

area a much safer and pleasant experience on Y Mountain, and so I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 253, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SABLAN. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### ROTA CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 674) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 674

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

(1) The island of Rota was the only major island in the Mariana Islands to be spared the destruction and large scale land use changes brought about by World War II.

(2) The island of Rota has been described by professional archeologists as having the most numerous, most intact, and generally the most unique prehistoric sites of any of the islands of the Mariana Archipelago.

(3) The island of Rota contains remaining examples of what is known as the Latte Phase of the cultural tradition of the indigenous Chamorro people of the Mariana Islands. Latte stone houses are remnants of the ancient Chamorro culture.

(4) Four prehistoric sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Monchon Archeological District (also known locally as Monchon Latte Stone Village), Taga Latte Stone Quarry, the Dugi Archeological Site that contains latte stone structures, and the Chugai Pictograph Cave that contains examples of ancient Chamorro rock art. Alaguan Bay Ancient Village is another latte stone prehistoric site that is surrounded by tall-canopy limestone forest.

(5) In addition to prehistoric sites, the island of Rota boasts historic sites remaining from the Japanese period (1914-1945). Several of these sites are on the National Register of Historic Places: Nanyo Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha Sugar Mill, Japanese Coastal Defense Gun, and the Japanese Hospital.

(6) The island of Rota’s natural resources are significant because of the extent and intact condition of its native limestone forest that provides habitat for several federally endangered listed species, the Mariana crow,

and the Rota bridled white-eye birds, that are also native to the island of Rota. Three endangered plant species are also found on Rota and two are endemic to the island.

(7) Because of the significant cultural and natural resources listed above, on September 2005, the National Park Service, Pacific West Region, completed a preliminary resource assessment on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which determined that the “establishment of a unit of the national park system appear[ed] to be the best way to ensure the long term protection of Rota’s most important cultural resources and its best examples of its native limestone forest.”

##### SEC. 2. NPS STUDY OF SITES ON THE ISLAND OF ROTA, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) carry out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System; and

(2) consider management alternatives for the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Except as provided by subsection (c) of this section, section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)) shall apply to the conduct and completion of the study required by this section.

(c) SUBMISSION OF STUDY RESULTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date that funds are made available for this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the results of the study.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes a study for the suitability and feasibility of designating this particular area as part of a unit of the National Park System. I think it is a wise concept in which to go to find out the cultural and natural resources that are on this particular area and look forward to its further designation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 674, the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act. The bill authorizes

the Secretary of the Interior to determine whether it would be suitable and feasible to add certain cultural, archaeological, historical, and natural resources on the island of Rota in the Northern Marianas to the National Park System.

The House has already voted to authorize the suitability and feasibility study for Rota on two separate occasions, but the other body did not follow through, so here we are again. The third time may be the charm.

Mindful of the previous House votes, I will not preach to the choir, but I do think that it is worth reminding my colleagues that a Park Service reconnaissance survey reported in 2005 that Rota contains natural, archaeological, and historical features of national significance. These include precontact village sites of the Chamorro people, who discovered and populated the Mariana Islands 3,500 years ago.

I also want to remind my colleagues, because we’re all mindful of cost, that the Congressional Budget Office finds the bill will not affect direct spending or revenues.

Finally, I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member MARKEY of the Natural Resources Committee for their support of H.R. 674. I also want to thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation for their help in bringing this measure to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 674.

At this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALBOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALBOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, this is getting to be an island occasion or something. But at any rate, I do thank the gentleman from Utah and the gentleman from the Northern Marianas for allowing me to comment on this proposed legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 674, the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Act.

First, I want to thank the gentleman from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, my dear friend Mr. SABLAN, for his authorship of this important piece of legislation that will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, the southernmost island of CNMI, as a unit of the National Park System.

This legislation is critical to CNMI and will enable the preservation of village sites of the ancient Chamorro people and Rota’s native limestone forests that provide a habitat for locally and federally endangered listed bird species, including the Mariana crow and the Rota bridled white-eye birds.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation previously passed the House in the last Congress, but, unfortunately, the Senate did not have time in its agenda to address the legislation prior to the end

of the Congress. Leaders of Rota unanimously support this legislation. Additionally, the National Park Service, after completing a preliminary resources assessment of Rota in 2005, concluded that designating Rota as part of the National Park System appeared to be the best way to ensure the long-term protection of Rota's prehistoric and historic natural and man-made habitat structures.

Mr. Speaker, again, I commend Mr. SABLAN for his leadership. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I want to also share with my colleagues a little bit of history.

□ 1730

Twenty miles away from the island of Rota is the island called Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands. This is where the Enola Gay was launched and delivered the two atomic bombs that were dropped in the war in Japan, which brought about the closing of World War II, especially against Japan.

So in terms of historical perspectives, Rota, Tinian, the Northern Mariana Islands, I think you've made a tremendous contribution for the betterment of our country.

And, again, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, before I yield back my time, I'd also like to thank the gentleman from American Samoa for his support of the bill. And because he mentioned Tinian, the Enola Gay and the Boxcar did fly from Tinian to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki and ended the war against Japan.

Those airplanes, I'd like to also note for the record, originated and took off from Utah before they came to the Mariana Islands. So there's that connection here.

So Mr. BISHOP is actually the one who reminded me that while they took off from Tinian, it was in Utah that they started the flight to Tinian and eventually flew to Japan.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, he did steal my thunder. They did train and start in Wendover, Utah, which was part of my district until the legislature became involved in district lines in this last session.

I urge my colleagues to support this particular piece of legislation and remind them that any costs that would be associated with this study has to be appropriated. We have another chance to look at that. I firmly support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 862.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS SURVEY, COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 862) to authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 862

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

#### SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS SURVEY, COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture may convey by quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the two parcels of land described in subsection (b) to a person or legal entity that represents (by power of attorney) the majority of landowners with private property adjacent to the two parcels. These parcels are within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest and contain private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The two parcels of land authorized for conveyance under subsection (a) consist of approximately 2.67 acres described in the Bureau of Land Management's Survey Plat titled Subdivision and Metes and Bounds Surveys in secs. 28 and 29, T. 20 N., R. 7 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, approved February 2, 2010, as follows:

(1) Lot 2, sec. 28, T. 20 N., R. 7 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, Coconino County, Arizona.

(2) Lot 1, sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 7 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, Coconino County, Arizona.

#### (c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance of the two parcels under subsection (a), the person or legal entity that represents (by power of attorney) the majority of landowners with private property adjacent to the parcels shall pay to the Secretary consideration in the amount of \$20,000.

(2) DEPOSIT.—The Secretary shall deposit the consideration received under this subsection in a special account in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).

(3) USE.—The deposited funds shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation and until expended, for acquisition of land in the National Forest System.

(d) REVOCATION OF ORDERS.—Any public orders withdrawing any of the Federal land from appropriation or disposal under the public land laws are revoked to the extent necessary to permit conveyance of the Federal land under subsection (a).

(e) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land authorized for conveyance under subsection (a) is withdrawn from all forms of entry and appropriation under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws until the date which the conveyance is completed.

(f) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance authorized by subsection (a) shall be subject only to those surveys and clearances as needed to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided under this section shall terminate three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects a survey error made in the 1960s. The landowners will be required to pay \$20,000 for these two parcels.

I want to commend my colleague, Congresswoman KIRKPATRICK, for her leadership on this issue. And at this time, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK).

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, imagine waking up one day to learn that your property really isn't yours. In fact, that's exactly the situation that a group of residents in my district find themselves in.

They didn't cause the problem. Over 40 years ago it was created because of a land survey that simply got it wrong. For years, even decades, they've lived on their property, they've maintained it, they've invested in it, only to find that their property is within the boundaries of the United States Forest Service.

Now, this has been a real economic hardship for these folks. Today we have an opportunity to solve this for them.

I thank Congressman GOSAR and his staff for the opportunity to work together on behalf of the people of Arizona. Our bill, H.R. 862, has a simple, commonsense conveyance which returns this land to its rightful owners and removes this economic hardship that has been hanging over them for so long.

We are pleased that the bill has bipartisan support, that it passed out of Natural Resources with a unanimous vote. And I urge my colleagues to join us today to support H.R. 862, because these people have been living in limbo for way too long.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. At this time, I yield as much time as he may consume