

used, how it was emphasized, how it was manipulated, and who was the source of much of the intelligence that this administration used to hook people into the war in Iraq.

Did they use the intelligence provided by Mr. Chalabi, who was on our payroll, and by Mr. Chalabi's defectors, who paid and bribed to provide that intelligence to the administration? Did the administration, and this goes to the crux of the question: Did the administration do the due diligence that was necessary before they made the decision to put American men and women in harm's way into Iraq? Did they look at the case and make the case that this was an imminent threat to the security of the United States?

So far, we do not have the answers to those questions. We know that there was a concerted effort within the Department of Defense, within the administration to push us into the war in Iraq. We now need to know how that was done. We need that honest debate. We do not need the President to continue to attack his critics.

The American people are entitled to that debate. They are entitled to the results of the investigations that were promised 17 months ago, and nothing has happened from those investigations.

WORLD WAR I VETERAN KENNETH MEYERS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when Kenneth Meyers was born in 1889, Teddy Roosevelt was charging up San Juan Hill, the airplane had not been invented, and electricity was a novelty. Kenneth Meyers, at 107, is the oldest surviving World War I veteran in Texas. There are less than 50 World War I veterans in all of the United States.

Meyers joined the Navy as a teenager in 1917 and served aboard the Battleship *Oklahoma* in World War I until 1919. Meyers, who lives in Houston, says he was proud to serve in the "War to End All Wars."

After the Navy, Meyers earned his masters degree, became an agricultural expert for Uncle Sam, and even helped farmers as far away as Greece. He herded cattle in Wyoming, and he still owns land there.

As we honor American veterans, we appreciate the generations of sailors and doughboys in World War I who adopted the song "Over There" that states, in part, "Send the word to beware, that the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming and we won't come back 'til its over, over there."

Mr. Speaker, like warriors since then, those Yanks got the job done for freedom and only came back when it was over, over there. That's just the way it is.

MEDICARE MEETS SENIORS' NEEDS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Americans have benefited significantly from medical advancements throughout the past 40 years, and Medicare must also evolve with the changing technology.

Today marks an historic date for the Medicare program. For the first time, America's seniors will have the opportunity to enroll in a voluntary prescription drug benefit that will meet their needs.

I would like to encourage all seniors to sign up for this valuable benefit. For more information on how to register, and this is a special exclusive surprise for biased ABC News, seniors can call 1-800-Medicare or visit www.medicare.gov. Seniors can also contact professional pharmacists in their communities for additional details about the program.

By strengthening Medicare, President Bush and Congress have delivered a program to ensure America's seniors live healthier, happier, and longer.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

PREEMIE ACT

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Prematurity Awareness Day. I stand with parents and physicians, organizations and associations around our country that are working to draw attention to the serious and growing problem of premature birth.

Nearly 500,000 babies will be born prematurely this year. In my own State of Georgia, 342 premature babies will be born this week. It is a serious problem, one that is far too common. Unfortunately, in most cases, we do not know why it happens.

From my experience as an OB-GYN physician for nearly 30 years, I know the anxiety, confusion, frustration and concern that premature birth places on both the families as well as the medical system. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 2861, the PREEMIE Act, which was introduced by my friend and colleague from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. Speaker, I am here today not only to encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this important piece of legislation but also to let the women in our country know how important it is to talk to their doctors about the risk factors associated with pre-term birth. Together, we can work to find a solution to this very costly crisis.

NEW MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine an insurance policy that paid thousands of dollars for the most expensive treatment for a disease but not a few hundred dollars for medicine to prevent that disease from occurring? Well, that is what Medicare has been, until now. Today is the first day that seniors all across our country can join Medicare part D.

As a physician, I am keenly aware that medications are a mainstay of the treatment and prevention of disease and, with this new prescription drug benefit, Medicare will now assist seniors in obtaining medicines that can prevent serious illness. Seniors should get more choices and better treatment, and America will get a Medicare system that moves into the 21st century.

In my district, I have held senior education seminars, trying to give seniors helpful information about this new and exciting program. This is not about politics, this is about helping those eligible for Medicare to select the plan that is best for them.

I encourage all of my colleagues in medicine and in Congress to help seniors as they have the opportunity to participate in a new health program, one that should result in a more rewarding and healthier life.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah) at 2 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1564) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain

buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington, to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1564

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 "Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District Conveyance Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND LANDS OF THE YAKIMA PROJECT, WASHINGTON.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, located in Yakima County, Washington, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement titled "Agreement Between the United States and the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District to Transfer Title to Certain Federally Owned Buildings and Lands, With Certain Property Rights, Title, and Interest, to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District" (Contract No. 5-07-10-L1658).

(b) LIABILITY.—Effective upon the date of conveyance under this section, the United States shall not be held liable by any court for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the conveyed buildings and lands, except for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the United States or by its employees or agents before the date of conveyance. Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (popularly known as the Federal Tort Claims Act), on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) BENEFITS.—After conveyance of the buildings and lands to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District under this section—

(1) such buildings and lands shall not be considered to be a part of a Federal reclamation project; and

(2) such irrigation district shall not be eligible to receive any benefits with respect to any buildings and lands conveyed, except benefits that would be available to a similarly situated person with respect to such buildings and lands that are not part of a Federal reclamation project.

(d) REPORT.—If the Secretary of the Interior has not completed the conveyance required under subsection (a) within 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that explains the reason such conveyance has not been completed and stating the date by which the conveyance will be completed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 Colorado?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1564, sponsored by our colleague DOC HASTINGS, conveys 9 acres of federally owned land and administrative buildings to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District in Washington State. No project facilities such as dams, diversion structures, or canals are included in this title transfer.

The transfer has been in the works for almost a decade. This legislation, also introduced by the junior Senator from Washington, will enhance more private ownership and decrease the Federal Government's liability. It is a win for the local community and a win for the American taxpayer. I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

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

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

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the majority has already explained the legislation. I would only add that we on this side of the aisle have no objection to its passage.

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

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation would enable a long-awaited transfer of property from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District in central Washington. This transfer involves the conveyance of approximately 9 acres of Federal property as well as a few associated structures. These facilities are already dedicated to purposes related to the irrigation district. With this conveyance, the district will be able to use district funds to make needed improvements for the future. The irrigation district has fully repaid its obligations to the United States related to these properties, and the bureau is no longer interested in their day-to-day management and upkeep.

During hearings before the Resources Committee earlier this year, the administration expressed its support for this legislation and noted that this transfer allowed the bureau to focus its limited resources where they are more urgently needed. In my view, this is an example of local problem-solving at its best.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the staff of the irrigation district and the Bureau of Reclamation for their work on this. This legislation would not be before us today without their cooperative efforts over the last few years to negotiate this agreement. I also want to thank

Resources Chairman POMBO and Water and Power Subcommittee Chairman RADANOVICH for moving this legislation through the process, as well as Kiel Weaver and other members of the committee staff for their work on this bill.

Again, this is a noncontroversial conveyance of property agreed to by the irrigation district and the Bureau of Reclamation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1564.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. 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 question will be postponed.

FRANKLIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD STUDY ACT

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1972) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System certain sites in Williamson County, Tennessee, relating to the Battle of Franklin, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1972

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 "Franklin National Battlefield Study Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means the cities of Brentwood, Franklin, Triune, Thompson's Station, and Spring Hill, Tennessee.

SEC. 3. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of sites in the study area relating to the Battle of Franklin to determine—

(1) the national significance of the sites; and

(2) the suitability and feasibility of including the sites in the National Park System.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the analysis and recommendations of the Secretary on—

(1) the effect on the study area of including the sites in the National Park System; and

(2) whether the sites could be included in an existing unit of the National Park System or other federally designated unit in the State of Tennessee.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—