

life and property and support the resumption of commerce in response to emergencies, natural and man-made disasters, and homeland security and maritime domain awareness needs, including obtaining Mission Assignments as defined in section 641 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 741);

“(5) the Administrator may create, support, and maintain such joint centers, and enter into and perform such contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act; and

“(6) notwithstanding paragraph (5), the Administrator shall award contracts for the acquisition of hydrographic data in accordance with title IX of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).”

SEC. 5. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.

Subsection (b) of section 305 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892b), as redesignated by section 2, is amended by striking “303(a)(3)” each place it appears and inserting “304(a)(3)”.

SEC. 6. HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES REVIEW PANEL.

Section 306 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892c), as redesignated by section 2, is amended—

(1) by striking “303” in subsection (b)(1) and inserting “304”;

(2) by striking subsection (c)(1)(A) and inserting “(A) The panel shall consist of 15 voting members who shall be appointed by the Administrator. The Co-directors of the Joint Hydrographic Institute and no more than 2 employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration appointed by the Administrator shall serve as nonvoting members of the panel. The voting members of the panel shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in 1 or more of the disciplines and fields relating to hydrographic data and hydrographic services, and other disciplines as determined appropriate by the Administrator.”;

(3) by striking “Secretary” in subsections (c)(1)(C), (c)(3), and (e) and inserting “Administrator”;

(4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) COMPENSATION.—Voting members of the panel shall be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses, such as travel and per diem, incurred in the performance of such duties.”

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 307 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892d), as redesignated by section 2, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 307. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 for the purposes of carrying out this Act.”

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOAA LAND SALE

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 5350) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange certain National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property located in Norfolk, Virginia, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 4, after line 20, insert:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Commerce, through the Under Secretary and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is authorized to enter into a land lease with Mobile County, Alabama for a period of not less than 40 years, on such terms and conditions as NOAA deems appropriate, for purposes of construction of a Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center facility, provided that the lease is at no cost to the government. NOAA may enter into agreements with state, local, or county governments for purposes of joint use, operations and occupancy of such facility.

Mr. RAHALL (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST VERTICAL ASCENT OF THE FACE OF EL CAPITAN IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1474) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the first vertical ascent of the face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park and honoring the historic climbing feat of the original climbing team, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1474

Whereas November 12, 2008, will mark the 50th anniversary of the first vertical ascent of the face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park;

Whereas in 1890 Yosemite National Park was established as the third National Park of the United States;

Whereas Yosemite National Park is commonly referred to as “The Crown Jewel of the National Park System;”

Whereas Yosemite National Park is recognized as the “Climbing Mecca” of the world;

Whereas El Capitan is the world's tallest free-standing granite monolith, with a summit elevation of 7,569 feet above sea level;

Whereas Wayne Merry, George Whitmore, and Warren J. Harding, the original climbing team, with the assistance of Wally Reed, Allen Steck, Bill “Dolt” Feuerer, Mark Powell, John Whitmer, Rich Calderwood, and the ground support team of Bea Vogel and Ellen Searby, completed the first vertical ascent of the face of El Capitan on November 12, 1958;

Whereas the first vertical ascent of the face of El Capitan was accomplished on the Nose Route, recognized as one of the most famous climbing routes in the world;

Whereas November 8, 1958, marks the date when the final push towards the summit of El Capitan was spurred on due to deteriorating weather conditions;

Whereas the first vertical ascent of the face of El Capitan was accomplished in 47 days in expedition style;

Whereas the first vertical ascent of the face of El Capitan was accomplished by the original climbing team using fixed ropes that linked established camps along the way;

Whereas the original climbing team relied heavily on aid climbing, using rope, pitons, and expansion bolts to make it to the summit;

Whereas thousands of rock climbers have reached the summit of El Capitan since 1958 using the identical Nose Route; and

Whereas on November 8, 2008, there will be an event in Yosemite National Park celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first vertical ascent of the face of El Capitan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the momentous first vertical ascent of the face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park; and

(2) honors the historic climbing feat of the original climbing team.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION OF DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 7017) to amend Public Law 100-573 to extend the authorization of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7017

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

SECTION 1. EXTENDED AUTHORIZATION OF DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION.

Section 5 of Public Law 100-573 (16 U.S.C. 460a note) is amended to read as follows: