

While the U.S. Forest Service looks for private enterprise to help make ends meet at Mount St. Helens, Congress provides 80 percent of Mount Rainier's budgetary needs. Out of an annual budget of just over \$10 million, Ueberuaga said Congress provides all but about \$1.9 million.

In contrast, the \$2.25 million recreation budget at Mount St. Helens is supported roughly 50-50 by direct allocations from the Federal government and fees generated by visitors. Even with that, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has had to jockey with other forests for a \$400,000 boost from the Forest Service's regional office in Portland this year and last.

"It makes it very difficult on Mount St. Helens to have a viable operation," Ueberuaga said.

For some, the proximity of Mount Rainier offers one tantalizing solution to the chronic funding woes at Mount St. Helens.

"I think the possibility of it being folded into the Park Service or redesignated as a national park has never been greater," said Sean Smith, regional director of the National Parks Conservation Association in Seattle.

A NEW NATIONAL PARK?

Mount Rainier and other national parks receive direct appropriations from Congress.

Mount St. Helens, on the other hand, receives its share of recreation funding only after it filters through three distinct layers of administrative overhead from national headquarters, through the regional office in Portland, and, finally, through the Gifford Pinchot forest headquarters in Vancouver. At each level, the monument must compete with other recreation programs operated by the Forest Service.

"That's what the park service doesn't have," said Cliff Ligons, monument manager at Mount St. Helens for the past 5 years.

Ligons added that the Forest Service had ample money and resources to operate in the years after Congress established the 110,000-acre monument in 1982.

Times have changed since then, beginning with a precipitous decline in timber revenue since the 1980s. Since the Forest Service opened the last of three visitor centers at Mount St. Helens in 1997, direct appropriations for recreation have dwindled.

"The money to fight wars and to fight terrorism comes from someplace, especially when you cut taxes," Ligons said. "Where do you think that's coming from? It comes from government programs. Mount St. Helens is one of many areas in the Forest Service that's currently struggling."

Ted Stubblefield, who retired as Gifford Pinchot forest supervisor in 1999, said Congress ought to establish a budget for national monuments such as Mount St. Helens as they do for national parks. He said it made sense for the Forest Service to hang onto Mount St. Helens once the monument was established, partly because national parks tend to employ more people with higher salaries.

"Our guess is it would have been somewhere between two to four times as expensive to operate it," he said.

Stubblefield and another former Gifford Pinchot forest supervisor, Bob Tokarczyk, blasted members of Washington's congressional delegation for failing to adequately fund the monument in a guest opinion piece published by *The Columbian* on Oct. 28. Although Stubblefield said the monument is suffering from budgetary neglect, he doesn't believe the solution is to simply fold it into the National Park Service.

Instead, he said the volcano should be treated less like a wayside and more like Mount Rainier, Liberty Island or Mount Rushmore.

"Congress should do the same thing with monuments that the Forest Service manages," he said. "The monuments are really owned by the public in a more deeply held manner, in my mind. They're like our national treasures."

BROADENING OPPORTUNITIES

Were it not for a new system of collecting fees on public lands authorized by Congress in 1997, the Mount St. Helens recreation program would have run out of money long ago.

The Forest Service collected about \$1.1 million in visitor fees for the volcano last year. Now, the agency is looking for more help from private enterprise.

In a 150-page prospectus issued last month, the Forest Service solicited proposals from private businesses willing to pay the government to operate helicopter tours, mobile food stands, RV sites, or other amenities around the erupting volcano. Forest Service officials said the outreach may help to improve the monument's bottom line, but it also would "broaden visitor opportunities" around Mount St. Helens.

"The government doesn't run gift shops," said Steve Nelson, recreation planner for the Gifford Pinchot.

Ueberuaga said Mount Rainier also has private concessions, including two overnight lodges, gift shops, a store for campers and three services providing guided climbs to the top of the 14,410-foot peak. He acknowledged, however, that people generally expect a national park to have a limited range of commercial opportunities.

"So there are no off-road vehicles at Mount Rainier, and yet on the forest there's appropriate places for that," he said.

Snowmobile tours are one of the potential opportunities suggested in the prospectus offered by the Forest Service at Mount St. Helens. Ueberuaga said he will be interested to see how the Forest Service strikes a balance between new recreational opportunities while protecting the unique environment surrounding the most active volcano in the Cascade Range.

"I think the Forest Service has a great opportunity there to demonstrate their recreation and visitor experience," he said. "They just need a little more funds to take some of the pressure off."

LEGISLATION TO MAKE SOUTH KOREA A VISA WAIVER PROGRAM COUNTRY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Korea has long been a staunch ally and friend of the United States. In the last few years, South Koreans have been one of our strongest partners in the global war on terror. They have shown their commitment by supporting continued operations in Afghanistan. In line with the U.S. and Great Britain, South Korea committed the 3rd largest number of troops to support the efforts of our Armed Forces in Iraq. Korea has also adopted economic policies that have helped them become the world's eleventh largest economy, the United States' seventh largest trading partner, and the fifth largest market for United States agricultural products.

In recognition of this steadfast friendship and unique relationship our nation has with the Republic of Korea, I am introducing legis-

lation to make South Korea a Visa Waiver Program country. Under the Visa Waiver Program, a traveler to the United States, either for business or pleasure, can enter the country for up to ninety days without obtaining a visa. This courtesy has already been extended to United States citizens by the South Korean government. Currently, twenty-seven countries are on the visa waiver list, ranging from France and Japan to Brunei and Slovenia.

The United States is home to over two million people of Korean heritage. By placing South Korea on the Visa Waiver Program list, we would make it easier friends and family the opportunity to visit our country and strengthen relationships with their loved ones. Currently, if a friend or family member wants to visit someone in the U.S. they must apply for a visa at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, requiring travel to the capital city where the process often takes up to two weeks to complete. For many family and friends the process is too expensive and onerous to complete. Allowing the Republic of Korea into the waiver program will streamline this process, granting our South Korean friends the same opportunity to visit our country as people from our other allied nations.

Placing Korea on the visa waiver country list would have a positive impact on our economy. More than 626,000 Korean citizens visit the United States each year. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, overall tourism dollars spent in the U.S. by tourists from the Republic of Korea exceeded \$1 billion in fiscal year 2004. Visitation and tourism dollars are bound to grow if South Korea is allowed to be a part of the Visa Waiver Program.

To curb any potential abuses, the South Korean government is taking aggressive steps to comply with post 9/11 security requirements to combat visa fraud. South Korea has already invested in state of the art technology and currently issues secure machine readable passports with digitalized photographs that are difficult to counterfeit. By 2007, e-passports will be introduced with biometric identifiers in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization standards.

Economically, militarily and politically, the U.S. and South Korean share a vision of freedom and democracy that has made our nations solid friends and allies. In recognition of this friendship and our shared history, it is time to ease the restrictions Korean citizens encounter when they attempt to visit our nation, which has strong cultural ties to the people of Korea.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALL VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week we honor our Nation's veterans—not just the thousands who have risked their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the millions more who over the years have answered the call to arms and served as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

Since the founding of this Nation, Americans have battled courageously to protect the helpless, defeat despots and spread the cause of freedom to every corner of the globe. Most of

the men and women who served in World War I are no longer with us. World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans still walk among us today, and we owe them the most heartfelt gratitude.

The torch was passed to a new generation after the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Since then, hundreds of thousands of young people have donned the uniform of a soldier, Marine, sailor or airman in our Global War on Terrorism. They have chosen an often arduous life not for fame or riches, but because they believe in America and her ideals. These great young people have embraced the challenge. From the dusty streets of Iraq to the jagged mountains of Afghanistan, they have done their duty with honor, fighting for their country and each other.

I have traveled overseas several times to Iraq and Afghanistan to meet our military personnel and have witnessed them doing their job magnificently; they fight voluntarily on our behalf. I was awed by their courage, determination and dedication as they combat a brutal enemy thousands of miles from home.

The times have changed, but the sacrifices have not. More than 2,000 U.S. service members have been killed and over 16,000 have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We in Congress must honor our veterans not just with words, but with deeds. The survivors of those who make the ultimate sacrifice must be cared for in a manner that honors their memory. Benefits and health care must remain readily available for service members and their families—active duty, Reserve or Guard. And those wounded warriors who return home must be mended back to health, in body and spirit.

In my district, I have convened a working group to assist veterans in every possible way. The goal of this group is for communities to create innovative and effective programs which show appreciation and offer financial, moral and physical support for veterans.

Over 25 million U.S. veterans live among us today. You may know one. Pause a moment and thank them for their service. They deserve no less.

RECOGNIZING CHILD ADVOCACY
CENTER AWARDEES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today on behalf of one of my district's premier human service organizations, the Child Advocacy Center of Genesee County. On Thursday, November 10, the Center will hold its Inaugural Awards Dinner, where they will acknowledge several individuals who have shown tremendous courage, kindness, and selflessness through acts of goodwill toward our young people.

Polly Sheppard will have the distinction of being awarded the first Volunteer of the Year Award.

The cooperation between the CAC and the Michigan Department of Human Services will be shown, as Linda Crouch and Director Denise Chambers will receive DHS Worker of the Year awards. The CAC will recognize its friends in law enforcement, as Detective Matt

Bade of the Burton Police Department, and Detective Diana Mills of the Mt. Morris Police Department will be honored as Police Officers of the Year. John Greene and Marcie Mabry will be honored as Prosecutors of the Year.

The Sponsor of the Year Award will be presented to the Ruth Mott Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud these wonderful men and women for all they have done for others. Through their actions, they ensure that our children are able to enjoy healthy, productive, and safe lives, and I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in recognizing their heroic efforts.

CONGRATULATING SUE ANN SLAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Sue Ann Slay of Fort Worth, Texas on completing the Redman Iron Distance Triathlon on September 24, 2005 in Oklahoma City.

Currently, only five Ironman Triathlons occur every year in the United States. On September 14, 2005 Mayor Mick Cornett of Oklahoma City announced the first annual Redman Iron Distance Triathlon to be held at Lake Hefner on September 24, 2005. The Redman Triathlon consisted of a 2.4-mile swim in the open waters of Lake Hefner, a 112-mile bike ride, and a 26.2-mile marathon run. Nearly 125 people participated in this Iron distance race.

The Redman Iron Distance Triathlon began at 7 a.m. on September 24, 2005. Ms. Slay crossed the finish line 16 hours, 36 minutes, and 20 seconds later at 11:36 p.m. Many participants in triathlons battle cramps, fatigue, heat, and humidity just to complete the 140.6-mile race. In order to prepare for these intense conditions, Ms. Slay began training for the race in 2003, getting up at 6:00 a.m. to run 7 days a week.

Today I congratulate Ms. Sue Ann Slay on competing and completing the Redman Iron Distance Triathlon sponsored by Valir Health. Ms. Slay's dedication and commitment to fitness and her recent accomplishment is worthy of recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF SOUTH-
WEST FLORIDA

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as a Girl Scout, First Class, to congratulate the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida on the recent opening of its new regional headquarters in Sarasota, Florida.

The Searcy S. Koen Regional Girl Scout campus, located on 12-acres, designed around protected wetlands, focuses on conserving energy and protecting our environment. Notably, the facility is Sarasota County's second project certified for Leadership in Environmentally Engineered Design.

The new Wetlands Learning Habitat, plus the Council Headquarters and Gulf Coast Event and Conference Center will create and enhance opportunities for Girl Scouts throughout Southwest Florida. The Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, with over 9,700 registered girls, continues to build character, courage and confidence in girls who will strive to make the world a better place.

Having experienced scouting for twelve years, I well know the extraordinary opportunities offered to these girls, from camping in Florida's beautiful State parks, to earning badges representing a plethora of skills and knowledge acquired. Attaining the Eagle Equivalent as a Girl Scout "First Class" was an extremely meaningful achievement for me as a young woman.

In today's world, I believe we would all do well to reflect upon the Girl Scout Promise: "On my honor, I will try: to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law . . . I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do; and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout."

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT AND
TERRORISM PREVENTION REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am voting for this motion to instruct because I think it is absolutely necessary, although I do not think it is sufficient. The motion will instruct the House's conferees to accept the provisions in the Senate version of the legislation that will establish four-year sunsets on three things.

These sunsets would apply to:

(1) Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, which allows the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to issue orders for any tangible thing—including business, library, and medical records—to anyone, as long as it is relevant to a terrorist investigation;

(2) Section 206 of the PATRIOT Act, which allows law enforcement officials to track a particular suspect by tapping multiple communication devices, as opposed to a single mode of communication; and

(3) The so-called "Lone Wolf" Provision of the Intelligence reform legislation, which allows the government to conduct surveillance on "lone wolf" terrorist suspects, who are not connected with a foreign power or recognized organization.

One of the reasons I voted against the PATRIOT Act when it was first considered by the House was my concern that the "sunset" clauses were too generous, meaning that the provisions covered by those clauses would remain in effect too long without the need for Congressional reconsideration. That was also a major reason I voted against H.R. 3199 earlier this year.

So, I definitely agree that the conferees should accept the Senate bill's shorter sunset