

mainstream of activity of South Carolina's coast, Georgia's coast, Florida and North Carolina going forward.

So I want to thank the Members of this body for the work last year, thank the committee for bringing this bill to the floor so quickly this year, and I am hopeful that my colleagues will give us a favorable vote on it today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a strong supporter of H.R. 694, a bill that acknowledges the significant contributions made to American culture and history by outstanding African Americans known as the Gullah/Geechee. The legislation will assist State and local governments and public and private entities in South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida to institute programs that facilitate the interpretation of the story of the Gullah/Geechee and preserving their legends, arts, crafts, and music. It will aid in identifying and preserving sites, historical data, artifacts, and objects associated with the Gullah/Geechee for the benefit and education of the public.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the history of these people. These individuals have a tremendously rich history and culture that has roots in the transportation of African slaves to the Sea Islands of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The Sea Islands served as an excellent location for the Gullah culture because of its separation from the mainland. The slaves who came from various regions in Africa brought many gifts such as a distinctive language, culture and traditions. Collectively these traditions and languages have merged into one to form Gullah. The Gullah culture has survived over the years by Gullah elders passing down the language and traditions to their children. However, over the past 50 years the Gullah culture has started to die. Three significant factors are the development of resorts along the Sea Islands, the movement of Gullah descendants to larger cities, in search of employment and the education of Gullah descendants. The later of the factors has severely damaged the Gullah culture. As the Gullah people are becoming educated, they are taught that it is no longer acceptable to speak "broken-English." However, the Gullah language is more than just "broken-English." It is an art form that serves as the link between Africans and African-Americans today.

This magnificent bill will pay tribute to these great African Americans who settled in our coastal counties. The act will establish the Heritage Corridor that consists of lands and waters normally illustrated on a map as the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor; the map will be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service and in the correct State office of each State listed in the Heritage Corridor.

This marvelous legislation will create the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. The commission will help Federal, State, and local authorities in the development and implementation of a management plan for those areas listed as part of the Heritage Corridor.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me and support these honorable African Ameri-

cans for their contributions to this great country.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 694, 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.

#### LAND EXCHANGE IN VICINITY OF HOLLOWMAN AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 486) to provide for a land exchange involving private land and Bureau of Land Management land in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, for the purpose of removing private land from the required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at Holloman Air Force Base.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 486

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

#### SECTION 1. LAND EXCHANGE, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAND IN VICINITY OF HOLLOWMAN AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO.

(a) CONVEYANCE OF PUBLIC LAND.—In exchange for the land described in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to Randal, Jeffrey, and Timothy Rabon of Otero County, New Mexico (in this section referred to as the "Rabons"), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to certain public land administered by the Secretary through the Bureau of Land Management consisting of a total of approximately 320 acres, as depicted on the map entitled "Alamogordo Rabon Land Exchange" and dated September 24, 2004, and more specifically described as follows:

(1) SE¼ of section 6, township 17 south, range 10 east, New Mexico principal meridian.

(2) N½N½ of section 7, township 17 south, range 10 east, New Mexico principal meridian.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance of the real property under subsection (a), the Rabons shall convey to the United States all right, title, and interest held by the Rabons in and to three parcels of land depicted on the map referred to in subsection (a), which consists of approximately 241 acres, is contiguous to Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, and is located within the required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at the installation. The Secretary shall assume jurisdiction over the land acquired under this subsection.

The three parcels are more specifically described as follows:

(1) Lot 4 in the S1/2 of section 30, township 16 south, range 9 east, New Mexico principal meridian, consisting of approximately 17.6 acres.

(2) E1/2SW¼ of section 31, township 16 south, range 9 east, New Mexico principal meridian, consisting of approximately 80 acres.

(3) Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of section 31, township 16 south, range 9 east, New Mexico principal meridian, consisting of approximately 143 acres.

(c) INTERESTS INCLUDED IN EXCHANGE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the land exchange under this section shall include conveyance of all surface, subsurface, mineral, and water rights in the lands.

(d) COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING LAW.—(1) The Secretary shall carry out the land exchange under this section in the manner provided in section 206 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716). Notwithstanding subsection (b) of such section, if necessary, a cash equalization payment may be made in excess of 25 percent of the appraised value of the public land to be conveyed under subsection (a).

(2) The cost of the appraisals performed as part of the land exchange shall be borne by the Secretary.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the land exchange under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. 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. 486, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 486, introduced by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), would provide for a land exchange involving private land and land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico for the purpose of removing that land from a required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at the Air Force base.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), the author of this bill.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 486 and would like to thank the gentleman from California

(Chairman POMBO) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Ranking Member RAHALL) for working with me on this important legislation. I appreciate the bipartisan support from the Committee on Resources members and the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), in reaching a compromise that is reflected in this legislation.

The need for Congress to pass H.R. 486 arose when a munitions storage bunker was built at Holloman Air Force Base in 1997 and 1998. Holloman Air Force Base serves both the United States' and German Air Force's training and readiness functions. The Holloman air to ground training ranges consist of 1,385,262 acres, almost exclusively Federal land, and air to air training ranges providing 8,352,878 acres of air space for national security and training. The total military training routes at Holloman Air Force Base is 8,657,964. That is DOD, DOI, USDA and private lands.

Without an explosive clear zone, Holloman Air Force Base is unable to fully utilize the designed capacity of the bunker, and it adversely impacts the storage capacity of munitions required for training and operations. This directly impacts the ability of Holloman Air Force Base to fully meet its mission of training, readiness and national security as well as training our NATO partner, Germany. The cost to replace the munitions storage area is estimated by the Air Force to be a minimum of \$40 million today, and more if this bill is delayed.

The proposed explosive clear zone encroaches on private property. The Federal Government originally sought to take the private property through condemnation, leaving little choice but for the property owners to vigorously defend their property rights. This bill resolves the issue and protects both private property and the investment made by the Air Force and would simply exchange Federal lands in close proximity to ranch boundaries. This bill protects our national security, saves the taxpayers a minimum of \$40 million and protects private property and is fair to all parties concerned.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 486.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the private landowners in this case were unable to reach an agreement with the Air Force to resolve this ongoing dispute. However, because ensuring that Holloman Air Force Base operates effectively and safely is critical to both the Air Force and the residents who live and work near the base, we

have worked closely with the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) to craft a legislative solution.

Compared to the version of this legislation introduced in the previous Congress, H.R. 486 contains a number of changes made at the request of the minority, and we appreciate the inclusion of those changes, and at this time we would not oppose the adoption of H.R. 486.

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill. I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 486.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### WELFARE REFORM EXTENSION ACT OF 2005

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1160) to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through June 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1160

*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 "Welfare Reform Extension Act of 2005".

#### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH JUNE 30, 2005.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Activities authorized by part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, and by sections 510, 1108(b), and 1925 of such Act, shall continue through June 30, 2005, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2004, notwithstanding section 1902(e)(1)(A) of such Act, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose. Grants and payments may be made pursuant to this authority through the third quarter of fiscal year 2005 at the level provided for such activities through the third quarter of fiscal year 2004.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 403(a)(3)(H)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(3)(H)(ii)) is amended by striking "March 31" and inserting "June 30".

#### SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL RANDOM SAMPLE STUDY OF CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD WELFARE WAIVER AUTHORITY THROUGH JUNE 30, 2005.

Activities authorized by sections 429A and 1130(a) of the Social Security Act shall continue through June 30, 2005, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2004, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States

not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose. Grants and payments may be made pursuant to this authority through the third quarter of fiscal year 2005 at the level provided for such activities through the third quarter of fiscal year 2004.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1160, the Welfare Reform Extension Act of 2005. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will continue funding for the Temporary Assistance For Needy Families Program and other related programs for 3 months through June 30th, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, this is the ninth extension of these programs we have considered since their original authorization expired at the end of 2002. In 2002 and 2003, the House passed comprehensive welfare reform legislation that would promote more work, provide more child care assistance and help more low-income families become self-sufficient. Unfortunately, our friends in the Senate did not follow suit, and therefore we have been forced to mark time.

Still, we are encouraged that on March 9 the Senate Finance Committee approved a welfare reform bill and hope that this year the full Senate would pass such legislation so that we can make real progress.

It is important that we are here today to continue funding for this remarkably successful program. Since the welfare reform law was passed in 1996, the number of families receiving welfare assistance has fallen more than 60 percent. More than 1.4 million children have been lifted from poverty. However, as we have marked time with this program through a series of short-term extensions, we have seen evidence that the gains made over the years are in jeopardy.

Work among welfare recipients has declined in 3 of the last 4 years. Two million families remain dependent on government assistance, and we are not taking enough steps to strengthen families which will improve child well-being. We must do more to help strong families form and more parents go to work and achieve independence.

Mr. Speaker, on the first day of the 109th Congress I joined the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader, as well as the committee chairman and subcommittee chairman with jurisdiction over these programs to introduce H.R. 240, the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2005.

Tomorrow, the Subcommittee on Human Resources, which I chair, will