

release water. This has caused the Government to expend approximately \$750,000 guarding the headgates of the Klamath Project from further acts of lawlessness.

Certainly, these funds would have been better spent developing long-term solutions to the water problems in the Klamath Basin.

For the time being, however, recognizing the hard work put into this measure by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), I do urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2828, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize payments to certain Klamath Project water distribution entities for amounts assessed by the entities for operation and maintenance of the Project's transferred works for 2001, to authorize refunds to such entities of amounts collected by the Bureau of Reclamation for reserved works for 2001, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RONALD REAGAN BOYHOOD HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 400) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home National Historic Site, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 400

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

#### SECTION 1. RONALD REAGAN BOYHOOD HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

(a) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall purchase with donated or appropriated funds, at fair market value and from a willing owner only, fee simple, unencumbered title to the Property and to any personal property related to the Property which the Secretary determines to be appropriate for the purposes of this Act.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF HISTORIC SITE.—After the Property is acquired by the Secretary, the Secretary shall designate the Property as the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home National Historic Site.

(c) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary shall ensure that a copy of the land descrip-

tion referred to in subsection (f)(2) is on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(d) MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC SITE.—

(1) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Foundation for the management, operation, and use of the Historic Site. The cooperative agreement shall provide for the preservation of the Property in a manner that preserves the historical significance thereof and upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

(2) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Foundation, shall complete a general management plan for the Historic Site that defines the role and responsibility of the Secretary with regard to the interpretation and the preservation of the Historic Site.

(e) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.—The Secretary shall administer the Historic Site in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the provisions of laws generally applicable to national historic sites, including the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1-4), and the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes", approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(f) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term "Historic Site" means the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home National Historic Site.

(2) PROPERTY.—The term "Property" means the property commonly known as the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Complex located in Dixon, Illinois, (including any structures thereon), further described as follows:

The North Half (N½) of Lot Three (3), Block One Hundred and Three (103), of the original Town (now City) of Dixon, Lee County, Illinois, and more commonly known as 816 South Hennepin Avenue, Dixon, Illinois. (Reagan Boyhood Home)

The South Half (S½) of Lot Two (2), Block One Hundred and Three (103), of the original Town (now City) of Dixon, Lee County, Illinois, and more commonly known as 810 South Hennepin Avenue, Dixon, Illinois. (Visitors Center)

The South two-thirds (S⅔rds) of Lot Four (4) in Block One Hundred Three (103) in the original Town (now City) of Dixon, Lee County, Illinois, and more commonly known as 821 South Galena Avenue, Dixon, Illinois. (Parking Lot)

The Westerly Ninety feet of the Southerly One half (S½) of Lot 3 in Block 103 in the Town (now City) of Dixon, Lee County, Illinois. (Park with statue of President Reagan)

Legal title to all of the foregoing is: Fifth Third Bank, as successor trustee to First Bank/Dixon (later known as Grand Premier Trust) as trustee under Trust Agreement dated August 15, 1980 and known as Trust No. 440.

Said property is also located within an historical district created by the City of Dixon pursuant to Ordinance No. 1329 dated June 16, 1986 as amended. The historical district was created pursuant to Title VI, Chapter 16 of the City Code of the City of Dixon.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 400, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the Speaker of the House, would authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to purchase the site of Ronald Reagan's boyhood home in Dixon, Illinois, at its fair market value and, once acquired, designate it as the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home National Historic Site.

In addition, the National Park Service would be required to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Foundation, the site's current owner, to operate the new historic site and within 2 years develop a general management plan that would define the roles of the two parties interpreting and preserving the historic site.

Mr. Speaker, establishing the boyhood home as a National Historic Site will ensure long-term preservation of the museum and its eligibility for funding from the National Park Service. I urge an "aye" vote on the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state at the outset that I support the pending legislation. Let me assure my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle that this bill is much different than other measures that we have seen to purportedly honor former President Reagan.

This measure does not contain the irony of naming an airport after a President whose only claim to fame when it came to aviation was to bust the air traffic controllers union. It does not propose to circumvent all established procedures and force-feed a memorial to him on the Mall, as some have proposed.

Instead, the pending legislation would establish a Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home National Historic Site in the same fashion as we have designated such sites to other former Presidents, for example, the Truman National Historic Site in Independence, Missouri, and the Garfield National Historic Park in Mentor, Ohio.

In this regard, it is a fact that Ronald Reagan resided in this particular home in Dixon, Illinois, during a portion of his teenage years. The home has already been fully restored and is being operated as a museum. So it is fitting that this legislation include this site as a unit of the national park system. It is our hope that this addition will assist those in seeking insight into the former President's life and work.

Let us move forward on this particular designation to Ronald Reagan, but please let it be the last of them, at least in this Congress.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), a member of the Committee on Resources.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill, not because of its subject matter, but because of the way it is being done.

Seven years ago, I began work on the National Park Service Reform Act. I authored that bill because I believed then, and I believe now, that Park Service units should be designated on the basis of what they are, not because they are the pet project of someone in a powerful position. Instead, they should be the end result of a logical, thoughtful process of evaluation by the Park Service that must maintain them.

This bill before us has none of that. Instead, it straightforwardly designates the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home in Decatur, Illinois, as a National Park unit, without study by the Park Service or indeed any real idea of what the Park Service's role in this will be or how they will manage it.

Now, Ronald Reagan is a political and personal hero of mine, and I think Decatur's efforts to preserve his home are a wonderful example of what private citizens can do to preserve something worthwhile. They had this site in tip-top shape and have no problem waiting a year for designation until the Park Service does a study. In fact, they told us that was perfectly fine, to wait the year and do like every other single bill of this nature that came through the committee while I was chairman of the committee was done. Democrat and Republican bills alike, they all went to a study by the Park Service first. These people have no problem with that. That is perfectly all right.

The board members, though, are getting up in years; and they would like the designation as insurance that their work will be continued after they are gone. So they do not want it to string on too long, and I do not either. They are proud of that work, and they should be proud of that work. By looking at them and what they have accomplished, maybe we can see a little of where Ronald Reagan got his beliefs.

So at full committee I offered an amendment to give the Park Service 1 year to study the Ronald Reagan home, again like every other bill of this nature that came through there in the last few months, and then report back to us about how they would manage this site. That amendment was passed unanimously at the Subcommittee on the Park Service markup; but in the full committee they elected to act on the base text because that is the way

the Speaker and/or the Speaker's staff wanted it to be acted on, again, violating all the rules we had done for everybody else. It passed the full committee until one Member was persuaded to switch their vote.

Now, I have absolutely no doubt that the Reagan home will be found worthy of National Park designation. But the way it is being done here is an affront to what we have been working for. We have been working for logical processes here, so that someone who just happens to be in the right spot, maybe it is the Committee on Appropriations, maybe it is the Speaker's office, maybe it is the minority leader's office, somebody who happens to be in the right spot can have their way just because they are in the right spot. It should not be that way. There should be a logical process.

So we are working for logical processes, and we are working for fairness. We treated in this committee everybody's suggestions, everybody's ideas, every Democrat's idea, every Republican's idea, with the same even-handed fairness and the same approach, except this one.

I introduced the Park Reform Act because I believe everybody's ideas should be judged by the same rules. My ideas should, my colleagues' ideas should, and the Speaker's ideas should. Make no mistake, this bill is before us in this form today only because the Speaker wants it, and that is not right.

For this reason, I must oppose this suspension.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), a member of the Committee on Resources.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, first let me speak to the underlying bill, which I strongly support and have supported since its introduction in the Congress.

Ronald Reagan was not only an inspiration in my life, but many others. His speech for Barry Goldwater is what inspired me to get interested in politics when I was 14 years old. He inspired the bulk of the young conservatives, the middle-aged conservatives, and the older conservatives in America to a philosophy of government. To many of us, he stands as our conservative hero, much like Franklin Roosevelt is for liberals.

Therefore, it is important that we recognize his sites and his importance to a strong political movement in America, not just some of his later sites, but also his early birth sites. For Teddy Roosevelt, we have multiple sites in the Park Service, for Franklin Roosevelt and for Abraham Lincoln and for others on the Mall. It is important that we have recognition for Ronald Reagan as one of those pillars of leadership in American history.

Ronald Reagan's roots are in the Midwest, much like Abraham Lincoln's; and as a member of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recre-

ation and Public Lands, among many Westerners, let me add a concern that I have. The National Park Service has consistently opposed anything that has come up from the Midwest. We do not have the grand big Rocky Mountains, we do not have the ocean beaches, we do not have a lot of the things that they have in the West; but we do have a fair amount of historic sites. This happened when we got to the Underground Railroad. This has happened with a series of sites that the National Park Service has opposed.

This bill has not moved until this year because it was opposed. Those of us in the Midwest, while we understand that the National Park Service is concerned that we keep adding units to the National Park Service without expending money at the same rate we are expanding units and, therefore, building a backlog; and we understand the concern of the Western States for constantly opposing new things because they are concerned with the backlog that those things are not going to be funded. Those of us in the Midwest, particularly when it comes to sites like Ronald Reagan's boyhood home, have concerns.

I share the concern of our former chairman, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), about the proliferation of heritage areas, about the proliferation of sites, whoever wants to stick something in a bill; but this Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home is not that standard. Part of the reason they had to get somebody to switch in full committee was because I was in another markup at the time of it, sprinted over, as did the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), and because they managed to get the one person to switch, they did not get our votes. This bill would have passed in the committee had we been there. For that I apologize for any confusion.

But the fact is, this is a deserving bill. We need this site in the Midwest. The Speaker is right to put his weight behind this. I support him in these efforts. We in the Midwest for too long have been shorted. Ronald Reagan deserves these tributes. He deserves these tributes while he is still alive. No one disputes the historic nature of this building or the importance of Dixon, Illinois, and his Midwestern upbringing, to his leadership of America and the values he was anchored in.

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

If I might just respond to some of the comments made in opposition to this bill, in particular, by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY). I do not view this particular legislation as a pet project of a powerful person, regardless of it being the Speaker's bill. I have been contacted, I know, from Democratic Members on my side of the aisle in support of this legislation, including

the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO).

I happen to believe that it would be a waste of taxpayers' money for the National Park Service to study this matter. The facts are the facts. As I said in my opening statement, Ronald Reagan lived at this site. I do not believe we need a study to determine that. The home has been restored. It is being operated as a museum. So I do not believe that taxpayers' money would necessarily be spent wisely to conduct a study of these very same facts.

I can assure the gentleman from Colorado that I am not being swayed because it is the Speaker's bill. I am on the minority side of the aisle. So I would close and urge adoption of the bill.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 400, a bill to establish the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home National Historic Site, in Dixon, Illinois. This bill would allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the Reagan boyhood home to ensure that this important historical structure is protected for future generations to enjoy.

Ronald Reagan holds a special place in the hearts and minds of the citizens of northern Illinois. Many believe that President Reagan was a Californian. But his core values and bold conservatism were the product of a childhood in Illinois.

Ronald Reagan continues today to serve as a model of optimism and hope. In his very first inaugural address, President Reagan set the tone for his eight years in office when he proclaimed that, "no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

President Reagan truly was the "Great Communicator." One of my favorite lines of his was when he said that the best view of big government is in the rear view mirror as you're driving away from it. Throughout his presidency, Reagan used his trademark humor and wit to unite a nation, end the Cold War, and restore prosperity. He championed the notion of individual responsibility and accountability.

And most importantly he made people feel good about being proud of our great nation. President Reagan once said that he would like to go down in history as the President who made Americans believe in themselves again.

There is no more appropriate time than now to remember Ronald Reagan, one of our great patriots and most inspired Presidents. There is no better way to do that than to preserve the boyhood home where he spent his formative years. I am proud to support this bill and urge its passage.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 400 which would establish the

Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home National Historic Site in Dixon, Illinois. This legislation would allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the Reagan boyhood home from the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Foundation to ensure that this important historical structure is protected and maintained in perpetuity.

First, I would like to thank Chairman HANSEN, Chairman RADANOVICH, Ranking Member RAHALL, and Ranking Member CHRISTENSEN for their hard work on behalf of this legislation. I would also like to thank the 154 sponsors of this legislation, including every member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

In my mind, and in the minds of all my colleagues from Illinois, there is no doubt this important property deserves federal recognition. Preservation of properties of historical significance is a necessary and important function of government.

Ronald Reagan occupies a special place in the heart of Northern Illinoisans, to say nothing of the rest of the country. We take great pride in the record of our native son. As our 40th President, Ronald Reagan steered this country through some very difficult times. I am sure many of us can recall the atmosphere in America when he took office in 1981. We were mired in recession, in the midst of a Cold War with the Soviet Union, and there was a real sense that America had seen its better days. By the time President Reagan left office, we were in the middle of unprecedented economic growth, peace and freedom were on the rise in every corner of the globe, and we had experienced a re-birth of the American spirit. Ronald Reagan's belief in limited government, lower taxes, and individual freedom had transformed American politics and re-ignited our spirit of optimism.

Many of us believe that his success as president stems in no small part from his upbringing in Illinois. And, while his path to greatness took him to many places, I believe what he learned growing up in Illinois never left him.

Although born in Tampico, Illinois, Ronald Reagan has always considered Dixon his hometown. In his youth, as it is today, Dixon represents a traditional, rural, Midwestern town. In Dixon, Ronald Reagan attended school, played football, worked as a lifeguard, and developed the values that would shape his future life in politics. In fact, many of the images of Reagan in his youth, which we are all familiar with, were taken in Dixon and the surrounding area.

The history of Ronald Reagan's life in Dixon is typical of most raised in small Midwestern towns. His parents, Nelle and Jack, instilled in him a sense of fair play, duty to others, and a respect for hard work. Ronald Reagan was thirteen when he entered Dixon's Northside High School. At Northside, "Dutch" Reagan played football and basketball, ran track, and performed in school plays. Athletic achievement and theatrical performances in school plays increased his popularity at Northside, and in his senior year, Reagan was elected student body president. As was the custom of the time, yearbooks generally included mottoes written by the student to describe attributes or perspective outlooks. Ronald Reagan's reads "life is just one grand sweet song, so start the music." Ambitious, full of

life, and ready to take on the world, Reagan graduated from Northside High School in 1928.

After High School, he was admitted to Eureka College on a partial football scholarship—he lettered in football all four years. Reagan washed dishes at his fraternity house and at the girl's dormitory on campus for spending money. Reagan worked as a lifeguard and swimming coach in the summer months as well. As a freshman, Ronald Reagan was already a proven leader—he organized and led a student strike in protest of the decision by college administrators to reduce the number of courses offered. The demonstration resulted in the resignation of the college president and a return to the old curriculum. While at Eureka he also made it possible for his older brother Neal, who was then working at cement plant, to go to college by getting him a job, a partial scholarship, and a deal deferring his tuition until after graduation.

The Depression hit Dixon, Illinois especially hard. The Reagan's were forced to sublet their home and live in one room. Jack and Nelle's next-door neighbor at times cooked for them, and handed meals through the window. The Depression had an enormous impact on Ronald Reagan—he often recalled the uncertainty of the times by re-telling the story of his father expecting a bonus check and instead being fired on Christmas Eve 1931. The trying times of the Great Depression touched the lives of every American and the Reagan's were no exception. The charitable kindness received and practiced by the Reagan's helped them to survive and thrive when hard times came.

After college, Ronald Reagan set out on a one-day swing of nearby small-town radio stations where he was offered five dollars and round trip bus fair to broadcast a University of Iowa football game. Early in 1933, World of Chiropractic radio (WOC), a subsidiary of WHO radio in Des Moines, hired him as a full timer announcer for \$100 a month—a lot of money at the time. He had enough money to help his parents and send \$10 a month spending money to his brother Neil while he finished college at Eureka. At first, Reagan's oratory was neither polished, nor very professional but he learned to rehearse and sound spontaneous. As we all know, Reagan's weakness became one of his trademark virtues.

From his job at a small radio station in Iowa Reagan went on to serve in the Army during World War II, become a movie star, president of the Screen Actors Guild, a traveling spokesman for General Electric, Governor of the state of California, and ultimately, President of the United States. Wherever he went, however, he carried the lessons he learned growing up in Dixon, Illinois with him.

I believe that, as a Nation, we must preserve and protect places of historical interest for future generations. The affection, we as a Nation, have for the 40th President of the United States is demonstrated by the fact that so many important things now bear his name—the airport which serves the nation's Capitol, a federal building, and the Navy's newest aircraft carrier.

In my mind, however, there is another important piece of Reagan's life that deserve preservation. I believe that Reagan's life in Dixon, Illinois is critical to understanding the

man and the presidency. But don't take my world for it—Take the word of the tens of thousands of visitors who tour his boyhood home every year.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Ronald Reagan's boyhood home of Dixon, Illinois in Congress and I am proud to sponsor legislation that will ensure that the opportunity to experience the place where he was raised will be available to all Americans for years to come. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. RADANOVICH. 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. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 400, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HEALING OPPORTUNITIES IN PARKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT PASS ACT

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2976) to provide for the issuance of a special entrance pass for free admission to any federally owned area which is operated and maintained by a Federal agency and used for outdoor recreation purposes to the survivors, victims' immediate families, and police, fire, rescue, recovery, and medical personnel directly affected by the September 11, 2001, terrorist hijackings and the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2976

*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 "Healing Opportunities in Parks and the Environment Pass Act".

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The trauma associated with the terrorist hijackings and attacks of September 11, 2001, has been significant for the survivors, victims' immediate families, and police, fire, rescue, recovery, and medical personnel directly involved in this national tragedy.

(2) America's system of national parks, forests, and public lands provides significant opportunities to renew, refresh, and strengthen the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of those who use them.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to help those directly impacted by the tragic events of September 11, 2001, by enhancing opportunities for the use of America's national parks, forests, and public lands as a means of aiding in their recovery from the trauma associated with these tragic events.

##### SEC. 3. HOPE PASS.

(a) ISSUANCE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make available at no cost to qualified individuals a special entrance pass which shall be known as the "Hope Pass" and shall provide for free admission into any federally owned area which is operated and maintained by a Federal agency and used for outdoor recreation purposes.

(b) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—A qualified individual shall be—

(1) an individual who was present at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, or the site of the aircraft crash at Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at the time, or in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001;

(2) an individual who had an immediate family member killed as a direct result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001; or

(3) any police, fire, rescue, recovery, or medical personnel who directly responded to the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001.

(c) CONDITIONS.—Each Hope Pass shall—

(1) be issued upon acceptance by the Secretary of the Interior of an application from a qualified applicant which shall include a signed statement attesting to the applicant's eligibility for the pass;

(2) be valid for the life of the qualified pass holder; and

(3) provide free admission to qualified pass holders and their immediate family when accompanied by the qualified pass holder.

(d) NONELIGIBILITY.—No individual identified by the Attorney General of the United States to have been a participant or conspirator in the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001, or their family shall be eligible to receive a Hope Pass.

□ 1715

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2976, the Healing Opportunities in our Parks and Environment Act, was introduced by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

September 11 is a day not one of us will ever forget. The events of that day are seared deep into our memories. Each one of us will recall where we were, what we were doing, and how the events of the day impacted us personally.

Some, of course, were impacted more directly. Many lost family members, were injured, or narrowly escaped harm; or because in the course of carrying out their duties as medical or rescue workers, were called upon to aid survivors and victims. As a Nation, we deeply appreciate the great sacrifices made as a consequence of the events of September 11.

Following these tragic and emotional events, many have sought refuge in the natural beauty of America's natural

parks and public lands. These lands have the ability to serve, at least in part, as a healing opportunity to those who were most affected by these terrible events.

H.R. 2976 would create a new HOPE pass to authorize entry into our federally owned parks and public land for victims, families, survivors, and medical and rescue personnel and their immediate families when accompanied by a holder. Some think this new pass can serve in some small measure as an attempt to help heal the wounds of this tragic event. I urge an "aye" vote on the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and thank him for his help on this legislation. He is the chairman of the subcommittee. I would like to thank the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), for his support, as well.

Over the last 2 months, Members of Congress have stepped outside party boundaries, joining together and unanimously supporting millions of dollars in aid to victims, families, and rescue workers affected by the September 11 attacks.

However, in addition to financial assistance, I believe it is important for us to provide other forms of relief for these victims and their families during the grieving and recovery process.

In times of crisis, many of us find solace in our religion. In addition, we can find solace in that great cathedral of nature. That is the premise of this bill, the Healing Opportunities in the Parks and Our Environment, or HOPE, Act.

Simply put, this legislation would direct the Secretary of the Interior to create a program under which the survivors and families of the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, as well as the emergency personnel who responded to that crisis, may visit our national parks, forests, and public lands free of charge.

This program is modeled after what is known as the Golden Eagle Pass, with the exception that it would be valid for a lifetime.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Nature is a symbol of the spirit," and "Nature turns all malfeasance to good." There may come a time when a fireman, a nurse, or a survivor who has seen far too much pain and suffering may decide that a day at the lake with his or her family would provide welcome relief.

Let us continue to aid these victims and family members as we already have financially. Let us provide them Emerson's symbol of spirit to aid in their healing. In this way, we can strive to keep hope alive in the wake of