

MARCH 5, 2025

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY REGARDING H.R. 6852 (REP. ESPAILLAT)
HOLCOMBE RUCKER PARK ACT FROM THE HONORABLE BOBBY
“ZORRO” HUNTER
CHAIRMAN, RETIRED HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS
FORMER HARLEM GLOBETROTTER
INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL AMBASSADOR, WORLD MAYORS
CONFERENCE

Bruce Westerman
Chairman
U.S. House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
U.S. House Natural Resources Committee
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Tom Tiffany
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
U.S. House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Joe Neguse
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
U.S. House Natural Resources Committee
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Grijalva, Chairman Tiffany, and Ranking Member Neguse:

Rucker Park holds immense significance for the community of Harlem and plays a pivotal role in tourism. Recently, a Harlem tour featuring Rucker Park, alongside other historical sites such as the Renaissance, underscored its importance.

Today, I will speak passionately about Holcombe Rucker, my teacher and mentor, and his profound impact on me and countless other young men in our community.

Additionally, I will highlight the invaluable contributions of the Rucker Park All-Stars and discuss the transformative "Each One Teach One Program" that originated from this historic basketball court and has since resonated across the United States. Noteworthy figures such as Dr. Reverend Jim Bostic, Reverend Cassie Russell, Bob McCullough, and Freddie Crawford,

alongside revered players like Senator Bill Bradley, exemplify the enduring legacy of Rucker Park.

Lastly, I will share the remarkable journey of my personal hero, myself, Bobby Hunter, who transitioned from Rucker Park to Stanford University, symbolizing the boundless potential nurtured within our community.

Rucker Park is an integral part of Harlem, New York City, fostering pride and drawing visitors from around the globe. Its significance lies not only in its historical importance but also in the profound impact it has had on individuals like me, who have been fortunate enough to benefit from its legacy.

Holcombe Rucker's commitment to uplifting and guiding youth, which facilitated over 700 scholarships through his program, is a testament to the enduring impact of his vision. The Rucker Park All-Stars, serving as beacons of inspiration, have cultivated a culture of excellence and mentorship, as evidenced by the far-reaching influence of the "Each One Teach One Program."

Dr. Reverend Jim Bostic, Reverend Cassie Russell, Bob McCullough, and Freddie Crawford are among the esteemed individuals who have championed community empowerment through initiatives stemming from Rucker Park. Their efforts, alongside the achievements of players such as Tiny Archibald and Dr. J, epitomize the transformative potential of sports and mentorship.

Moreover, the legacy of Rucker Park transcends sports, as exemplified by Senator Bill Bradley, whose journey from the court to the political arena underscores the power of community and opportunity.

In conclusion, the designation of Holcombe Rucker Park as a National Commemorative Site is both warranted and overdue.

I wholeheartedly endorse H.R.6852 - the Holcombe Rucker Park Landmark Act and extend my gratitude to Congressman Adriano Espaillat for his leadership in introducing this legislation. I also commend the Committee on Natural Resources for their consideration of this historic measure. As we move forward, I urge swift action to pass this legislation and honor the rich legacy of Rucker Park. Rest assured, countless supporters stand behind this non-controversial bill, eager to see it become law.

In summary, Rucker Park's enduring legacy serves as a beacon of inspiration, impacting not only Harlem but communities far and wide. Its influence transcends generations, embodying the spirit of resilience, excellence, and community empowerment.

Thank you for your time.