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It is noteworthy of course that this largest land transaction in our country's history was accomplished without the use of force, which was certainly in stark contrast to similar land transactions of earlier countries and empires. The Louisiana Purchase has been called the greatest land deal in history, as was mentioned, 600 million acres for \$15 million or about 4 cents an acre. Not only did the acquisition guarantee our navigation rights along the Mississippi and our ability to ship goods for foreign trade, but it was absolutely central to our rise as a world power.

So it is fitting that we take a little time today to formally recognize the significance these events played in shaping our country and the way it benefited generations of Americans.

The Louisiana Purchase shaped the United States's destiny. Our country will be forever grateful for the extraordinary work of the individuals involved and the noble vision exercised by President Jefferson. Robert Livingston who was a relative, by the way, of my predecessor, Bob Livingston. As he signed the treaty, he perhaps put it best: "We have lived long, but this is the noblest work of our whole lives . . . from this day the United States take their place among the powers of the first rank . . . the instruments which we have just signed . . . prepare ages of happiness for innumerable generations of human creatures."

I would like to thank my colleagues from Louisiana, also the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS), the site of the initial surveying in our new territory; the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE), home of President Jefferson; the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), Chair of the Committee on Resources, and all of the leadership for their work on this legislation.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help commemorate an event in our Nation's history that we can all join together in celebrating.

With the stroke of a pen in 1803, President Jefferson doubled America in size, making us one of the largest Nations in the world. The Louisiana Purchase comprised more than 600 million acres at less than 3 cents an acre in what today is the greater part of 13 states between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains.

Arkansas was one of those states—the third state formed after Louisiana and Missouri. Two hundred years later, Arkansas continues to prove itself a valuable asset to our Nation. Our state has contributed much to our great country—our agriculture and other industries feed our Nation and fuel our economy; our State's natural beauty is an endless source of enjoyment for families and visitors. Arkansas has supplied our Nation with food and fiber, entertainers, and even a president.

The 828,000 square mile west of the Mississippi River is some of the most beautiful and bountiful land in our country. If only \$15 million could go that far today! I invite my colleagues and our Nation to join me in celebrating one of the single most noteworthy

events in our Nation's history—the Louisiana Purchase. This year as we celebrate the bicentennial, I hope that you will visit Arkansas and any of the other states that were purchased for so little, and that now prove to be priceless.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the storied legacy of the great state I represent, Louisiana. This year marks the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, and today I am proud to commemorate this monumental event in our nation's history and in the history of the state of Louisiana and welcome the nation's participation in the yearlong celebration that will educate, entertain, and impart a lasting wonder for Louisiana. I have the esteemed privilege of representing Louisiana's fifth district, the 'heart of Louisiana'.

In 1803, Thomas Jefferson and Napoleon negotiated the United States' purchase of Louisiana from France. With just two strokes of the pen, our young nation doubled in size overnight, becoming one of the largest nations in the world. The Louisiana Purchase, approved by treaty in April of 1803, is called the most significant real estate transaction in the history of civilization. Encompassing over 800,000 square miles of land and costing about four cents per acre, the Louisiana Purchase eventually became all or part of 15 states: Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, Texas, South Dakota, New Mexico, Nebraska, Wyoming, Kansas, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Colorado, Montana and definitely not least of all, Louisiana, my home state.

As part of the bicentennial celebration friends of the Louisiana Purchase bicentennial have collaborated to provide museum exhibits, concerts, films, re-enactments, and memorabilia. One of the museum exhibits that is especially dear to me is the Heart of Spain at the Alexandria Museum of Art in my district. Louisiana's history is intertwined with that of Spain's, and the influences of Spanish culture are still realized in the state's food, architecture, and government. In honor of the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial, the Alexandria Museum of Art is inviting America, until November 30, to experience artifacts from world-renown Spanish museums, monasteries, churches and private collections El Corazon de Espana, in Alexandria, Louisiana offers a unique opportunity to be nourished and inspired by art and culture that is indicative of the friendship between Spain and Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to extend an invitation to my colleagues and to the nation to live, learn, and love Louisiana's rich history. When commenting to Thomas Jefferson on the Louisiana Purchase General Horatio Gates said, "Let the land rejoice for you have bought Louisiana for a song." Today, I hope my colleagues will join with Louisiana, its citizens and friends, in singing "Happy Birthday."

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 21.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the current resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING EXCHANGE OF LAND AT FORT FREDERICA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1113) to authorize an exchange of land at Fort Frederica National Monument, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1113

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

SECTION 1. EXCHANGE OF LANDS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to convey to Christ Church of St. Simons Island, Georgia, the approximately 6.0 acres of land within the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument adjacent to Christ Church and depicted as "NPS Lands for Exchange" on the map entitled "Fort Frederica National Monument 2003 Boundary Revision" numbered 369/80016, and dated April 2003, in exchange for approximately 8.7 acres of land to be acquired by Christ Church, which is depicted as "Private Lands for Addition" on the same map.

(b) *MAP AVAILABILITY.*—The map referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) *BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.*—Upon completion of the land exchange under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall revise the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument to reflect the exchange and shall administer the land acquired through the exchange as part of that monument.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1113, introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), and amended by the Committee on Resources, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey 6 acres of land within the boundaries of Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons Island, Georgia, to the Christ Church also located on St. Simons Island. In return, the park service would receive 8.7 acres of nearby property that would be acquired first by the church from the Sea Island Company and then exchanged with the park service. The exchange is viewed by all parties as a win-win.

Mr. Speaker, Christ Church has doubled in size in the last 9 years, and the additional land is needed for its expansion. In return, the monument would receive lands that are known to contain valuable archeological remains from the colonial period.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1113, as amended.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1113, which authorizes a land exchange at Fort Frederica National Monument in Georgia, raises a number of issues that were discussed at the hearing on this measure in April before the Committee on Resources. Evidently, appraisals and archeological surveys of the lands proposed to be exchanged have not been completed. So the value and historical significance of the proposed lands have not been established. Furthermore, the National Park Service testified that the noncontiguous parcel that the National Park Service would acquire through the exchange will likely increase the administrative and operational costs of the national monument.

The National Park Service testimony on H.R. 1113 elaborated on these concerns and, while generally supportive of the exchange, provided little guidance on how they should be addressed. We need to be careful about altering the boundaries of national park system units. Former Resources Committee Chairman Hansen spoke many times about the National Park Service acquiring a historic site that did not contain the historic resources that were claimed. We should not make the same mistake here. In that regard I would note that H.R. 1113 authorizes, but does not require, a land exchange at Fort Frederica National Monument. Before any exchange should occur, the National Park Service would be required to complete appraisals and historical surveys as well as comply with the requirements of NEPA.

As such, there are a number of administrative procedures in place to ensure that the exchange, if it goes forward, is in the public interest. Mr. Speaker, that being the case, we will not object to the consideration of H.R. 1113 by the House today.

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), the sponsor of H.R. 1113.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for the opportunity to speak about H.R. 1113.

This bill is a small one, but it represents an important land exchange between Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons Island and Christ Church. Aside from some of the issues which the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands has already outlined, it is largely noncontroversial and it benefits all the parties.

The Christ Church community, and I have to say this about Christ Church, it is an old Episcopal church and I would love everybody to visit particularly if they have the time this sum-

mer when the G-8 is going to be held in the Golden Isles of Georgia. I believe those dates are anywhere from June 12 to June 14, somewhere in that time frame; but of course everybody is really excited about it. The G-8, the economic impact, for those who have ever followed it, they probably know it is about a \$200 million economic impact. People from all over the world will be there, 2,500 members of the press alone along coastal Georgia really all the way from Jacksonville to Charleston; and I have the honor of representing the entire coast.

We already have 7,000 hotel rooms reserved. I am glad I can say this because the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands and the gentleman from New Mexico know what beautiful States they represent; and if this deal was not already done, they would probably be trying to solicit the G-8 and give us a very competitive run for our money on it, but we are very excited; and already members of the international community, members of the press community, members of the G-8 itself have already been coming to town and making preparations. So there is a lot of excitement; and I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, when any Member of Congress comes to that area, I hope that they will take the time not just to witness the G-8 but to look at all the other things we have in that area.

Christ Church is one of the oldest churches. John Wesley taught there. John Wesley came to America to Savannah and was actually a minister right after George Whitfield in Christ Church, Savannah, which was founded in 1733; and incidentally that is the home of America's first Sunday school, and then he moved to St. Simons and helped start Christ Church. And it was after that that he returned to England and started Methodism, but it can accurately be said that the birthplace of the Methodist Church, or the concept, was probably the Golden Isles of Georgia in Glynn County.

Christ Church, though, is not just about history; but if the Members do want to read about the history, there is a great book written by a man named Ethridge called "Strange Fires," and I would recommend it to anybody. But it is not just about history. It is about today. It is about children in the nursery. It is about young couples getting married. It is about senior citizens living out their life in communion with Christ. This church, because it is dynamic and because it is part of the fabric of today's society, has doubled in the last 9 years and needs additional land.

The church recently acquired, with private funds, not with any Federal tax dollars, 8.69 acres of land, and this land is adjacent to Fort Frederica National Monument. Fort Frederica is where some of the early colonists lived, and it is nothing but ruins; but the ruins are very well preserved, and it is an interesting romantic spot to look at.

One of the great things they do at Fort Frederica is they have some ar-

cheological findings, some items which are not historically significant, old cannonballs and bits and pieces of utensils and pottery; and they dug it up and they have identified it and catalogued it as not being historically significant, and they get the local elementary school and they rebury these archeological gems, and they let the school kids dig it back up, and then they catalogue it and then they study it and then they rebury it for the next year's class. And it is such a great living way to teach children. In today's world of education, and I was so proud that we passed No Child Left Behind with such great bipartisan support, that this is just one other way to teach children. And the thing that I think we all share in common, liberals, conservatives, Democrats, and Republicans, is that we want our kids to get the best education they can possibly have and then they can go on and think for themselves, and I think examples of that are just wonderful exercises of things that are going on in the country today.

This land also was recognized as the site James Oglethorpe occupied after coming to Georgia. Oglethorpe actually landed in Savannah Harbor and founded the city of Savannah in 1733, February 12, 1733, and then went on to Brunswick, Georgia, which is where the Battle of the Bloody Marsh was fought, because as the Members well know, the British basically owned most of the colonies, the 12 colonies north of Georgia. The Spanish owned Florida. The gentleman from Florida who is the distinguished gentleman who sits as Speaker today knows well of the great Spanish heritage of Florida. And if we go to cities like St. Augustine and we see the influences of forts down there like Castillo de San Marco and St. Augustine and so many of the other things, it is great Spanish heritage.

But back then the British and the Spanish were kind of fighting over the land a little bit, and Georgia was a buffer State. It was founded as a penal colony. And the showdown happened actually in Glynn County, Georgia, between the British and the Spanish; and it was called the Battle of Bloody Marsh because there was so much blood spilled that the water itself turned to red because of the blood, and we can still visit that site. And again, if the Members come down for the G-8, let me know. I am going to give the tour personally if they give me the honor. But James Oglethorpe's part, as one of the founders of Georgia, is very significant and yet another reason why we want this bill to go through.

The Christ Church community wants to give this 8.69 acres to the National Park Service so that it can expand the national monument and in return get 6 acres back from Fort Frederica National Monument, which is already adjacent to Christ Church; and then they can use this for their future expansion and whatever needs they have.

I want to say that the 6 acres do not hold any historical significance and are

not occupied by any facilities of the national park right now. So the national park is not going to be inconvenienced by it.

My sister, Mr. Speaker, lived in Italy for a number of years; and one of the things I found somewhat to my amusement when one goes to Rome or Naples or any of those great Italian cities, they cannot issue building permits because every time they put a trowel in the ground, they hit an ancient Roman ruin. We all know the song by Bob Dylan that says "The streets of Rome are filled with rubble. Ancient footprints are everywhere." I do not want to overindulge, but I think the next line was also pretty, "You can almost think that you're seein' double on a cold, dark night on the Spanish stairs." And if one has ever been to Rome, I think that song captures so much of the essence and the romanticism and the history of Rome.

To a minor degree, the coastal area of Georgia is the same way. Every time they dig, they can find something. From native Americans to the early Spanish to the British to missionaries and everybody else in between has been there at one time or the other.

But I strongly believe that this exchange would benefit the United States and protect and conserve significant cultural resources as the Oglethorpe ruins. This property contains historical and archeological resources worthy of protection and preservation by the National Park Service for all generations in the future, and the bill is supported by the National Park Service.

In conclusion, let me say this: this bill will allow Christ Church to expand; so it is a win-win. It captures history and yet lets progress take place.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), Committee on Resources chairman; the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), the subcommittee chairman; the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), the ranking members, for their support of this bill. And I also want to recognize the efforts of the former Senator of Georgia, Mr. Mack Mattingly, for his dedication to this cause.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) for sharing such rich cultural heritage of the area.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1113, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORT BAYARD NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2059) to designate Fort Bayard Historic District in the State of New Mexico as a National Historic Landmark, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2059

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

SECTION 1. FORT BAYARD NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark Act".

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Fort Bayard Historic District in Grant County, New Mexico, as listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is hereby designated as the Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in this section shall affect the administration of the Fort Bayard Historic District by the State of New Mexico.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the State of New Mexico, Grant County, New Mexico, and affected subdivisions of Grant County, may enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate public or private entities, for the purposes of protecting historic resources at Fort Bayard and providing educational and interpretive facilities and programs for the public. The Secretary shall not enter into any agreement or provide assistance to any activity affecting Fort Bayard State Hospital without the concurrence of the State of New Mexico.

(e) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance with any entity with which the Secretary has entered into a cooperative agreement under subsection (d).

(f) NO EFFECT ON ACTIONS OF PROPERTY OWNERS.—Designation of the Fort Bayard Historic District as a National Historic Landmark shall not prohibit any actions which may otherwise be taken by any property owners, including the owners of the Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, with respect to their property.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2059. First I would like to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO); the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH); along with the ranking member, the gentleman from West Vir-

ginia (Mr. RAHALL), for allowing the Committee on Resources to consider H.R. 2059 in an expedited manner and for allowing it to be considered on the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2059 would designate Fort Bayard Historic District in the State of New Mexico as a National Historic Landmark.

On August 21, 1866, troops under the command of Lt. James Kerr, Company B, 125th United States Colored Infantry, began building a new post in Apache country near the mining communities of Pinos Altos and Silver City, New Mexico. The infantry troops stationed at Fort Bayard were nicknamed "Buffalo Soldiers" by the Cheyenne and Comanche Indians. The post was named after Brigadier General George D. Bayard, who had been killed in the battle of Fredericksburg.

After Geronimo's surrender, Fort Bayard as a military post was no longer needed. As a result, in 1899 Fort Bayard became the first sanatorium dedicated to the treatment of soldiers suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

In 1922, Fort Bayard came under the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration and became a treatment center for veterans. During World War II, Fort Bayard housed German prisoners of war.

Today, the post is operated as a hospital by the State of New Mexico and presently employs approximately 400 employees. To this day, Fort Bayard continues to play a vital role in the health care of Grant County, New Mexico, and the surrounding area.

Designation of Fort Bayard as a National Historic Landmark is important for the preservation of its historical significance. It is also very important to southeastern New Mexico's economic development. The region is currently suffering from high unemployment and stagnant economic growth. This designation would allow Fort Bayard to attract more tourism to the area and would bring in much-needed economic revenue, which could help fuel more investment in the region.

H.R. 2059 has the unanimous support of the New Mexico Congressional delegation, is cosponsored by the entire delegation, and also has very strong public support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2059.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2059 is the companion measure to the Senate bill, S. 214, introduced by Senator BINGAMAN, which passed the Senate on March 4, 2003, and has been referred to the Committee on Resources. The legislation provides for the establishment of the Fort Bayard National Historical Landmark in the State of New Mexico. The legislation also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical and financial assistance to the site.