

Collectively, the Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000 missions over North Africa and Europe during World War II, destroying more than 250 enemy aircraft on the ground and 150 in the air. By historic accounts, the aviators never lost a bomber to enemy aircraft fire during their escort missions. Proudly, Walter Palmer personally helped to set that very high standard of excellence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KA'U
COAST PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Ka'u Coast Preservation Act, a bill directing the National Park Service to assess the feasibility of designating coastal lands on the Ka'u Coast of the island of Hawaii between Kapao'o Point and Kahuku Point as a unit of the National Park System.

Late last year, the National Park Service issued a reconnaissance report that made a preliminary assessment of whether the Ka'u Coast would meet the National Park Service's demanding criteria as a resource of national significance.

The reconnaissance survey concluded that "based upon the significance of the resources in the study area, and the current integrity and intact condition of these resources, a preliminary finding of national significance and suitability can be concluded." The report goes on to recommend that Congress proceed with a full resource study of the area.

Although under significant development pressure, the coastline of Ka'u is still largely unspoiled. The study area contains significant natural, geological, and archaeological features. The northern part of the study area is adjacent to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and contains a number of noteworthy geological features, including an ancient lava tube known as the Great Crack, which the National Park Service has expressed interest in acquiring in the past.

The study area includes both black and green sand beaches as well as a significant number of endangered and threatened species, most notably the endangered hawksbill turtle (at least half of the Hawaiian population of this rare sea turtle nests within the study area), the threatened green sea turtle, the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the endangered Hawaiian hawk, native bees, the endangered and very rare Hawaiian orangeblack damselfly (the largest population in the state), and a number of native endemic birds. Humpback whales and spinner dolphins also frequent the area. The Ka'u Coast also boasts some of the best remaining examples of native coastal vegetation in Hawaii.

The archaeological resources related to ancient Hawaiian settlements within the study area are also very impressive. These include dwelling complexes, heiau (religious shrines), walls, fishing and canoe houses or sheds, burial sites, petroglyphs, water and salt collection sites, caves, and trails. The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the study area.

The Ka'u Coast is a truly remarkable area: its combination of natural, archaeological, cul-

tural, and recreational resources, as well as its spectacular views, are an important part of Hawaii's and our Nation's natural and cultural heritage. I believe a full feasibility study, which was recommended in the reconnaissance survey, will confirm that the area meets the National Park Service high standards as an area of national significance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

STEWART VINCENT WOLFE
MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of my constituents in Yuma to revitalize and beautify their surroundings.

The community came together to create the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Memorial Playground located in the Yuma West Wetlands Regional Park. This is a true community project as it was created from the input of over 5,000 local schoolchildren. This project united all generations to create it and was fully assembled by dedicated volunteers throughout two weekends in February.

I have heard from many parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and educators that the children have approved thoroughly of the park. And today I rise to thank the community for the park and provide my heartfelt approval and gratitude as well.

This park has an important role in Yuma, as it is a culmination of work from all aspects of the community. It also served as an educational tool. Bringing in the children to have input was an opportunity for the children to learn about planning in our community, in addition to preservation of open and friendly spaces.

There was much sweat and hard work that was put into the park, and I guarantee there will be many squeals of joy and happy families for years to come.

This important achievement will long be remembered in Yuma, and it is with pride that I celebrate with my constituents in the realization of this important park.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION
CELEBRATING THE 500TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FIRST USE OF
THE NAME "AMERICA"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution celebrating the 500th anniversary of the first use of the name "America." I am pleased to be introducing this resolution with my good friend from New York, Representative CAROLYN MALONEY.

Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci was born in 1454 and traveled across the Atlantic Ocean 4 times between 1497 and 1504. During his second voyage to the Western Hemi-

sphere in 1499, he realized the land initially discovered by Christopher Columbus was not India, but in fact a whole new continent.

Eight years later, on April 25, 1507, cartographer Martin Waldseemüller, a member of the research group Gymnasium Vosagense in Saint-Die', France, published the book *Cosmographiae Introductio*. The book was accompanied by a map he designed naming the new continent "America" after Amerigo Vespucci. Incidentally, the only remaining copy of this map is housed in the Library of Congress.

Naming the new continent after Vespucci was a unique and high honor, especially since he was still alive at the time. But Waldseemüller described this decision in the book by writing: "I see no reason why anyone should justly object to calling this part. . . America, after Amerigo [Vespucci], its discoverer, a man of great ability."

On April 25, 2007, we will mark the 500th anniversary of the first appearance of the word "America" on a map on a continent bordered by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. As such, it is fitting that the House take time to honor Amerigo Vespucci, Martin Waldseemüller, and the contributions of so many others who have made us who we are.

In the 21st century, the term "America" means much more than just a continent or a country. It is an ideal, a system of values which dedicates itself to ingenuity and greatness. The ability of which Waldseemüller wrote of Vespucci embodies the American spirit and the role which we play in the world. Indeed, we have the ability to make this world a better place for all.

It is my sincere hope that my colleagues will support this effort and join me and Representative MALONEY in honoring these two great individuals, the history of our great country and the continent on which it is located. I ask for the support of my colleagues and the swift consideration of this resolution to ensure that the House marks this celebration before the 500th anniversary.

INDENTURED SERVITUDE
ABOLITION ACT OF 2007

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, thousands of foreign workers in this country are being systematically exploited and abused every day. I am introducing the Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2007 to ensure that these workers have basic human rights protections and safeguards against recruitment abuses.

The Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2007 requires that employers provide in writing and in advance of employment, specific information relating to an individual's working terms and conditions so that workers know the length of their employment, where they will be working and living, how much they will be paid, and what benefits will be made available to them. Under the Act employers will be prohibited from charging the worker a recruitment fee, and obligated to pay the worker's transportation costs. Finally, if an employer or recruiter violates the Act, they will be subject to criminal sanctions, civil penalties and injunctive relief.