

this Chamber. I can personally attest that the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) has been trying to get this issue addressed since he has been here, and our former colleague, Mr. Ben Blaz, did the same before him, and before Mr. Blaz, Mr. Tony Won Pat in the 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation. I also feel compelled to speak out that we should be doing more. A similar bill passed the House late last year, and I appreciate the leadership agreeing to take up this bill early in this Congress so the Senate will have more time to act on it.

Mr. Speaker, the territory of Guam stands today as one of our most important strategic centers throughout the Asian Pacific region. Our Nation has established well over a \$10 billion military presence in Guam, a first-class Air Force base that has proved so crucial in bombing operations during the Vietnam War, and a naval installation that is critical to provide resources and support for our armed forces throughout the Asian-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reinforce these points to my colleagues in the House as to why this legislation is so important and why it needs the support of this body. One, some 22,000 native Guamanians were the only Americans living in the land area under the sovereignty of the United States that was occupied for some 3 years by Japanese military forces during World War II. Two, I am not going to ask why it was the policy of our government to evacuate only U.S. citizens living in Guam, but leave the native Guamanians, who were all U.S. nationals, subject to the control and sovereignty of our own government, they were left to fend for themselves for these 3 years while the Japanese occupied the island of Guam.

Mr. Speaker, for 3 years, these United States nationals were subject to some of the worst atrocities committed by Japanese military forces during their occupation of Guam from 1941 to 1944.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a pleasant story to share with my colleagues today, but we need to put ourselves in the shoes of some of the descendants of these families who suffered so much. It is not a pleasant story to hear when the head of one's father has been decapitated by a Japanese soldier, or if one's mother or sister or wife was being raped by these Japanese forces.

I only say just a fraction, from talking to some of the descendants who are still living today, of the atrocities; and just the forced marches. The way that these people were treated, I say it even borders on genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I plead with my colleagues today, let this bill pass. We owe it to these proud Americans.

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

Mr. Speaker, I ask for favorable consideration of this bill. I thank all involved.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 308, the Guam Claims Review Commission Act. This legislation takes essential steps toward identifying all relevant facts and circumstances of the implementation and effectiveness of the Guam Meritorious Claims Act. Everyone needs to be fairly compensated.

From December 8, 1941, until July 21, 1944 Japanese armed forces occupied the U.S. territory of Guam. During that period, residents of Guam were subjected to injury, forced labor, internment, and, in some cases, death. In 1945, Congress passed the Guam Meritorious Claims Act (PL 79-224), which, for a period of one year, authorized the Navy to settle claims for property damage on Guam resulting from the Japanese occupation. Claims for property damage exceeding \$5,000 and claim for personal injury or death, however, had to be forwarded to Congress. A report issued in 1947 by a civilian commission appointed by the secretary found, among other things, that some claimants offered to reduce their claim below \$5,000 to expedite their claims.

H.R. 308 would establish Guam War Claims Review Commission, composed of five uncompensated members appointed by the Interior secretary with input from Guam's governor and House delegate. The commission would have nine months to submit a report containing comments and recommendations to Congress and the executive branch.

As part of that process, the commission would review all relevant Federal and Guam territorial law, Guam and U.S. archives regarding Federal payments for war claims in Guam; receive testimony of individuals who personally experienced the occupations; determine whether there was parity of war claims paid to the residents of Guam as compared with awards made similarly affected U.S. citizens or nations in other occupied territories; and advise whether additional compensation may be necessary to compensate the people of Guam for death, personal injury, forced labor, and internment.

The commission should have been created before long ago. We can, however, take appropriate action today to ensure that claimants are justly compensated by the United States of America. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 308.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 308, 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.

#### PROVIDING ADDITIONAL TIME FOR CLEAR CREEK COUNTY, COLORADO, TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN LANDS

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 223) to amend the Clear Creek County, Colorado, Public Lands Transfer Act of 1993 to provide additional time for Clear Creek County to dispose of certain lands transferred to the county under the Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 223

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 5(c)(2) of the Clear Creek County, Colorado, Public Lands Transfer Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-253; 108 Stat. 677) is amended by striking "the date 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act" and by inserting "May 19, 2015".*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 223, introduced by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), amends section 5 of the Clear Creek County, Colorado, Public Lands Transfer Act of 1993.

The act clarified Federal land ownership questions in Clear Creek County, Colorado, and provided Clear Creek County time to dispose of transferred property. This amendment extends the time needed for Clear Creek County to sell certain lands that it received from the Federal government under the 1993 act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 223 is a non-controversial and bipartisan bill that is nearly identical to a bill that was passed by the House during the 106th session of Congress. The only difference is that this bill would extend the time for the county to sell the lands in question for 1 year longer than the time period contained in the bill that passed the House last year.

This additional 1-year time period is necessary to allow for the additional time that has elapsed while the Congress has had this matter under consideration before the bill was enacted into law.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as its author, I obviously support passage of this bill. I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the chairman of the Committee on Resources, and our ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), for making it possible for the House to consider it today.

I introduced the bill last year at the request of the commissioners of Clear Creek County. It was passed by the House last fall, but time ran out before the Senate could complete action on it prior to the end of the 106th Congress.

The bill amends section 5 of the Clear Creek County, Colorado, Public Lands Transfer Act of 1993. The effect of the amendment would be to allow Clear Creek County additional time to determine the future disposition of some former Federal land that was transferred to the county under that section of the 1993 act.

The 1993 act was originally proposed by my predecessor, Congressman David Skaggs. Its purpose was to clarify Federal land ownership questions in Clear Creek County while helping to consolidate the Bureau of Land Management administration in eastern Colorado, and assisting with protecting open space and preserving historic sites.

As part of its plan to merge its eastern Colorado operations into one administrative office, the BLM has determined that it would be best to dispose of most of its surface lands in north-eastern Colorado.

The 1993 act helped achieve that goal by transferring some 14,000 acres of land from the Bureau of Land Management to the U.S. Forest Service, to the State of Colorado, to Clear Creek County, and to the towns of Georgetown and Silver Plume. Of course, the BLM would have sold all these lands, and the local governments could have applied for parcels under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

Under current law, however, BLM would have first had to have completed detailed boundary surveys. Since the land in question included many odd-shaped parcels, including some measured literally in inches, the BLM estimated these surveys could have taken another 15 years to complete and could have cost as much as \$18 million.

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Mr. Speaker, but the estimated value of these lands was only \$3 million. Because these administrative costs were expected to be so much higher than the value of these lands, their disposal under existing law could never have been completed, and this would have been the worst of all outcomes. Because, after reaching the conclusion that these lands should be transferred, BLM would in effect stop managing them, to the extent that they could be managed at all.

In short, until some means could be found to enable their transfer, these 14,000 acres were effectively abandoned property, potentially attracting all the problems that befall property left uncared for and ignored.

The 1993 Act responded to that situation. Under it, about 3,500 acres of BLM land in Clear Creek County were transferred to the Arapaho National Forest.

Another 3,200 acres of land were transferred to the State of Colorado, the county, and the towns of Georgetown and Silver Plume. Finally, about 7,300 acres were transferred to the county.

The bill before us deals today only with those 7,300 acres that were transferred to the county. The 1993 Act provides that after it prepares a comprehensive land use plan, the county may resell some of the land. Other parcels will be transferred to local governments, including the county, to be retained for recreation and public purposes.

With regard to the lands that the county has authority to sell, the 1993 Act in effect authorizes the county to act as the BLM's sales agent, and it provides that the Federal Government will receive any of the net receipts from the sale of these lands by the county.

Under the 1993 Act, the county has until May 19, 2004, to resolve questions related to rights-of-way, mining claims and trespass situations on the lands covered by the Act.

While the county has completed the conveyance of some of these lands, there are still about 6,000 acres to dispose of, and they are working to complete the job. For example, the county is seeking to have some 2,000 acres transferred to the Colorado Division of Wildlife for the management of Big-horn Sheep habitat. However, the commissioners have found the process is taking longer than they anticipated and that an extension of time would be helpful to a successful conclusion.

The bill we are considering today responds to their request by providing that extension; and it set May 19, 2015, as the new deadline for the county to either transfer or retain these lands.

The county commissioners have indicated to me that they are confident that there will be sufficient time for them to resolve the matter under this new piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in summary, there is no controversy associated with the legislation; and I urge its adoption.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 223.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. HANSEN. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further

proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### 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 include extraneous material on H.R. 880, H.R. 834, H.R. 308, as amended, and H.R. 223.

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

There was no objection.

#### PRESIDENT'S PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-50)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 13, 2001.

#### CONTINUATION OF IRAN EMERGENCY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-51)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared