

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4400

To designate the Salt Pond Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore as the “Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Visitor Center”, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2012

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. NEAL, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. PELOSI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To designate the Salt Pond Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore as the “Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Visitor Center”, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Thomas Phillip (Tip) O’Neill, Jr., was born  
6 on December 9, 1912, in the Irish middle-class area  
7 of North Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Thomas  
8 Phillip O’Neill, Sr., and Rose Ann (Tolan) O’Neill.

1           (2) Nicknamed “Tip” during his childhood,  
2           O’Neill was educated in Roman Catholic schools,  
3           graduating from St. John’s High School in 1931,  
4           where he was captain of the basketball team.

5           (3) Tip O’Neill then attended Boston College,  
6           where he ran for a Cambridge City Council seat dur-  
7           ing his senior year—his first attempt at running for  
8           office and only electoral defeat.

9           (4) Following his graduation from Boston Col-  
10          lege in 1936, Tip O’Neill was elected to the Massa-  
11          chusetts House of Representatives that same year as  
12          a New Deal Democrat whose political philosophy  
13          was shaped by his experience growing up in working-  
14          class Boston and his strong Catholic faith, which led  
15          him to view government as a means for helping the  
16          disadvantaged in society.

17          (5) In 1949, Tip O’Neill became the first  
18          Democratic Speaker in the history of the Massachu-  
19          setts State Legislature, serving as Speaker until  
20          1952, when he ran successfully for the United States  
21          House of Representatives to fill the seat vacated by  
22          Senator-elect John F. Kennedy.

23          (6) In 1958, inspired by the establishment of  
24          the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, a seashore  
25          park in North Carolina, Representative Tip O’Neill,

1 along with his close friend and colleague Representa-  
2 tive Edward Boland, introduced legislation to protect  
3 lands on Cape Cod as a national seashore.

4 (7) In describing this area on Cape Cod, Henry  
5 David Thoreau had written that “A man may stand  
6 there and put all America behind him”, as the pris-  
7 tine sandy beach, marshes, ponds, and uplands sup-  
8 porting diverse species represent a unique, cherished  
9 jewel of nature.

10 (8) The legislation established a 40-mile na-  
11 tional park along Cape Cod’s outer beach, from  
12 Chatham through Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet,  
13 Truro, and Provincetown that includes lighthouses,  
14 cultural landscapes, and wild cranberry bogs that  
15 offer a glimpse of Cape Cod’s past and continuing  
16 ways of life.

17 (9) After introduction of the legislation during  
18 the 85th Congress, Tip O’Neill continued to advo-  
19 cate strongly for establishment of the Cape Cod Na-  
20 tional Seashore, co-sponsoring bills in the 86th and  
21 87th Congresses, testifying at hearings and working  
22 to advance the legislation through Congress.

23 (10) The legislation was intended to preserve  
24 one of the great natural marvels of the United  
25 States, with its unbroken beach and moors, marshes,

1 forests, and freshwater ponds that are home to  
2 many species of birds, fish, animals, and plants.

3 (11) On August 7, 1961, President Kennedy  
4 signed into law the legislation authorizing the Cape  
5 Cod National Seashore as Public Law 87–126.

6 (12) In 1966, the Cape Cod National Seashore  
7 was formally established, and Representative O’Neill  
8 attended the May 30, 1966, ceremony inaugurating  
9 the Salt Pond Visitor Center.

10 (13) The Cape Cod National Seashore has be-  
11 come a national treasure, with millions of Americans  
12 and visitors from around the world enjoying its  
13 beauty and remarkable biodiversity.

14 (14) Tip O’Neill and his family maintained a  
15 home on Cape Cod in Harwich Port, and he was a  
16 frequent visitor to the National Seashore during his  
17 service in Congress and in his retirement years.

18 (15) While in Congress, Tip O’Neill rose quick-  
19 ly through the leadership ranks due to his extraor-  
20 dinary political skills, mastery of the legislative proc-  
21 ess and sharp wit, serving first as Majority Whip in  
22 the House beginning in 1971 and then in 1973 as  
23 House Majority Leader.

24 (16) One of O’Neill’s greatest accomplishments  
25 as Speaker was the crafting of a peace accord be-

1       tween warring factions in Northern Ireland, during  
2       which he worked with fellow Irish-American politi-  
3       cians including Senator Edward M. Kennedy to de-  
4       velop the “St. Patrick’s Day declaration” denounc-  
5       ing violence in Northern Ireland and culminating  
6       with the Irish aid package upon the signing of the  
7       Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985.

8               (17) On January 3, 1987, Tip O’Neill retired  
9       from Congress, having served in public life for 50  
10      years, including 34 years as a Member of Congress  
11      and 10 years as Speaker of the House, the longest  
12      continuous term of any Speaker since the first Con-  
13      gress met in 1789.

14              (18) Tip O’Neill’s extraordinary record of pub-  
15      lic service and tremendous accomplishments for the  
16      nation and unmatched attention to the needs of his  
17      constituents led President George H.W. Bush in  
18      1991 to present Tip O’Neill with the Presidential  
19      Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the  
20      United States.

21              (19) It is also altogether fitting to recognize  
22      Tip O’Neill’s support for the protection of the nat-  
23      ural, historic, and cultural resources of the national  
24      parks of Massachusetts.

1 (b) DESIGNATION.—The Salt Pond Visitor Center at  
2 Cape Cod National Seashore in Eastham, Massachusetts,  
3 is designated as the “Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Salt Pond  
4 Visitor Center”.

5 (c) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Salt Pond  
6 Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore in any law,  
7 regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the  
8 United States shall be considered to be a reference to the  
9 “Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Visitor Center”.

10 (d) SIGNAGE.—The Secretary of the Interior may  
11 post an interpretive sign at the visitor center that—

12 (1) includes information on Thomas P. O’Neill,  
13 Jr., and his contributions as a member of the U.S.  
14 House of Representatives;

15 (2) includes an image of Thomas P. O’Neill,  
16 Jr.; and

17 (3) refers to his efforts to aid in the preserva-  
18 tion of the national seashore and other national  
19 parks in Massachusetts.

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