

the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture to conduct an investigation in the deaths of any firefighters killed by wildfire. This investigation is separate and independent of any Forest Service internal review. An independent examination of what went wrong will help provide information on how similar events can be prevented in the future and how firefighters can better be prepared and protected and how lives can be saved. Independent investigations will also help to ensure oversight and accountability in the Forest Service.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation may not benefit the families in my district that have endured the tragic loss of their loved ones; yet I am confident that they, more than anyone, understand the value of requiring independent investigations in the future. Should such a tragedy occur again, everyone concerned will have more confidence and faith in an independent investigation than an internal agency review.

It is the hope that no firefighter will lose their life battling a wildfire; yet we should pass this bill to make certain that if there is a loss of life, that tragedy will be independently investigated to identify what happened, why it happened, and how it can be prevented in the future.

□ 1430

In addition, no matter how much we improve the quality of investigations, it is vital that we take the necessary steps to improve forest health through reponsible forest management practices. We have already seen too many devastating fires in the West this year that have caused terrible damage and harm to property and families.

Congress must act to address forest health and management practices. Regrettably, for too long this has not been a priority of the Federal Government. This "hands-off approach" has contributed to the devastation we see today in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, indeed throughout the West. Effective forest management is vital to removing the root causes of forest fires.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Senator MARIA CANTWELL for her leadership in the other body. She has introduced companion legislation and has tirelessly worked to ensure that this legislation becomes law. The goal of H.R. 3971 is simple and straightforward: Ensuring independent investigations to improve firefighting safety. I urge Members to support H.R. 3971.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3971.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3971.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1802

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON) at 6:00 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

NEW RIVER GORGE BOUNDARY ACT OF 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now resume proceedings on the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3858.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3858.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The remaining votes on postponed questions will be resumed later this evening.

CONGRATULATING NAVY LEAGUE OF UNITED STATES ON ITS CENTENNIAL

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 416) congratulating the Navy League of United States on the occasion of the centennial of the organization's founding.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 416

Whereas the Navy League of the United States was founded in 1902 with the encouragement of President Theodore Roosevelt to serve and support the United States sea services, namely the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine;

Whereas the Navy League has more than 77,000 active members;

Whereas the Navy League is unique among military-oriented associations in that it is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of American citizens and the support of the members of the sea services and their families;

Whereas the Navy League supports active duty members of the sea services through the adoption of naval vessels, installations, and units and the hosting of commissioning ceremonies, award programs, and other recognition programs;

Whereas the Navy League supports America's young people through its youth programs, including sponsorship of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Navy League Scholarship Program, and through its promotion of youth-oriented activities in local communities, such as the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and other recognized youth programs;

Whereas the Navy League is widely respected by citizens, community and industry leaders, and public officials; and

Whereas Navy League programs are welcomed in communities throughout the United States, and members of the Navy League are recognized for their integrity and patriotism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress, on the occasion of the centennial of the founding of the Navy League of the United States in 1902, congratulates the Navy League and its members for their role as the foremost civilian organization dedicated to supporting the United States sea services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK) and the gentleman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 416.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the Navy League of the United States for its 100 years of service to service members, their families and their communities. I recently introduced House Resolution 416 to congratulate the Navy League on its 100th anniversary, its 100th year of service to America. The Navy League of the United States was founded in 1902 with the encouragement of then-President Theodore Roosevelt.

The Navy League is unique among military-oriented associations. It is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens and the support of the men and women of the sea