

beneficial relationship with the existing attractions.

Mr. Speaker, we now face a crucial point that demands action. In addition to the encryption issue, an important landmark would be lost forever should the site be destroyed. These sites serve as an important reminder of our Cold War strategy and should be preserved for today and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, there is a sign painted on the door leading into the Delta-1 control room. Below a pizza box someone wrote, and I quote, "Worldwide delivery in 30 minutes or less, or your next one is free." Dark humor, I know, but it was a reality. Civilization as we all know it could have been destroyed in 30 minutes. The character and personalities of our soldiers who served a critical role in the defense of our Nation should be preserved.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore ask the House to join me in supporting this important legislation and to move closer to the establishment of what would prove to be an invaluable asset to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) for his work in helping us move this legislation forward.

First, let me thank Chairman YOUNG and Chairman HANSEN for all their help moving this legislation. The other body passed S. 382, the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1999, by unanimous consent on March 25, 1999, and I urge the House to pass the bill today.

I, like many Americans, grew up during the Cold War when tensions between America and the Soviet Union were at their highest point. My memories of this time are vivid. I remember Vietnam, the renewed arms race, and the immense pride and patriotism I felt when the Berlin Wall came down. During this period, 150 Minuteman II missiles remained on nuclear alert at Ellsworth AFB.

In western South Dakota, the 44th missile wing blended with the scenery with the Black Hills as a backdrop. Spread out over 13,500 square miles, the soldiers grew to know the locals and the locals the soldiers. On the Fourth of July 1994 when the wing was deactivated, something was missing on the high plains of Western South Dakota. On occasion, I still meet soldiers who manned the silos stationed at Ellsworth, and they tell me how wonderful the people of South Dakota are.

I grew up in Murdo, South Dakota, just 60 miles east on I-90 from the Delta One command center. Surrounding that center were 10 nuclear missiles. In South Dakota, an important reality of the Cold War existed. For current generations and generations to come, the creation of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site would provide an opportunity to see what happened behind the scenes. We can learn more about the story of the lives of the officers who lived and worked in the missile silos and command centers.

Our opportunities to preserve this piece of history are limited because all Minuteman II silo launchers have been eliminated except for the site designated Delta-9. Delta-1 and Delta-

9 would provide a unique opportunity to preserve that history. Under an interagency agreement between the Air Force and the National Park Service, this site has been temporarily preserved. However, this agreement has expired, prompting the need for immediate legislative action.

Congressional action on S. 382 also bears important national security implications. The Ballistic Missile Development Organization's National Missile Defense program uses the boosters from Minuteman Missiles in testing. However, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) precludes the use of encryption technology during flight tests until all missiles of a type have been retired or turned into a museum. Preservation of this site would eliminate this security concern.

From a purely practical standpoint, the site is conveniently located along the major access highway to the Black Hills National Forest, Mount Rushmore National Monument, and the Badlands National Park. The Minuteman Missile site would form a mutually beneficial relationship with the existing attractions.

We now face a crucial point that demands action. In addition to the encryption issue, an important landmark would be lost forever should the site be destroyed. These sites serve as an important reminder of our Cold War strategy and should be preserved for today and future generations.

There is a sign painted on the door leading into the Delta One control room. Below a pizza box, someone wrote, "Worldwide delivery in 30 minutes or less or your next one is free." Dark humor, I know, but it was a reality. Civilization as we all know it could have been destroyed in 30 minutes. The character and personalities of our soldiers who served a critical role in the defense of our nation should be preserved.

I, therefore, ask the House to join me in supporting this important legislation and move closer to the establishment of what would prove to be an invaluable asset to this nation.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 382 with one reservation. I do not oppose the establishment of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in the State of South Dakota. I do, however, have significant concerns with directing the Secretary of the Air Force to transfer funds to the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of establishing, operating, and maintaining the site.

In my judgment, the financial responsibility for maintaining the National Park System does not rest with the Department of the Air Force. Section 4(b) of the bill provides for such a transfer of funds. However, I would note that the funds specified for transfer in section 4(b)(1) have expired. In the interest of facilitating the establishment of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, I saw no need, as a member of the Committee on Resources, to strike the moot provision concerning the transfer of funds and thereby send the bill back to the Senate at this late date in the session.

As a member of the Committee on Armed Services and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities, I want to note further that an authorization to transfer such funds is properly within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services. I think it is

fair to say that the Committee, and certainly this member, would oppose any effort to compel the Secretary of the Air Force to utilize military construction, operations and maintenance, or other funds authorized and appropriated for fiscal year 2000 to support the establishment, operations, and maintenance of this site.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 382.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on S. 382, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Tuesday, November 16, for personal medical leave. Should I have been present for rollcall votes 587 through 595, I would have voted the following way:

On rollcall vote 587, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 588, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 589, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 590, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 591, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 592, I would have voted yes; rollcall vote 593, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 594, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 595, I would have voted no.

CITY OF SISTERS, OREGON, LAND CONVEYANCE

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 416) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the city of Sisters, Oregon, a certain parcel of land for use in connection with a sewage treatment facility, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 416

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—