

founding of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii; and

(2) honors and praises the Bishop Museum, on the occasion of its reopening and 120th anniversary, for its work to ensure the preservation, study, education, and appreciation of Native Hawaiian culture and history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, the Bishop Museum was founded in 1889 in Honolulu, Hawaii, and for 120 years has served as the Nation's preeminent resource documenting, preserving and educating others on Native Hawaiian culture. The museum's collection of 24 million objects is the largest Hawaiian and Pacific Island collection in the world. Over 2,000 of these objects and images are on display in the newly renovated Hawaiian Hall.

H. Res. 541, introduced by our distinguished colleague from Hawaii, Representative NEIL ABERCROMBIE, would express the appreciation of the House of Representatives to the Bishop Museum for 120 years of service to the people of Hawaii and the United States. We commend Representative ABERCROMBIE for his tireless efforts on behalf of his constituents and the preservation of Hawaiian history and culture.

We support passage of House Resolution 541 and urge its adoption in the House today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the resolution has been explained well by the majority. We have no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 541, recognizing and honoring the restoration and renovation of the Bishop Museum's Historic Hawaiian Hall, the Nation's premier showcase for Hawaiian culture and history, on the occasion of the Museum's 120th anniversary.

I thank the gentleman from the State of Hawaii, my good friend, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, for his leadership on this important issue. I also want to thank Chairman RAHALL of the Natural Resources Committee for bringing this resolution for House floor consideration.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 541 conveys our sincerest appreciation to the Bishop Museum for its service and devotion. Founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his beloved wife, Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the great granddaughter of Kamehameha I, the Bishop Museum is essential to study, pre-

serve and tell the stories of the cultures and natural history of Hawaii and the Pacific Ocean.

Collectively, the Museum houses the largest Hawaii and Pacific area collection in the world, including 1,200,000 cultural objects representing Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islands, and Hawaii immigrant life, more than 125,000 historical publications including many in the Hawaiian language, 1,000,000 historical photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings, and manuscripts and over 22,000,000 plant and animal specimens. This cultural collection creates a significantly important public resource for academic studies and for public information.

Not only that, the Bishop Museum is also very significant because of the fact that it houses the Hawaiian Hall, the Nation's only showcase of its size, proportions, design, and historical context that is devoted to the magnificent legacy of Hawaii's kings and queens, and the legacies of its Native Hawaiian people of all walks of life and ages. Over the years lead paint and termite damage rendered the building unable to meet modern standards and requirements for any museum until in 2005, the restoration and renovation of the Hawaiian Hall commenced. Multiple parties came together to collaborate in this effort. The museum was redefined conceptually as well as given physical reconstruction. The end product stands as testament to the efforts of all those involved.

The new exhibit incorporates Native Hawaiian artwork depicting traditional stories, legends, and practices, and contemporary Native Hawaiian voices interpreting the practices and traditions through multiple video presentations. In addition, the new exhibit is conceptually organized to represent three traditional realms or wao of the Hawaiian world including: Kai Akea—the expansive sea from which gods and people came; Wao Kanaka—the realm of people; and Wao Lani—the realm of gods and the alii or chiefs, who descended from them. The new exhibit even includes a large 40-panel mural which celebrates the strength, glory, and achievements of Native Hawaiians.

Mr. Speaker, the Bishop Museum is very important to the Native Hawaiians, especially in their efforts to revive their culture and their Hawaiian traditions. I congratulate the Bishop Museum on its 120th anniversary and for its service and devotion, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H. Res. 541.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 541, recognizing and honoring the restoration and renovation of the Bishop Museum's historic Hawaiian Hall, the Nation's premier showcase for Hawaiian culture and history, on the occasion of the Museum's 120th anniversary.

Founded more than a century ago, in the memory of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop by her husband, Charles Reed Bishop, Bishop Museum has contributed to the world's understanding of the natural and cultural history of the Pacific and Hawaii. It has collected and preserved nearly 25 million scientific animal and plant specimens and 2.4 million cultural objects that together help tell the full story of Hawaii and the Pacific.

I attended the celebration of the Bishop Museum's 120th anniversary in Honolulu during our August district work period. The magnificent historic Hawaiian Hall has been beautifully restored and now serves as a more fit-

ting setting for the irreplaceable and precious cultural and historical artifacts it showcases. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Bishop Museum's Hawaiian Hall has traditionally housed Hawaii's most sacred and beloved artifacts. With its volcanic stone exterior and extensive use of native koa wood, Hawaiian Hall is considered a masterwork of late Victorian museum design.

With this important renovation, hundreds of thousand visitors and local residents will enter the world of Hawaii. They will hear the oral tradition of oli and mo'olelo. They will experience Hawaii's deep connection between its natural and cultural worlds. Bishop Museum has served as an essential repository and education institution for over a century.

I urge my colleagues to join me voting for H. Res. 451 and encourage you to visit the restored Hawaiian Hall when you next visit Hawaii.

Mr. LAMBORN. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 541.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORIC VIRGINIA KEY BEACH PARK OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 361) recognizing the historical significance of Historic Virginia Key Beach Park of Miami, Florida, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 361

Whereas in the early 1900s, Historic Virginia Key Beach Park of Miami, Florida, was frequented by African-American and Caribbean settlers arriving by ferry from mainland South Florida;

Whereas in the summer of 1945, on the beach at Baker's Haulover County Park, a group of black men led by then attorney Lawson E. Thomas staged a protest against the unjust segregation laws that prohibited black people from using the public beaches in South Florida;

Whereas in response to the protest, county officials designated Virginia Key Beach Park as the "Colored Beach", a segregated beach site for the African-American community which opened on August 1, 1945;

Whereas, even after civil rights laws opened all the public beaches in South Florida to people of all races and ethnicities, Virginia Key Beach Park remained a popular destination for many in the African-American community for several decades;

Whereas in 1979, the site was transferred from the county to the City of Miami with the stipulation that the beach be kept open

and maintained as a public park and recreation area;

Whereas in 1982, citing the high cost of maintenance and operations, the City of Miami closed Virginia Key Beach Park shortly after assuming its responsibility;

Whereas in 1990, the City of Miami Commission responded to citizen outcry and established the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust (hereafter referred to as the "Trust") to restore, reopen, and preserve the site for public use;

Whereas the late M. Athalie Range, an African-American community leader and the first woman to sit on the City of Miami Commission, worked with the community to save Virginia Key Beach Park from the grasp of developers, and deliver it back to the people. She lobbied to place the property on the National Register of Historic Places, spearheaded funding for a multi-billion dollar restoration program, and planned a new museum/cultural center that would one day, impart the message of social equality and responsible citizenry for future generations;

Whereas in June 2002, the Trust successfully petitioned Federal and State government officials to place the site on the National Register of Historic Places and give it a Florida Historical Marker;

Whereas in 2003, the Dade Community Foundation established the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park Trust Fund to collect charitable donations to help restore and preserve the park; and

Whereas on February 22, 2008, after extensive renovation by the Trust, Historic Virginia Key Beach Park celebrated its grand re-opening for public use by the entire community with a ribbon cutting ceremony and community concert: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the extraordinary historical, cultural, and recreational significance of Historic Virginia Key Beach Park of Miami, Florida;

(2) recommitments its attempt to protect and preserve American history through national parks and historic sites; and

(3) acknowledges the significance of the African-American community's struggle for equality through its collaborative efforts to preserve this historic site.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, in 1945 a group of black men, led by Lawson E. Thomas, courageously protested the banning of African Americans from the public beaches of south Florida. As a result, Virginia Key Beach Park was established as a "Colored Beach" under the segregation laws that persisted throughout the civil rights movement.

The park was transferred to the city of Miami in 1979, which attempted to close it three years later, citing a lack

of operating funds. Since then, dedicated community leaders have fought to not only keep the park open, but also add it to the National Register of Historic Places and establish a trust to manage it.

With this resolution, sponsored by Representative ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, the House of Representatives recognizes the historic significance of the site and honors the African American struggle for equality represented there.

I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In the 1920s, Virginia Key Beach, located about 2 miles south of Miami, Florida, became the area's public beach that was used primarily by African Americans. In 1945, Dade County officials designated the beach as a legally segregated beach for use by the African American community. Today, the beach is managed by the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust and is owned by the City of Miami.

This resolution recognizes the historical significance of Virginia Key Beach Park. I congratulate Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her work, and I urge passage of this resolution.

At this time, I yield such time as she may consume to my friend and colleague, the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado, my good friend, Mr. LAMBORN, for the time, and I also thank Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona. Thank you so much for bringing this resolution before us today.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 361, which is a bipartisan bill recognizing the national significance of historic Virginia Key Beach Park, which is located in my congressional district in south Florida. I also would like to thank my dear friends and fellow south Floridians, my colleagues, Representatives KENDRICK MEEK, ALCEE HASTINGS, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their support of this legislation.

A segregated beach during the 1900s, Virginia Key Beach Park serves as a reminder of our Nation's struggle for equality and justice for all members of our society. During World War II, the beach was a training ground for African American soldiers serving in the United States Army. Shortly following the war's end, the beach was established as the only public beach open to the African American community. In the 1950s, the beach played a prominent role in south Florida's efforts to desegregate during the civil rights movement.

In the years following desegregation, leaders of the African American community in south Florida, including the influential and late wonderful leader in our area, Athalie Range, fought tirelessly to preserve this unique site.

Today's resolution serves as a tribute to Athalie Range and to so many Afri-

can American pioneers, including our former colleague, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, who authored a bill in 2001 to include Virginia Key Beach Park into the National Park System. I was honored to work with Carrie in her quest to include this beach in the National Park System, and years later I am joined by her beloved son KENDRICK in honoring the importance of this historic and often overlooked site.

I thank Congressman GRIJALVA for the time, and I thank my dear friend Mr. LAMBORN for the time to talk about this historic part of south Florida history.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, let me also congratulate the gentlelady from Florida for the resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 361, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

AKRON VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2004) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, as the "Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2004

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

SECTION 1. AKRON VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.