

June 10, 1999

I am attaching a fact sheet giving more details about the bill:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
WILDERNESS ACT

1. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Rocky Mountain National Park, one of the nation's most visited parks, possesses some of the most pristine and striking alpine ecosystems and natural landscapes in the continental United States. This park straddles the Continental Divide along Colorado's northern Front Range. It contains high altitude lakes, herds of bighorn sheep and elk, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra, old-growth forests and thundering rivers. It also contains Longs Peak, one of Colorado's 54 fourteen thousand-foot peaks.

2. CONGRESSMAN UDALL'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

Former Congressman David Skaggs from the Second District had been working for years to designate certain areas within the Park as wilderness. Congressman Skaggs introduced a bill last year, and this proposal by Congressman Udall is essentially identical.

The Udall proposal would designate nearly 250,000 acres within Rocky Mountain National Park, or about 94 percent of the Park, as wilderness, including Longs Peak—the areas included are based on the recommendations prepared over 24 years ago by President Nixon with some revisions in boundaries to reflect acquisitions and other changes since that recommendation was submitted; designate about 1,000 acres as wilderness when non-conforming structures are removed; and add non-federal inholdings within the wilderness boundaries to the wilderness if they are acquired by the United States.

The Udall proposal would NOT create a new federal reserved water right; instead, it includes a finding that the Park's existing federal reserved water rights, as decided by the Colorado courts, are sufficient, nor include certain lands in the Park as wilderness, including Trail Ridge and other roads used for motorized travel, water storage and conveyance structures, buildings, developed areas of the Park, and private inholdings.

3. EXISTING WATER FACILITIES

Boundaries for the wilderness areas are drawn to exclude: existing storage and conveyance structures, thereby assuring continued use of the Grand River Ditch and its right-of-way; the east and west portals of the Adams Tunnel and gauging stations of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project; Long Draw Reservoir; and lands owned by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District, including Copeland Reservoir.

The bill includes provisions to make clear that its enactment will not impose new restrictions on already allowed activities for the operation, maintenance, repair, or reconstruction of the Adams Tunnel, which diverts water under Rocky Mountain National Park (including lands that would be designated by the bill), or other Colorado-Big Thompson Project facilities. Additional activities for these purposes will be allowed, subject to reasonable restrictions, should they be necessary to respond to emergencies.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RETURN OF VETERANS MEMORIAL
OBJECTS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to an amendment to the Senate version of the FY2000 Defense Authorization Bill. Section 1066 of the Senate version prohibits the return of veterans memorial objects to foreign nations without specific authorization in law.

Although it might seem to be a well-intentioned attempt to protect veterans memorials, this amendment is, in fact, an underhanded attempt to infringe upon the chief executive's authority to, in good, return questionably acquired items to their rightful owners.

We all agree that this nation had been involved in a number of unjust conflicts. Regrettably, our troops have been involved in dubious actions, both here and in foreign lands. Without, taking dignity away from those who have fallen and those who followed orders, we should strive towards preserving our ability to right certain historical wrongs.

Under the cloak of protecting veterans memorials, this amendment is actually an attempt to impede the facilitation of a compromise between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines. F.E. Warren Air Force Base plays host to a memorial comprised of two church bells seized from the Philippines. As the bells are equally important to Filipinos, they have requested the repatriation of one.

I have worked in the last Congress to bring this compromise. Veterans groups, church officials, and members of this body have expressed support. Section 1066 of the Senate version is designed to undermine the progress we have made on this issue.

I urge the members of the conference committee to be mindful of this. Let us be straightforward and put the real issue on the table. I urge the members of the conference committee to act accordingly on this matter.

HONORING WILLIAM H. WALKER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor an individual who served our great Nation in war time, and served our children in peace. William H. Walker not only served our Nation as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, but also served as an educator at Lincoln Elementary School in Centralia, Illinois.

The Illinois native from Carbondale passed away at age 83. During his life, he was a patriot and an inspiration to the civil rights movement, City of Centralia, and children of Lincoln Elementary School. Mr. Walker is also an inductee in the Centralia Historical Hall of Fame.

Dan Griffin, Superintendent of the Centralia City School District in which William Walker served said of Mr. Walker, "He was well-re-

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spected by the black community and white community alike, and by all educators. . . . The best way I can sum up Bill Walker is that he was a gentleman's gentleman."

I commend him on his life-time service to the Nation. His life should be a reminder to us all about what service to the Nation means.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1401) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in opposition to the Gilman-Goss amendment.

This foolish and dangerous amendment would prohibit the use of funds to maintain a U.S. military presence in Haiti after December 31 of this year. The effect of this amendment is to gut US Support Group Haiti, an important humanitarian, engineering and civic affairs operation, and deny our President the flexibility he needs to determine our nation's troop deployments.

Haiti is currently planning to hold elections later this year. This elections follow months of political instability. It is vital that the United States show our support for the democratic process in this country.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that Members on the other side of the aisle have attempted to interfere in our nation's support for democracy in Haiti. Last month, Republicans led an effort to squash a human rights observation mission that represented the one credible human rights organization in Haiti during this difficult time.

Now, these same critics of our nation's policy toward Haiti are attempting to force our troops to leave at a time when their presence is especially important to support stability and aid in democratization efforts.

The people of Haiti are looking forward to having elections later this year. Requiring the courageous and dedicated men and women of our nation's armed forces to leave the country now would send a terrible message to the Haitian people about our willingness to support the democratic process in this country. Now is not the time to consider withdrawing these men and women at this critical point in Haiti's history.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the Gilman-Goss amendment.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES REYNOLDS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Charles Reynolds for his