

legal firearms. With more than 92 percent of the delays approved, this would be a severe restriction for those law-abiding citizens who want to exercise their Second Amendment Rights. Under current law, in a majority of cases, if the purchaser of the firearm is later to be found in violation of state or federal law, the police were able to recover the firearm with little difficulty.

I strongly believe that we should support every effort to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens and punish those who ignore the law—particularly those who use a firearm and injure or kill their victim. This Amendment increases the penalty for criminals who use a banned assault weapon in conjunction with a crime.

A 72-hour check is a back door effort to stop otherwise legal gun sales. We can do it instantly with today's technology. If you want to ban gun sales then say so. If you want reasonable safety check, then a 24-hour delay is enough. I urge adoption of the Dingell Amendment.

### LEGISLATION TO PROTECT SENSITIVE CALIFORNIA LANDS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 1999*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give notice to my colleagues that I am introducing three pieces of legislation to help protect sensitive California lands. The first bill is the California Coastal Rocks and Islands Wilderness Act of 1999. I am pleased to be able to offer this bill with bipartisan support and want to thank my colleagues, Messrs. GALLEGLY, WAXMAN, CAMPBELL, STARK, BILBRAY, Ms. ESHOO and Mrs. CAPPS for joining me in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to recognize the ecological significance of the tens of thousands of small rocks, islands and pinnacles off the California coast, by designating them as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. These small islands and rocks provide important resting sites for California sea lions, Steller's sea lions, elephant seals and harbor seals, as well as providing a narrow flight lane in the Pacific Flyway.

An estimated 200,000 breeding seabirds of 13 different species use these rocks and islands for feeding, perching, nesting and shelter. Birds that use these areas include three threatened and endangered species: the brown pelican, the least tern and the peregrine falcon.

The Wilderness designation afforded by this act would apply to all rocks, islands and pinnacles off the California coast from the Oregon border to the U.S. Mexico border, which are currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This includes nearly all of the federally-owned lands above the mean high tide and within three geographical miles off the coast.

The designation would afford the highest protected status and highlight the ecological importance of all of the small rocks, islands and pinnacles off the California coast, which together comprise approximately 7,000 square acres. Adding these areas would also further the Wilderness Act's goal of including unique,

ecologically representative areas to the System.

Rocks and islands which are already patented or reserved for marine navigational aids, National Monuments, or state parks will not be affected by the legislation.

I am pleased to be able to introduce this bill and look forward to its swift passage, so that these unique areas of California's ecosystem can be preserved and protected for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, the second piece of legislation that I am introducing today is the "Pinnacles National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 1999". This legislation transfers land that is currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service at the Pinnacles National Monument in California.

This "no cost" land exchange will also designate the additional land acquired by the National Park Service as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System. I would like to point out that this will not change the current management practices that have been conducted by the Bureau of Land Management.

Finally, this legislation authorizes the Secretary to acquire additional lands depicted on the map through purchase, donation, or a combination thereof.

Mr. Speaker, the third piece of legislation that I am introducing will require the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study regarding options for the protection and expanded visitor enjoyment of nationally significant natural and cultural resources at Fort Hunter Liggett, California.

Under BRAC several historic buildings are now being transferred to the National Park Service from the United States Army. In addition, other cultural sites, cultural landscapes, buildings, and the natural resources of the entire 165,000 acre fort area merit evaluation for future protection and visitor enjoyment, either in concern with military activities or in the event of future military downsizing.

Fort Hunter Liggett and the surrounding areas have a deep and storied history. Serving as hunting grounds, for more than 10,000 years, archaeologists have found artifacts throughout the San Antonio Valley and the Santa Lucia Mountains. In 1771, construction began on Mission San Antonio, the third mission established in California which is a working inhaling that can still be visited.

To quote Wendell Berry "To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival," Mr. Speaker, I urge you and our colleagues to join me in supporting these three pieces of legislation that will help to protect our coasts, lands and history. If we lose this opportunity we will not get another chance once damage has occurred.

### A TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORIC ANDERSON COTTAGE—SUMMER WHITE HOUSE TO THREE PRESIDENTS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on the grounds of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home

(USSAH) in Northwest Washington, D.C., sits one of our country's most historic buildings, the Anderson Cottage. Rarely visited and virtually unknown, it was the summer White House of three U.S. presidents: Chester Arthur, Rutherford B. Hayes, and, most notably, Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln spent a quarter of his presidency living at the Soldiers' Home and it was in Anderson Cottage where he wrote the last draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The building is in need of restoration, and the USSAH has been working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to find funding to restore the building and open it up as an historic site. Anderson Cottage also is listed as one of the First Lady's "Save America's Treasures" sites. The following article illustrates the importance of this home, as well as the equally historic Soldiers' and Airmen's Home on which it sits.

[From the Washington Times, March 18, 1999]

LIVING LINK TO LINCOLN HIDDEN IN PLAIN  
SIGHT

(By Catherine Watson)

I went to Washington recently to look for links to one of the country's heroes. I wanted to explore the city that Abraham Lincoln knew, the Washington of the Civil War.

Because I had only a few days, I thought I should choose the big names. But the highlight was a place I had never heard of—one of the least-visited of Lincoln sites and arguably the most important: Anderson Cottage. (See? I didn't think you had heard of it.)

The cottage lies off North Capitol Street, on the grounds of what Lincoln knew as the Soldiers' Home, now the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, a handsome, 320-acre campus on high ground in the Northwest quadrant of the city. About 1,100 retired enlisted personnel live there, veterans from World War II through Vietnam.

I parked near the house, walked up the wooden porch steps and entered a large room that would be familiar instantly to anyone who knows military posts. There was that same smell of governmental dust, the same kind of linoleum alternating with Veterans Affairs gray paint on the floor, even the same sickly pale green on some of the walls. I liked it.

But there didn't seem to be much to see. Just how important is it historically?

Very, said Kerri Childress, public affairs director for the home, whose office is in Anderson Cottage. This is where Lincoln finished the Emancipation Proclamation.

Ms. Childress, a tall, slim woman with bright blond, short-cropped hair, has a contagious enthusiasm for the Soldiers' Home, its residents and Anderson Cottage.

"This really is a well-kept secret," she said. "Even the Lincoln buffs are sometimes surprised."

More surprising is how rarely it's visited: At most, 100 tourists a year find their way to the cottage.

"If this building were any place else, it would be a national shrine," Ms. Childress said. "We make such a big deal out of Ford's Theater. Nothing happened there except that he died. This was where he lived. This was where he created. This was where he became Abraham Lincoln."

Like many presidents, Lincoln had a summer White House, though I had never associated that plain man with such a luxury. This was it—a getaway that may have been the only place in Washington where he and his family had a semblance of normal life or anything approaching happiness.

It's still fresh and countrylike, but now the Soldiers' Home is an island awash in city