

Germany during World War II. After his military service, Medgar attended Alcorn State University, where he would meet his future wife, Myrlie.

After graduating from Alcorn, Medgar devoted his life to seeking justice and equality for all Americans. As field secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi, Mr. Evers led successful voter registration efforts throughout the State. He applied for admission to the University of Mississippi Law School in an unsuccessful effort to desegregate the university. Medgar also courageously led investigations into the death of Emmett Till and publicly supported Clyde Kennard after his imprisonment on erroneous charges stemming from his efforts to integrate the University of Southern Mississippi.

On June 12, 1963, as he returned home from a NAACP planning meeting, Medgar was shot in the back in the driveway of his home while his family was inside the house. He died at a local hospital less than an hour later. One week after his death, he was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Today, the Medgar Evers House has been preserved as a museum by Tougaloo College. The home has been refurbished to appear as it did at the time of Evers' death. The home contains an exhibit regarding Evers' family, career, death, and his legacy. The home has hosted scores of visitors including many Members of Congress who participated in the Faith & Politics pilgrimages throughout the South.

My bill, H.R. 959, the Medgar Evers House Study Act, authorizes a special resource study by the Secretary of the Interior on the home in which his family lived and Medgar Evers was assassinated located at 2332 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive in Jackson, Mississippi. The study will determine the national significance of the Evers home and determine the feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park system.

Mr. Speaker, Medgar Evers was a civil rights giant. He dedicated his life to bringing down the pillars that maintained Jim Crow in Mississippi. The heroic life he lived and the remarkable legacy that he left are unquestioned. Today's bill will further cement the role that he played in advancing civil and human rights in our Nation. With that, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 959.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge all Members to support H.R. 959.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Medgar Evers was a patriot and a civil rights leader who gave his life to realize the full promise of the American Declaration of Independence. His memory is vivid and revered by every American of goodwill who lived through those momentous years. It is for us now to preserve his memory for the many generations of Americans to follow who will have to look to history to know him.

This bill is a step toward recognizing the enormous debt our Nation owes him and to ensure that future generations can draw inspiration from his leadership, his patriotism, his courage, and his sacrifice that he made in the cause of freedom.

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 California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 959, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL FOREST SMALL TRACTS ACT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1214) to amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1214

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 "National Forest Small Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE OF SMALL PARCELS OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.

(a) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM VALUE OF SMALL PARCELS.—Section 3 of Public Law 97-465 (commonly known as the Small Tracts Act; 16 U.S.C. 521e) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "\$150,000" and inserting "\$500,000".

(b) ADDITIONAL CONVEYANCE PURPOSES.—Section 3 of Public Law 97-465 (16 U.S.C. 521e) is further amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "which are—" and inserting "which involve any one of the following:";

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "parcels" and inserting "Parcels"; and

(B) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "parcels" the first place it appears and inserting "Parcels"; and

(B) by striking "; or" at the end and inserting a period;

(4) in paragraph (3), by striking "road" and inserting "Road"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(4) Parcels of 40 acres or less which are determined by the Secretary to be physically isolated, to be inaccessible, or to have lost their National Forest character.

"(5) Parcels of 10 acres or less which are not eligible for conveyance under paragraph

(2), but which are encroached upon by permanent habitable improvements for which there is no evidence that the encroachment was intentional or negligent.

"(6) Parcels used as a cemetery, a landfill, or a sewage treatment plant under a special use authorization issued by the Secretary. In the case of a cemetery expected to reach capacity within 10 years, the sale, exchange, or interchange may include, in the sole discretion of the Secretary, up to one additional acre abutting the permit area to facilitate expansion of the cemetery."

(c) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Section 2 of Public Law 97-465 (16 U.S.C. 521d) is amended—

(1) by striking "The Secretary is authorized" and inserting the following:

"(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY; CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary is authorized";

(2) by striking "The Secretary shall insert" and inserting the following:

"(b) INCLUSION OF TERMS, COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESERVATIONS.—The Secretary shall insert";

(3) by striking "covenants" and inserting "covenants"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

"(1) DEPOSIT IN SISK FUND.—The net proceeds derived from any sale or exchange conducted under the authority of paragraph (4), (5), or (6) of section 3 shall be deposited in the fund established by Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).

"(2) USE.—Amounts deposited under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Secretary until expended for—

"(A) the acquisition of land or interests in land for administrative sites for the National Forest System in the State from which the amounts were derived;

"(B) the acquisition of land or interests in land for inclusion in the National Forest System in that State, including land or interests in land which enhance opportunities for recreational access;

"(C) the performance of deferred maintenance on administrative sites for the National Forest System in that State or other deferred maintenance activities in that State which enhance opportunities for recreational access; or

"(D) the reimbursement of the Secretary for costs incurred in preparing a sale conducted under the authority of section 3 if the sale is a competitive sale."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1214 would amend the Small Tracts Act to allow for the sale of small, isolated, federally owned parcels outside of the main body of a national forest as well as parcels encumbered with certain special uses such as cemeteries. The management

of these isolated and encumbered parcels takes considerable resources away from the core mission of the Forest Service. Proceeds from the sale of these parcels would be deposited into a Sisk Act fund and may be used for deferred maintenance, acquisition of lands for administrative sites or recreational access, or to reimburse the Forest Service for administrative costs in preparing the sales.

The U.S. Forest Service has a challenging mission. Enabling it to develop a more manageable land base is simply good government, which is why this bill has such broad-based support.

I also want to thank Chairman CONAWAY of the Agriculture Committee for his assistance in expediting this bill.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 5, 2015.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On April 30, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported without amendment H.R. 1214, the National Forest Small Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015, by unanimous consent. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Agriculture.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Agriculture to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Agriculture represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and for your continued strong cooperation between our committees.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, June 5, 2015.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 1214, the National Forest Small Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015. It is my understanding that, on April 30, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill reported without amendment and by unanimous consent.

This legislation contains provisions within the Committee on Agriculture's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Agriculture will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and

would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1214 amends the Small Tracts Act to provide the Forest Service with more flexibility to sell or exchange small parcels of national forest land. This increased flexibility will allow the Forest Service to identify opportunities where the sale or exchange of small parcels of land will increase efficiency and improve the overall integrity and health of our national forests.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. AMODEI, the sponsor of this legislation, for working with the Forest Service to update this bill so that it could be supported by both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I support adoption of H.R. 1214.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI), my good friend and Nevada neighbor, the author of this bill.

Mr. AMODEI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you Madam Ranking Member. I also want to thank the chairman of the full committee as well as my cosponsors in this measure: Mr. POLIS from Colorado, Mr. SHIMKUS from Illinois, and Mr. JONES from North Carolina.

So as not to risk snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, I will be brief. I would like to say that this was my idea and it is a wonderful thing, but this represents taking care of business that has been knocking around for probably a decade or more as far as the Forest Service is concerned. We are not moving the frontier into national forests; we are simply giving them the ability to administratively dispose of those lands that have become not attached to the national forest and have no management or land use characteristics with respect to the managing of a national forest.

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The other thing I want to point out is that it will allow them the ability to dispose of well into six figures' worth of acres, potentially, over the next few years, much more than last year, which was almost nothing.

The most interesting thing is that the resources generated by this will stay with the Forest Service for use under their various charges as opposed to disappearing into that sometimes black hole in space, referred to as the "United States Treasury."

I urge nationwide bipartisan support. Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge all Members to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would urge the adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1214, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. 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.

JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE EXPANSION ACT

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1289) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1289

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 "John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE LAND ACQUISITION.

(a) ACQUISITION.—*The Secretary of the Interior may acquire by donation the approximately 44 acres of land, and interests in such land, that are identified on the map entitled "John Muir National Historic Site Proposed Boundary Expansion", numbered 426/127150, and dated November, 2014.*

(b) BOUNDARY.—*Upon the acquisition of the land authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall adjust the boundaries of the John Muir Historic Site in Martinez, California, to include the land identified on the map referred to in subsection (a).*

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—*The land and interests in land acquired under subsection (a) shall be administered as part of the John Muir National Historic Site established by the Act of August 31, 1964 (Public Law 88-547; 78 Stat. 753; 16 U.S.C. 461 note).*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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