or destruction in the next decade.

H.R. 160 will enable State and local governments to obtain Federal grants to leverage matching private funds to acquire endangered sites for preservation and protection of these places which influence the course of our American history.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for all his work on this legislation and his commitment to the preservation of these historic places. I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. During hearings on this bill, the committee heard testimony from historian David Hackett Fischer, whose writings on the Revolutionary War point out George Washington's support for property rights and strong actions that he took to ensure that his soldiers respect the property of civilians, even when the property belonged to a Tory sympathizer.

Washington personally gave strict orders to forbid looting, even though plunder was the norm at the time, and even though many of his men were hungry, dressed in rags and marched barefoot in the snow. It is remarkable that in so desperate a situation with so noble a cause, he imposed on the Patriot side such a high standard on private property.

Washington's honorable policy stood in stark contrast to the routine seizure of booty by the British and Hessian troops. It is no accident over the course of the early years of the war, 1776 and 1777, in the battleground of New Jersey, a population that was once evenly divided in its loyal threw its support to the American cause. There are lessons we can learn from Washington's example.

In earlier battlefield protection efforts, the National Park Service uses its eminent domain powers to seize land from unwilling sellers. The justified resentment of this caused hurt and subsequent efforts.

Our enthusiasm for battlefield protection notwithstanding, I hope as we

set out to preserve historic sites that we copy George Washington, not George III.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Guam. And I rise as the author of H.R. 160, the American revolution and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act, and to urge support of this legislation by my colleagues.

I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Chairman GRIJALVA for their help in bringing this legislation to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, from the shot heard around the world at Lexington to the beginning of the winning, when Washington crossed the Delaware, to the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, the stories of the American revolution bring to life the ideals of liberty and democracy fostered by our Nation's Founders.

History is best experienced by those who can touch it, feel it, live it, and the battlefields of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 provide a great opportunity for Americans to experience where and how the epic struggle for our Nation's independence took place.

Preserving these American historic treasures is essential in remembering the sacrifices that our forefathers made to secure our freedom and independence, and essential for educating future generations about our rich cultural history.

Unfortunately, urbanization, suburban sprawl, unplanned development are constantly encroaching on many of the significant battlefields of that period. This encroachment poses a severe and growing risk to preservation of these historically significant sites.

As Ms. BORDALLO has just said, this spring the National Park Service published its report to Congress on the historic preservation of Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 sites in the United States. And this report shows that there is a great need to act and to act quickly to preserve these sites. Out of the 677 nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, 99 are already lost forever, 234 are fragmented or in poor condition, an additional 170 are in danger of being destroyed in the next decade.

H.R. 160 will authorize the use of money in the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the preservation and protection of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields and related historical sites, in addition to the Civil War sites already covered under current law. And I might add, that law has been very successful. This legislation is patterned after the Civil War battlefields legislation which has been so successful.

This bill will allow officials of the American Battlefield Protection Program to collaborate with State and

local governments and nonprofit organizations to preserve and protect the most endangered historical sites, and to provide up to 50 percent of the costs of purchasing battlefield land threatened by sprawl and commercial development.

□ 1300

The story of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 crisscrosses 33 States, from New York to Louisiana, from Georgia to Oregon, and enacting this legislation will allow these States to better preserve their history and their role in these engagements.

I have also introduced legislation that I hope Congress will pass next year to provide additional funding for the program created in H.R. 160, the American Revolution and War of 1812 Commemorative Coin Act.

As the gentleman from Alaska alluded, my home State of New Jersey has a unique role in the American Revolution. In 2006, I am pleased to report, Congress took action to help protect the battlefields and historic sites where this conflict took place. We passed legislation that created the Crossroads of the American Revolution national heritage area, linking together 14 counties in New Jersey where more military engagements took place than in any other State. New Jersey was truly the crossroads of the American Revolution for a number of reasons, and I am pleased that we are taking steps to preserve the record of those engagements. H.R. 160 will allow many more historic battlefields to be preserved for our children's and our children's children to enjoy. We want to give Americans the opportunity to learn history. People who know history can be better citizens today and more engaged in current civic affairs.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I again urge Members to support the 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 Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 160, 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. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2933) to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2933

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 "Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION EXTENDED.

The American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 469k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(7)(A), by striking "fiscal years 2004 through 2008" and inserting "fiscal years 2009 through 2013"; and

(2) by striking subsection (e).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, since its inception in 1996, the American battlefield protection program has provided grants for preserving endangered Civil War battlefields which are specifically not part of the National Park System.

The program contains two components. The battlefield preservation grants program is designed to help State and local government, organizations and citizens protect battlefield sites. The battlefield acquisition grant program provides matching funds to help State and local governments acquire and preserve battlefield sites.

Together, these grant programs have helped to protect more than 15,000 acres at 72 Civil War battlefields and have leveraged \$52 million in non-Federal funding for battlefield protection. With enactment of H.R. 160, which was just considered, this program will be expanded to include Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites, making the program even stronger.

I commend our colleague, Representative GARY MILLER of California, for his leadership on this issue and his commitment to historic preservation. This is a truly bipartisan measure with more than 100 cosponsors from both parties. I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. The American Civil War captures the imagination of people like no other event in our history. In bookstores, most shelves in the history section are devoted to events of the 1860s. On weekends, battles are reenacted by serious hobbyists who strive for authenticity in costume, weaponry and skirmish details. Pictures of Lincoln are found in countless homes and classrooms, Confederate flags adorn pickup trucks, and the words of the Gettysburg Address are as familiar as the 23rd Psalm.

As a nation, we clearly recognize the continuing importance of the War Between the States. So it is natural that we should try to find appropriate ways to keep safe the places where our great-grandfathers witnessed events so noble and so horrific.

But since our country is about liberty rather than glorification of the state, we have to safeguard not just the hills and the mud on which they fought but also the freedoms for which they fought. Therefore, it would be tragic if we allow our well-meaning enthusiasm for protecting historic sites to result in programs that diminish the property rights of our fellow citizens. This bill has two important safeguards: First, a "willing seller" provision—and we need to make sure the seller's willingness is uncoerced. Second, a sunset provision on the program's funding authorization. The bill's sponsors are to be commended for including these safeguards.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, but I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I at this time, Madam Speaker, yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. I thank the gentleman from Alaska for yielding.

There are no Civil War battlefield sites in California. There was one place where shots were fired near the Arizona border, but I do admit to having more than a passing interest in the study of and learning about the Civil War. I stand today strongly in favor of this bill. I can't tell you how many times I invoke the quotes or the deeds or the actions of politicians and generals and citizens from the Civil War and the Civil War era in giving us guidance and perspective on how we deal with some of our problems today.

As we today and this week are facing a financial crisis which is not something that could ever even have been conceived in the Civil War but they certainly dealt with crises of their own. How they dealt with them and how they worked with them and the courage with which they faced them are instructive to all of us today.

These battlefield sites bring that history alive. They remind us of the sacrifices that those who came before us