

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman
Mark-Up Memorandum

January 12, 2018

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff – Terry Camp and Steven Parr
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Mark-Up: **H.R. 553 (Rep. Jody B. Hice)**, To redesignate Gravelly Point Park, located along the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Arlington County, Virginia, as the Nancy Reagan Memorial Park, and for other purposes.
January 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.; 1324 Longworth House Office Building

Summary of the Bill

H.R. 553, introduced by Representative Jody Hice (R-GA-10), would redesignate Gravelly Point Park, located along the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Arlington County, Virginia, as the Nancy Reagan Memorial Park.

Cosponsors

[51 Cosponsors](#)

Background

H.R. 553 would redesignate Gravelly Point Park as the Nancy Reagan Memorial Park to celebrate the life and work of the former First Lady.

Gravelly Point Park, as the area is currently known, is a favorite location of hikers, bikers and walkers along the Potomac River and a beloved location of airplane-spotters. The park sits directly next to the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and near the Lady Bird Johnson Park along the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Arlington, VA.

Gravelly Point was a site of dredging and resource extraction in the late 19th century due to the presence of sand and gravel deposits, hence the name 'gravelly'. This area was originally the southern end of the former Alexander's Island, which no longer exists. An 1862 map from the U.S. Coastal Survey of the Potomac River is one of the first instances where the name 'Gravelly Point' is used. Sand and gravel extraction took place into the early 20th century and Gravelly Point experienced substantial change during that time (essentially most of the area was dredged away). From 1915 to 1927, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged the Potomac River navigation channel and deposited those spoils along the western bank of the river, thereby creating Columbia Island and reestablishing the shoreline at Gravelly Point. During the construction of the George Washington Memorial Parkway / Mount Vernon Memorial Highway

between 1929 and 1932, more dredge spoil was added to this area to carry the new roadway from the current railroad bridge southward to where the airport now exists, a major engineering feat for that time.

The redesignation of Gravelly Point Park as Nancy Reagan Memorial Park would honor the life and legacy of the former First Lady

Nancy Reagan was born Anne Frances Robbins on July 6, 1921, in Queens, New York and grew up in Chicago, IL. Reagan graduated from Smith College in Massachusetts, where she majored in theatre. During her career as a professional actress she landed a role on Broadway and performed in Hollywood films. After marrying Ronald Reagan, the then president of the Screen Actors Guild, in 1952, the couple had two children together.

Upon, election of her husband to Governor, Reagan became the first lady of California from 1967 to 1975.

Mrs. Reagan became First Lady of the United States in January 1981 upon President Reagan's election. During her time as First Lady, Mrs. Reagan was passionate about many causes including her "Just Say No" anti-drug campaign, promoting foster grandparents and advocating for the arts.

After leaving the White House, Mrs. Reagan retired to their family home in California but continued to be a proponent for causes she was passionate about. Mrs. Reagan passed away on March 6, 2016, and is buried next to her husband at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

Nancy Reagan Memorial Park would recognize First Lady Nancy Reagan for her dedication and support of important causes throughout her life. The redesignation would act as a tribute to the First Lady's legacy while maintaining the current status and uses of the park.

Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

Administration Position

The Administration's position is currently unknown.

Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)

None.