

STATEMENT OF SUE MASICA
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

REGARDING H.R. 323, A BILL TO REDESIGNATE THE ELLIS ISLAND LIBRARY ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION MUSEUM, LOCATED ON ELLIS ISLAND IN NEW YORK HARBOR, AS THE BOB HOPE MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

May 12, 2005

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 323, to redesignate the Ellis Island library on the third floor of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum as the Bob Hope Memorial Library. The National Park Service believes there should be a strong association between the park and the person being commemorated, and that at least five years should have elapsed since the death of the person. This basic principle is reflected in our National Park Service Management Policies. Therefore, the Department can not support this bill.

A unique repository of resources in history, ethnology, and sociology is located on the third floor of the Immigration Museum on Ellis Island. The space has been reconfigured to provide a reading room, a preschool children's reading center, an archive for controlled storage of valuable paper artifacts, and a room designed to provide retrieval access to the library's collection of more than 1,000 oral histories. It is a resource devoted to the American immigration experience and the stories of those who came to America with hopes and dreams for a better life. The library provides important lessons to our citizens of the meaning of liberty and opportunity in the history of our nation.

Although Bob Hope's life story exemplifies the experience of many who came to the United States with little, rose to the heights of their professions, and gave back in abundance to their adopted nation, the Department cannot support H.R. 323. Bob Hope did enter the United States through Ellis Island, as did many other great Americans, however there is no compelling connection between his life and the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

Bob Hope was born Leslie Townes Hope, the son of stonemason William Henry Hope and Avis Townes Hope. The family emigrated from England to Cleveland, Ohio in 1908, when Leslie, one of seven children, was not yet five years old. In Cleveland, the Hope family struggled financially, as they had in England. Mrs. Hope took in boarders to supplement her husband's erratic income. She gave singing lessons to Leslie, who entertained his family with song, impersonations, and dancing. When he left school at age 16, Leslie worked at a number of part-time jobs. He boxed for a short time under the name of "Packy East" but later changed his name to Lester Hope. His interest in entertainment and show business led him to take dancing lessons and to seek employment as a variety stage entertainer. Not until he had achieved considerable success on the stage did he begin using the name, "Bob Hope."

Bob Hope's more than fifty-year commitment to public service has made him one of the most honored and esteemed performers in history. His charitable work and tours on behalf of the armed forces brought him the admiration and gratitude of millions and the friendship of every President of the United States since Franklin D. Roosevelt. While Bob Hope had a distinguished career, we do not believe there is sufficient association between him and the Ellis Island Library to merit renaming the library.

Mr. Chairman. That concludes my statement and I will be happy to answer any questions that members of the Committee may have.

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BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

CONCERNING H.R. 774, TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.

MAY 12, 2005

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 774, a bill to adjust the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park in the State of Colorado.

The Department supports H.R. 774. On July 15, 2004, the Department testified in support of S. 2181, an identical bill, with a technical amendment to correct the map reference. S. 2181 was amended, incorporating the Department's suggestion, and passed the Senate. H.R. 744 is identical to S. 2181 as passed by the Senate in the 108th Congress.

H.R. 774 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to proceed with a land exchange involving Federal land within Rocky Mountain National Park (park) and private lands owned by the MacGregor Ranch, located near Estes Park, Colorado. This exchange would allow the park to improve public access while protecting the private property rights of landowners. The Secretary would receive title to three parcels of vacant land encompassing approximately 6 acres with two of the parcels located within the authorized boundary of the park. This legislation would authorize a boundary adjustment to include the third parcel within the park boundary. In exchange for the three parcels, the Secretary would convey up to 70 acres of Federal land to the MacGregor Ranch. As a condition of the land exchange, the Secretary would reserve a perpetual easement on the Federal parcel for the purposes of protecting, preserving and enhancing the conservation values of the Federal parcel. The parcel conveyed to the MacGregor Ranch will remain within the authorized boundary of the park, and will be used as an irrigated hay meadow and for grazing cattle.

Rocky Mountain National Park was established by Congress on January 26, 1915, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States and to protect the natural conditions and scenic beauties of this portion of the Rocky Mountains. The park currently encompasses approximately 266,000 acres and each year draws more than 3 million visitors.

The MacGregor Ranch was homesteaded in 1873, which predates the establishment of the park. In 1917, shortly after the establishment of the park, the National Park Service (NPS) built a residence for park employees just inside the park boundary, with access via a one-lane dirt road, which crosses the MacGregor Ranch for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. This access was provided with the permission of the MacGregor family, but no easement, right-of-way, or other legal document was ever recorded.

The MacGregor Ranch is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is owned by the Muriel MacGregor Charitable Trust. The mission of the Trust is to support youth education through the preservation and interpretation of the historic buildings and educational tours of this working high mountain cattle ranch. In 1980, the boundary of the park was amended to include much of the MacGregor Ranch, and in 1983 the NPS purchased a conservation easement covering 1,221 acres of the ranch. While much of the ranch is located within the authorized boundary of the park, it remains private property.

In the early 1970's, hikers and rock climbers began using the access road through the MacGregor Ranch to reach a small parking lot located just inside the park boundary. Known as the Twin Owls trailhead, the popularity of the area has grown steadily. In recent years, overflow parking has negatively impacted the ranch, and traffic on the one-lane access road has negatively affected the character of the historic homestead and has diminished the quality of the historic scene that visitors to the ranch come to experience.

For several years, the NPS and the MacGregor Ranch have been working to find a solution to the traffic and parking problems. In 2003, based on public input and an Environmental Assessment, the NPS decided to relocate the Twin Owls parking lot to the east end of the MacGregor Ranch, some distance away from the historic homestead. A new access road and a larger trailhead parking lot that can accommodate 80 to 100 cars will be built at the new location.

So that the rules and regulations governing Rocky Mountain National Park can be enforced at the new trailhead and along the access road, the land needs to be incorporated into the park. To accomplish this, the MacGregor Trust and the NPS

have agreed to a land exchange. The three parcels acquired by the NPS will be used for the development of the new parking lot and access road. The conveyance of up to 70-acres of Federal land to the MacGregor Ranch with a conservation easement will ensure that the property is used solely for ranching.

No appraisals have been done on the properties to be included in the land exchange; however, the NPS believes that the lands are of comparable value. It is estimated that the cost of the exchange could be approximately \$13,000, which includes an environmental site assessment and other closing costs.

The estimated development cost for the parking lot, access road, vault toilet, connector trail and related improvements is \$800,000. Rocky Mountain National Park has already programmed the funds for this development from 80% Fee Demonstration and National Parks Pass revenues. Annual operating costs are not expected to increase as the new development is replacing existing facilities and employs sustainable design principles.

That concludes my prepared statement Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or members of the committee may have.

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BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

CONCERNING H.R. 1084, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT AT ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD OF A MEMORIAL TO THE OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN OF THE FIFTH, SIXTH, AND NINTH NEW HAMPSHIRE VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENTS AND THE FIRST NEW HAMPSHIRE LIGHT ARTILLERY BATTERY WHO FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1862.

MAY 12, 2005

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 1084, a bill to authorize the establishment at Antietam National Battlefield of a memorial to the officers and enlisted men of the Fifth, Sixth, and Ninth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments and the First New Hampshire Light Artillery Battery who fought in the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862.

The Department opposes enactment of this legislation because of the potential impacts and permanent alterations that would be made to the historical landscape and hallowed grounds of Antietam Battlefield.

H.R. 1084 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a memorial within the boundary of the Antietam National Battlefield. The Secretary would select the persons to establish the memorial, and approve the size, design, and inscriptions of the memorial. An annual report would be prepared on the progress of the operations and fundraising efforts related to the establishment of the memorial. No Federal funds would be used to establish the memorial. Upon completion of the memorial, the Secretary would assume the responsibility for its maintenance.

Established by an Act of Congress on August 30, 1890, this Civil War site marks the end of General Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North in September 1862. Over 600 military units fought in the battle at Antietam that claimed more than 23,000 men who were killed, wounded, and/or missing in 12 hours of fighting on September 17. It also led to President Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. Antietam National Battlefield is one of 28 sites managed by the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve and interpret Civil War military history. Last year alone nearly 237,000 visitors came to participate in the unique historical perspective that this landscape offers. That number swelled to over 313,000 in 2002, the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam.

Antietam National Battlefield is known as one of the most well-preserved Civil War battlefields in the United States. Veterans of the battle placed the majority of the 104 monuments on this site between 1890 and 1915. The monuments are in commemoration of their sacrifices and are typically located where the troops fought during the battle. There are regimental monuments, state monuments, and monuments to individuals. A mortuary cannon – an inverted cannon barrel in a block of stone – marks the location where each of the six generals fell who were either killed or mortally wounded. There is also a monument to war correspondents. These monuments are small in size and do not impact the historic landscape, which allows battlefield visitors to fully understand the soldiers' efforts on that day. New Hampshire is one of 17 states that sent troops to Antietam. The New Hampshire troops fought at Burnside Bridge along with regiments from Pennsylvania and New York.

A moratorium has been in place since 1991 at the battlefield, which precludes the construction of new monuments or memorials. The need for a moratorium was identified as necessary during the development of the General Management Plan (GMP). The GMP is a long-term planning document that provides NPS managers with guidelines and objectives in the preservation of these historic grounds. The study of the battlefield, which culminated in this GMP, was undertaken with substantial input from the public and civil war historians nationwide. The findings concluded that the continued addition of memorials would result in an unacceptable permanent alteration of the historic landscape. The NPS conducts an active year-round program to educate visitors about the Battle of Antietam and to pay tribute to the valor and sacrifice of all those who shared in the pivotal history of this battle.

The role of the New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry and Light Artillery Battery is widely recognized in the annals of Civil War history. However, we believe the protection of the historic character of the battlefield, the purpose for which this land was set aside by Congress in 1890, requires us to seek other alternatives and better means to commemorate this contribution

and that of the nearly 500 military units which are not represented by the traditional sculptures and statuary today. We believe there are exciting and honorable opportunities open for the commemoration of these New Hampshire regiments without permanently altering the landscape, which we seek to protect in their honor. We have a duty to protect the history of all who fought in the Battle of Antietam.

The Battle of Antietam is the bloodiest one-day battle in American history. This battle site is indeed hallowed ground. We understand and appreciate the desires of the people of New Hampshire to erect a monument to honor their ancestors who fought here, but we feel that the preservation of the landscape, the ground where these men stood firm, fought, and died, is our utmost priority. We will continue to explore other ways to honor the New Hampshire volunteers and others who participated in the battle.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to comment. This concludes my prepared remarks and I will be happy to answer any questions you or other committee members might have.