

home to the Nation's first industrial iron sites from the 1730s to the 1920s. The first blast furnace was built in 1762 by Ethan Allen and supplied the iron for the cannons that helped George Washington's army to make other weapons for soldiers of the Revolutionary army. While most of the furnaces, mine sites and charcoal pits have been lost to development and time, the few that remain are in need of refurbishment. The Beckley Furnace in Canaan, Connecticut, was designated an official project by the Millennium Committee to Save America's Treasures and now has been well restored.

The Valley's history as a cultural retreat from the Boston and New York areas provides both past and current riches for the country. Since the 1930s visitors from all over have come to hear the music at Tanglewood, Music Mountain and Norfolk, see the paintings at the Norman Rockwell Museum, watch serious theater at Stockbridge and musical treats at Sharon. Today's local authors draw on a long tradition going back to the 19th century, when Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Edith Wharton lived and wrote here.

The Housatonic Valley is also rich with environmental and recreational treasures. The Housatonic River, just below Falls Village, Connecticut, is one of the prized fly-fishing centers in the Northeast and is enjoyed by fisherman from not only Connecticut and Massachusetts but the entire eastern seaboard. Olympic rowers have trained in this river as children have learned to swim, boat and fish and value its ecosystem. The Upper Housatonic Area, with its remoteness from, but ties to large cities, occupy a special niche in our national culture and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 938, to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut and Massachusetts. I am particularly pleased that Title 2 of the bill includes legislation I sponsored in the last Congress and again in this Congress to provide for a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing my home island of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area was also included in this package.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman RICHARD POMBO and Ranking Member NICK RAHALL for their support in including my bill in H.R. 938.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no more fitting place that should be studied for possible designation as a national Heritage Area than my home island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The island of St. Croix has a long, distinguished, and varied history, including being the site where Christopher Columbus first stepped onto what is now American soil. There is significant interest in preserving and enhancing the natural, historical and cultural resources of the island on a cooperative basis and such a study would provide guidance on how we can best achieve those purposes.

Even though each one of the four major islands of the U.S. Islands Virgin Islands can make a good case for designation as a National Heritage Area, the island of St. Croix with its two historic towns—Christiansted built in 1734 and Frederiksted built in 1752—is richly blessed with all of the attributes that would justify this designation.

The towns historic architecture matured over a 100-year period. The town of Christiansted

is one of the finest examples of Danish architectural designs in this hemisphere. Its history can be traced back some 4,000 years to 2500 B.C. It is also the place where one of our founding fathers and first Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton, lived and worked during his formative years.

In 1493, Columbus arrived at what is now the Salt River National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve, making it the only site under the American flag where his men went ashore, as well as the first recorded hostile encounter between Europeans and Native Americans.

Frederiksted has the distinction of having been the first jurisdiction to have raised its flag in salute of the new Republic of the U.S.A., and indeed the first designed flag was done by a resident of that Island.

Mr. Speaker, I can go on and on about the many unique and significant features of the island of St. Croix, but in the interest of time I would say that this is the third time that we would have passed this bill in the House and sent it to the other body and I hope that the third time will be the charm. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 938.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 938. Among its provisions, H.R. 938 incorporates bill language from H.R. 1820 which reauthorizes the Illinois and Michigan, I & M, Canal National Heritage Corridor to receive appropriations and transfers management entity status from the now defunct federal, I & M Commission to the non-profit Canal Corridor Association. I would like to commend Chairman POMBO and the House Committee on Resources for their hard work on this important piece of legislation.

The I & M Canal changed the Nation in 1848 when it opened the first shipping route between New York and New Orleans, designating Chicago as the Nation's greatest inland port. While the canal eventually fell into disuse due to new transportation methods and routes, in 1982 business and industry leaders founded the Canal Corridor Association to help revitalize the I & M Canal region, and in doing so, created a national model for regional partnership, conservation and renewal. I am proud to say that the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor was America's charter National Heritage area, being created by an act of Congress in 1984. For 20 years, the Federal I & M Commission has worked to carry out the mission of the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor. Its efforts have been particularly successful during the past 5 years that Phyllis Ellin has provided strong leadership as the Executive Director of the Commission.

Since 1984, the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor has increasingly become an engine of economic growth in communities up and down the length of the Corridor; primarily through an increase in tourism but also in the use of the Corridor for recreational purposes. After consulting with local officials and those most interested and involved in the I & M Canal, it seems that the private sector approach offers more advantages to handle the increased work load brought on by the recent success of the canal and interest in heritage tourism.

As a result, H.R. 938 designates the Canal Corridor Association, CCA, as the new management entity of the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor. The CCA seeks to enhance economic vitality by raising awareness of and expanding the parks, trails, landscapes, and

historic sites that make the I & M Canal region a special place. They have also successfully implemented education programs and improved the cultural, environmental, historic and tourism resources that the canal offers.

Under the leadership of Ana Koval I am firmly convinced that the CCA, through their governance of the I & M Canal, will continue to successfully educate citizens of the nationally historical importance of the I & M Canal and to play a pivotal role in the continued economic redevelopment of the region.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, having no additional requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 938, 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.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

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□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 627, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 266, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 2107, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

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#### LINDA WHITE-EPPS POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 627.