

VIRGIN RIVER DINOSAUR
FOOTPRINT PRESERVATION ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise today to introduce the Virgin River Dinosaur Footprint Preserve Act. This legislation is vital if we hope to preserve some of our nations most intact and rare pre-Jurassic paleontological discoveries.

In February of 2000, Dr. Sheldon Johnson began development preparations on land adjacent to the Virgin River in southern Utah. After dropping the backhoe and noticing a square fracture in the Navajo sandstone, Mr. Johnson turned the earth over. To his utter amazement, there in the stone were dinosaur tracks, taildraggings, and skin imprints of unprecedented quality. These paleontological discoveries are touted by scientists in the field as some of the most amazing ever discovered. The clarity and completeness of the imprints are unparalleled.

Since that time over 140,000 people from all 50 states and at least 54 foreign countries have visited the site. This attention is welcomed by the present owners, but overwhelming at the same time. Over 5,000 people came to visit on Easter weekend alone when only two volunteers were available to help! With current facilities meager at most, this is beginning to cause traffic and congestion problems for the owners and neighbors of the sight, as well as for the city of St. George, Utah.

In addition to the logistical nightmare caused by this discovery, the preservation of these valuable resources is now in jeopardy. The fragile sandstone in which the impressions have been made is susceptible to the heat and wind typical of the southern Utah climate. Rain is nearly catastrophic for these unearthed impressions.

The community and the land owners have come together and have done what they can do to help. They have constructed makeshift shelters for the exposed impressions and volunteers have stepped up to help with tours. Even after all of these efforts, they still need help. The community has asked if there is anything Congress can do to help. Since these resources are of value to the entire world, there is a legitimate role for Congress and the Administration. We have even discussed the possibility that the area might be worthy of National Monument designation. It is my hopes that by introducing this legislation, we will attract the attention of the Administration and protect these irreplaceable resources at the same time.

We must act quickly if these national treasures are to be saved. This bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to purchase the land where the footprints and taildraggings are found, then authorize the conveyance of the property to the city of St. George, Utah, which will then work with the property owners and the county to preserve and protect the area and resources in question. The Secretary of the Interior would then enter into a cooperative agreement with the city and provide assistance to help further the protection of the resources.

The American people deserve the chance to see these treasures and the scientific commu-

nity deserves to be able to study and learn from them as well. Without this legislation, this opportunity might not be possible. Who knows what the cost of inaction might be. I hope my colleagues will support this bill.

CHILD PASSENGER PROTECTION
EDUCATION GRANTS EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 691 which will extend the Child Passenger Protection Grant Program for an additional two years—making the program consistent with the TEA 21 reauthorization cycle.

Currently, the Child Passenger Protection Grant program authorizes \$7.5 million each year for the Secretary of Transportation to make incentive grants to states to encourage the implementation of child passenger protection programs in those states. This program is critical to ensuring that child passenger safety is on the minds of citizens nationwide.

Motor vehicle crashes are the single largest cause of child fatalities in the United States. Each year more than 1,400 children die as motor vehicle passengers, and an additional 280,000 are injured. Despite these horrifying figures, parents are still allowing their children to ride unrestrained.

More disturbing is the fact that of children who are buckled up, roughly half are restrained incorrectly—increasing the risk of serious or fatal injuries. Tragically, most of these injuries could have been prevented. Car seats are proven life savers, reducing the risk of death by 69 percent for infants and 47 percent for toddlers.

With programs like the Child Passenger Protection Grants, we can prevent these senseless deaths and injuries by increasing awareness in our communities.

In my district, the Drivers' Appeal for National Awareness (DANA) Foundation has worked tirelessly to increase public awareness for child passenger safety. Joe Colella, from Montgomery County, founded the DANA Foundation in memory of his niece, Dana, who died because of injuries sustained in a crash while riding in a child restraint that was installed with an incompatible system.

Joe deserves great credit for bringing the incompatibility problem to the attention of the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) and to Congress. Because of the DANA Foundation's efforts, the nation is now better educated and aware about the proper installation of children's safety seats in motor vehicles.

Protecting our children is a national issue that deserves national attention. I urge my colleagues; to support H.R. 691, as well as other noble efforts to increase child passenger safety.

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?
JOHN HART

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the substantial and laudable Hollywood career of John Hart, a true cowboy hero. His work has spanned every aspect of the silver screen, from writing to acting, from directing to stunt work. But for thousands of fans, his name will forever be synonymous with the signature black mask of the Lone Ranger, the stirring strains of the "William Tell Overture" and a hearty "Hi-yo Silver, away!"

Growing up in the Los Angeles area with a drama critic for a mother, acting was introduced to John early in his life. After studying drama at Pasadena City College, John landed his first motion picture job working for Cecil B. DeMille in "The Buccaneer." After appearing in many gangster pictures, John was drafted into the Army, where he spent the next five years writing, producing, and directing touring shows for the Fifth Air Force.

Upon his return to Hollywood, John was destined to trade in his gangster's fedora for the good guy's white hat. He quickly discovered Westerns, playing the Lone Ranger in the television series for two seasons beginning in 1952. With his trusty sidekick, Tonto, played by Jay Silverheels, the Lone Ranger was heroic inspiration for children all across America as the pair vanquished bad guys in the fight for law and order in the Old West. John went on to play title roles in "Jack Armstrong, The All-American Boy," "Captain Africa," and, with Lon Chaney, Jr., "Hawkeye and the Last of the Mohicans." He has appeared in more than 300 television shows and movies and has a lengthy resume of behind-the-camera work.

In today's world, it is easy to forget the thrilling days of yesteryear when heroes wore white, villains were always brought to justice and the Lone Ranger rode again. How refreshing it is to recall that his silver bullets never killed anyone and that he never sought compensation or credit for his good deeds. In testament to his hero status, children everywhere brought Lone Ranger lunch boxes to school and wore his trademark black mask during imaginary Old West games.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend John Hart for his role as an early pioneer in the film industry. Hollywood has changed greatly since the first motion pictures, but our expectations have not: We still look for the hero to ride off into the sunset after giving the villain his due. I ask my colleagues to join me in praising John Hart for a lifetime of honoring the Lone Ranger creed of justice.

BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION
50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for yesterday's overwhelming passage of H.R.