

California (Chairman POMBO) and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands, (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), for moving this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, what this facilitates is the granting of an easement by the National Park Service to Otoe County, Nebraska, so that a road may be constructed to the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trails and Visitors Center, expected to open in July of next year in time for the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The Otoe County government will construct and maintain the road, but it is essential that we have a road for visitors to visit the visitors center.

I introduced this legislation originally in the 107th Congress. It was not acted upon. Time is running short; and, therefore, I very much appreciate the fact that the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and his staff facilitated the presentation of the bill for the consideration of the House today.

This visitors center will focus primarily on the flora and fauna discovered by Lewis and Clark, well documented for the Nation as they paved the way for the settlement of the great American West.

Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in strong support of H.R. 255. This is a non-controversial, but very necessary bill. It would simply grant an easement to Otoe County in Nebraska allowing it to build an access road to the Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Interpretive Trails & Visitors Center which is now under construction at a site adjacent to Nebraska City, Nebraska.

This Member originally introduced this legislation during the 107th Congress when it became clear that the National Park Service could not grant this easement without congressional action. Otoe County has agreed to construct and maintain the access road.

This Member would like to begin by thanking the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the Chairman of the Resources Committee, and the distinguished gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the Ranking Member of the Committee, for their assistance in expediting this legislation.

When completed, the access road facilitated by H.R. 255 will lead visitors from the State Highway Route 2 Expressway to an outstanding Lewis and Clark interpretive center. The center is scheduled to be completed in early 2004 with the grand opening set on July 30, 2004, which coincides with the Lewis and Clark signature event in Nebraska at historic Fort Atkinson, the site of the famous "Council Bluff" in Nebraska where Lewis and Clark had their first council with Native American leaders.

The Nebraska City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center will find an important role by focusing on the flora and fauna encountered and documented by the expedition. Across the country, the bicentennial commemoration is expected to draw millions of Americans and foreign visitors to sites along the Lewis and Clark trail over the next several years. This

new center will certainly be one of the must-see stops.

Much like the Expedition itself, this project has had to overcome numerous challenges and obstacles. Its success is due to the remarkable foresight, persistence and dedication of many individuals. This Member has had a longstanding interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Starting from a first reading of Lewis and Clark's journals, many years ago, this Member has always been thrilled with the story of this extraordinary and courageous journey which was so important in the settlement of our region and the westward expansion of our Nation and people.

This Member's legislative efforts related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition began more than two decades ago with the authorship of an amendment to the National Trails System Act in 1980 to include provisions for a series of interpretive markets along the Lewis and Clark Trail in Nebraska and for the authorization of an interpretive center in each of the states through which the Lewis and Clark Trail passes. It has taken Nebraska about 22 years to reach the point of constructing a center, but the results will be worth the effort.

In 1987, Congress specifically authorized construction of a Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Nebraska to explain the significance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The same year, at this Member's request, Congress appropriated \$25,000 for historical markers at Lewis and Clark campsites in Nebraska and \$30,000 for initial planning of a trail interpretation center, both under the 1980 authorization this Member authored.

The National Park Service plan issued in 1991 recommended that the center be located in Nebraska City. The same year, the Park Service acquired a 65-acre tract of land for the center. This tract, along with adjacent land that was later donated, provides a panoramic view of the Missouri River, much as Lewis and Clark would have viewed it. In fact, two stops on the river at Nebraska City in 1804 are recorded in their journals.

The story of the incredible Lewis and Clark expedition has appeal for Americans of all ages and backgrounds and presents an opportunity for a unifying experience. In the coming months and years, the public will undoubtedly increase its demands for more information about Lewis and Clark and their bold and courageous adventures.

When Thomas Jefferson took office in 1801, the United States had only about five and a half million people all concentrated in the eastern third of the continent, primarily along the coast. As a result of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the size of the country nearly doubled and the stage was set for a period of unparalleled development and progress.

But first, the new acquisition had to be explored. President Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to "explore the Missouri River & such principal streams of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado, or any other river may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce."

Lewis and Clark departed St. Louis on May 14, 1804, and returned to St. Louis 28 months later on September 23, 1806. That difficult but exciting journey covered 8,000 miles through

the area which now constitutes the states of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

Along the way, Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery encountered formidable challenges that easily could have thwarted their mission. However, they continued to keep their focus firmly on the ultimate goal. During their journey to the Pacific Ocean and back, the Lewis and Clark expedition documented numerous scientific and geographic discoveries and helped pave the way for the United States to become a great world power.

This Member believes that passage of H.R. 255, will play a small, but vital role in permitting ready access to the new visitors center and thus increase the attention to the bicentennial activities. As someone with a longstanding interest in the Expedition and a co-chair of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Congressional Caucus, this Member is pleased to have H.R. 255 considered on the Floor and urges his colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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. 255, 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.

CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1012) to establish the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1012

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 "Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that:

(1) Dr. Carter G. Woodson, considered the father of African-American history, founded in 1915 The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, renamed as The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History.

(2) Through the Association, Dr. Woodson, the son of slaves who earned a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University, dedicated his life to educating the American public about the extensive and positive contributions of African Americans to the Nation's history and culture.

(3) Under Dr. Woodson's leadership, Negro History Week was designated in 1926. That designation has since evolved into Black History Month in February of each year.

(4) The headquarters and operations of the Association was Dr. Woodson's home at 1538 Ninth Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C., where he lived from 1915 to 1950.

(5) The Carter G. Woodson Home was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1976 for its national significance in African-American cultural heritage.

(6) A National Park Service study of the Carter G. Woodson Home dated June 2002, found that the Carter G. Woodson Home is suitable for designation as a unit of the National Park System, and is feasible for designation so long as property adjacent to the home is available for National Park Service administrative, curatorial, access, and visitor interpretative needs.

(7) Establishment of the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site would foster opportunities for developing and promoting interpretation of African-American cultural heritage throughout the Shaw area of Washington, D.C.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit, education, and inspiration of present and future generations, the home of the preeminent historian and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the organization known today as The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) The term "historic site" means the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site.

(3) The term "map" means the map entitled "Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site", numbered 876/82338 and dated February 10, 2003.

SEC. 4. CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—After the Secretary has acquired, or agreed to a long-term lease for, the majority of the property described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall establish as a unit of the National Park System the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site.

(b) BOUNDARY.—The historic site shall consist of the property located at 1538 Ninth Street, Northwest, in the District of Columbia and three adjoining houses north of that address, as depicted on the map, if acquired or leased by the Secretary.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

(d) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may acquire lands or interests in lands, and improvements thereon, within the boundary of the historic site from willing owners by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the historic site in accordance with this Act and with laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (commonly known as the National Park Service Organic Act; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (commonly known as the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(2) REHABILITATION AGREEMENT.—In order to achieve cost efficiencies in the restoration of property, the Secretary may enter into an agreement with the Shiloh Community Development Corporation for the purpose of rehabilitating the Carter G. Woodson Home and other property within the boundary of the historic site. The agreement may contain such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(3) OPERATION AGREEMENT.—In order to re-establish the historical connection between the home of Dr. Woodson and the association he founded and to facilitate interpretation of Dr. Woodson's achievements, the Secretary may enter into an agreement with The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History that allows the association to use a portion of the historic site for its own administrative purposes. The agreement may contain such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with public and private entities for the purpose of fostering interpretation of African-American heritage in the Shaw area of Washington, D.C.

(5) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historic site within three years after funds are made available for that purpose.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) 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. 1012, introduced by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the Carter G. Woodson Home in Washington, D.C., and once acquired, would establish the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site in the District of Columbia. This new historic site would foster opportunities for developing and promoting interpretation of African American cultural heritage throughout Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Carter Woodson, son of former slaves, earned a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1912, becoming only the second black American to receive a doctorate from Harvard after the great W.E.B. DuBois. After receiving the degree, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in his home. Dr. Woodson is seen by many as a person of national significance because of his early and determined work regarding African American history.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1012 also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Shiloh Community Development Corporation for the purpose of rehabilitating the Woodson home and other property within the historic site, as well as with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, to allow the association to use a portion of the historic site for its own administrative purposes.

Mr. Speaker, a June, 2002 National Parks Service special resources study determined that the Woodson site is nationally significant, suitable and feasible for the designation as a unit of

the national parks system. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1012.

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 so few people know who Dr. Carter G. Woodson was, given his significant contributions to American historical scholarship. It is our hope that by adopting this bill, H.R. 1012, we might help educate the public regarding this great man's important contributions as well as preserving this historic property.

Dr. Woodson's impressive career included the founding of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, as well as publication of many seminal scholarly works, including "The Negro in Our History," now in its 11th printing, and 35 years as editor of the "Journal of Negro History." It is based on these and other accomplishments that Dr. Woodson has come to be recognized as the Father of Black History. Legislation signed into law during the 106th Congress authorized a study of Dr. Woodson's home here in the District to determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the property to the national parks system. That study was completed in June of last year and supported such inclusion. H.R. 1012 authorizes the addition of the home to our system of national parks under certain conditions.

We fully support the passage of this legislation. The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the ranking member of the full committee, also is very supportive of this legislation. We both would like to congratulate the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for her effective and tireless efforts on behalf of this legislation.

We urge the adoption of H.R. 1012.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the gentlewoman, and I appreciate her yielding me this time.

I also appreciate the efforts of the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), and may I thank especially the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), as well as the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), ranking member, who worked very closely with me to get this bill to the floor and keep it on track. I appreciate very much the efforts throughout this process from the very beginning in my first bill to this bill, H.R. 1012.

Mr. Speaker, this bill directs the National Parks Service to take ownership, restore, and manage the historic Shaw home of Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History, as he is called. The bill would authorize the NPS to preserve, protect, and interpret

for the benefit of education and inspiration of present and future generations the home where Woodson lived from 1915 to 1950. This legislation also authorizes NPS to rehabilitate adjacent properties on either side of the home to facilitate tourism. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which Woodson founded, also would be housed on this site as it was originally.

Congress passed my previous bill, H.R. 3201, the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Study Act, in 2000, to begin the process of making the property at 1538 9th Street Northwest a historic site within the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. An NPS study as mandated by the legislation is required before the NPS can take control of the property. The study determined that the Woodson home is suitable and feasible for designation as a unit of the parks system following the transfer of title from its current owner, the association. I am particularly pleased by the proposed rehabilitation of the entire block that has come about because of this legislation and independent of this legislation.

The NPS would work with the Shiloh Community Development Corporation established by Shiloh Baptist Church, which owns almost all the property on the block of the Woodson home. The Shiloh Corporation would convert the block of homes to senior independent living housing, maintaining the historic facade of the rural houses. So Congress is able to leverage much more out of this designation and take over of this property than might have been originally envisioned.

This legislation honors Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a distinguished black American and founder of the Association of Negro Life and History. The significance of his home was recognized in 1976 when it was designated as a nationally historic landmark. This bill will ensure that the Nation's pride and purpose in celebrating Black History Month is not marred by neglect of the home of the founder of the commemoration and the study of black history itself. Dr. Woodson was a distinguished African American historian who established African American history as a discipline and spent a lifetime uncovering the contributions of African Americans to our Nation's history. He founded and performed his work through the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which has since been renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Among its enduring accomplishments, the association under Dr. Woodson's leadership instituted Negro History Week in 1926 to observe in February the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Today, of course, Negro History Week, which was mostly celebrated in segregated schools like my own here in the District when I was a child and in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, has gained support and participation throughout the

country among people of all backgrounds as Black History Month.

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Dr. Woodson, the son of former slaves, earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1912, becoming only the second African American to receive a doctorate from Harvard after the great W.E.B. DuBois. Woodson's personal and educational achievements were extraordinary in themselves, especially for a man who had been denied access to public education in Canton, Virginia, where Woodson was born in 1875. As a result, Dr. Woodson did not begin his formal education until he was 20 years old, after he moved to Huntington, West Virginia, where he received his high school diploma 2 years later.

He then entered Berea College in Kentucky, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1897. Woodson continued his education at the University of Chicago, where he earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees, and then got his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

During much of Dr. Woodson's life, there was widespread ignorance and very little information concerning African American life and history. With his extensive studies, Woodson almost single-handedly established African American historiography. Dr. Woodson's research literally uncovered black history and helped to educate the American people about the contributions of African Americans to the Nation's history and culture.

Through painstaking scholarship and historical research, his work helped reduce the stereotypes captured in pervasively negative portrayals of black people that have marred our history as a Nation. To remedy these stereotypes, Dr. Woodson in 1915 founded the association. Through the association, Dr. Woodson dedicated his life to educating the American public about the contributions of black Americans to the Nation's history and culture. This work, in bringing history to bear where prejudice and racism had held sway, played an indispensable role in reducing prejudice and making the need for civil rights remedies clear.

Mr. Speaker, this extraordinary history includes starting his own press, because there were no publishers, even for his great historical works.

To assure publication, under Dr. Woodson's leadership, ASNLH in 1920 also founded the Associated Publishers, Inc. for the publication of research on African-American history. Dr. Woodson published his seminal work, *The Negro in Our History* (1922), and many others under Associated Publishers, and the publishing company provided an outlet for scholarly works by numerous other black scholars. ASNLH also circulated two periodicals: the *Negro History Bulletin*, designed for mass consumption, and the *Journal of Negro History*, which was primarily directed to the academic community.

Dr. Woodson directed ASNLH's operations out of his home at 1538 Ninth Street, NW., Washington, DC in the historic Shaw neigh-

borhood. From there, he trained researchers and staff and managed the organization's budget and fundraising efforts, while at the same time pursuing his own extraordinary discoveries in African-American history. The three-story Victorian style house, built in 1890, served as the headquarters of ASALH into the early 70's, well after Dr. Woodson's death in 1950. In 1976, the house was designated as a National Historic Landmark. However, it has been unoccupied since the early 80's, and today, it stands boarded up and sorely in need of renovation. The walls inside the house are crumbling, there is termite infestation, water seeps through the roof during heavy rainstorms, and the house also constitutes a fire hazard jeopardizing adjacent buildings. This house that is a priceless American treasure must not be lost.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the full committee and the chairman of the subcommittee, as well as ranking members of both, for their indispensable help in moving this bill forward.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1012, the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2003. I want to thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for introducing this legislation, and I want to thank the committee for bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, Carter G. Woodson wrote once that his father told him when he was growing up and his father could not read and write that learning to accept insult, to compromise on principle, to mislead your fellow man or to betray your people was to lose your soul.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson has long been one of my favorite heroes. I first learned of him as a pre-teen, studying African American history at a small church in the little town where I grew up in Arkansas, to be an academician, teacher, lecturer, author and founder of what we now observe as African American History Month.

Mr. Speaker, I took a class in college titled Negro History. One of the books we used, which was required reading and a textbook, was "The Negro in our History," written by Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson is one of the most often-quoted authors that I have ever encountered. My good friend and mentor, noted journalist and lecturer, Lou Palmer, used to end many of his speeches and lectures by quoting Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Lou would often say that Dr. Carter G. Woodson, writing in his book "The Miseducation of the Negro," said that "if you control a man's mind, you don't have to worry about how he will act. If you control a man's mind, you don't have to tell him to go to the back of the bus or to the back door. If you control a man's mind, he will find his place and stay in it."

Lou used to admonish us to never go to the back door and to never let mass

media or any other entity control our minds and to never let anyone relegate us to the back door. He would say that Dr. Woodson always wanted us to go through the front door, and, if it was locked, then we should get an ax or a hatchet and cut it down or kick it in.

He would also suggest to us that Dr. Carter G. Woodson did not want us to be content once we had gotten into wherever it was we were trying to go; that it was our duty and responsibility to reach back and help someone else to enter.

So it was his writings and establishment of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History out of which has grown first Negro History Week and now African American or Black History Month.

Just think, that Carter G. Woodson never went to high school until he was 20 years old, 20 years old, and then went on to get a doctorate degree from Harvard University, a master's degree from the University of Chicago, turning out books and articles all the time, and he too wanted to reach back and help others; and through the establishment of Black History Month now people all over the United States and all over the world know of some of the attributes and contributions that African Americans have made.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great opportunity for me to simply say thank you to my friend Lou Palmer for really exposing me to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and for the Nation to say thank you, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and for me to thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for introducing this legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, Carter G. Woodson's professional accomplishments are impressive. In 1915, while a professor at Howard University here in Washington, DC, Dr. Woodson launched the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, an organization that would come to represent his life's work—the documentation and dissemination of the history of African Americans.

Through Dr. Woodson's work, and the work of his organization, Negro History Week was established in 1926 and expanded to Black History Month in 1976. Based on his lifelong scholarship and leadership, Dr. Woodson well deserved his title as the "Father of Black History."

In addition to these professional accomplishments, however, Dr. Woodson's personal life was one of amazing accomplishment as well. Born in Virginia in 1875, the child of slaves, Dr. Woodson was unable to attend school as a child. However, after teaching himself to read and write, Dr. Woodson and his brother moved to Huntington, WV, in my congressional district, when Dr. Woodson was seventeen. It had been his hope to attend Douglass High School in Huntington full time, but he was instead forced to earn his living in the coalfields, attending school for only a few months at a time.

At age 20, however, Carter Woodson was able to attend Douglass year round and earned his degree in just 2 years. After a teaching stint in Fayette County, WV, Dr. Woodson returned to serve as principal of Douglass High.

I would note that today, while Douglass High School is not longer an active school, it plays a significant role in the community. The building, located on Bruce Street and Tenth Avenue, was placed on the Register of Historic Places in 1985. It now serves as a museum, houses the Carter G. Woodson Memorial Foundation, as well as the Ebenezer Medical Outreach Center that serves the people of the Fairfield West Community.

After college in Kentucky, Carter Woodson went on to study at the University of Chicago, the Sorbonne, and Harvard University, where he became only the second African American to receive a doctorate.

To go from being a student at Douglass High School, to serving as the school's principal in just a few years, is impressive enough. However, to overcome an early life of poverty and illiteracy to achieve the absolute pinnacle of academic achievement, by way of hard work in the coalfields of West Virginia, is a truly amazing and inspirational achievement.

I commend my friend, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON on her legislation to add Dr. Woodson's home here in Washington to our National Park System. It is my hope that, through the establishment of this new site, people from around the country, and even from around the world, might come to know the legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and to draw inspiration from his life and work.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). 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. 1012.

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.

AUTHORIZING REVISION OF TOM GREEN COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT REPAYMENT CONTRACT

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 856) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise a repayment contract with the Tom Green County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, San Angelo project, Texas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 856

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

SECTION 1. TOM GREEN COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1; REPAYMENT PERIOD EXTENDED.

The Secretary of the Interior may revise the repayment contract with the Tom Green County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 numbered 14-06-500-369, by extending the period authorized for repayment of reimbursable construction costs of the San Angelo project from 40 years to 50 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) 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. 856, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to revise a repayment contract with the Tom Green County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 in Texas.

Due to the ongoing drought in the area, the district has had very limited quantities of water to deliver to its constituents and limited revenues to repay its required repayment obligation. This bill will authorize the Secretary to extend the payment period to allow the annual payments to remain constant and allow for the repayment of the remaining obligation over a longer period of time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill.

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

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

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to rise in support of H.R. 856, legislation introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), that would provide financial relief to the Tom Green Water District in Texas.

Persistent drought continues to devastate agriculture and create financial hardship for water districts in many areas of the western United States. Most water districts depend on water sales as their primary source of revenue. With water supplies at record lows, some districts cannot sell enough water to meet their financial obligations.

In the case of the Tom Green District, it is entirely appropriate that we extend the length of their contract term to allow additional time for the district to meet its payment obligations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 856. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their speedy bringing of this legislation to the floor. It is my hope that the Senate will also act and that we can get this bill to the President in order that it might have a timely effect on the farmers in Tom Green County that the chairman and the ranking member have already adequately explained.

We have had persistent drought, particularly in Tom Green County, for the