

Thank you for the time today Chairwoman Haaland and Ranking Member Westerman. It is great to be back in the Natural Resources Committee, even if it is virtually.

Today, my bill, H.R. 1267, The B-47 Ridge Designation Act is before this committee. This bill would designate an unnamed mountain ridge located southwest of Emigrant Peak in Montana, B-47 Ridge.

This measure would honor Lt. Fred Hixenbaugh, Capt. Bill Faulconer, Lt. Lloyd Sawyers and Lt. David Sutton. On July 23, 1962, all four took off from Dyess Air Force Base for a routine training mission. Their route took them from Texas to Montana, where they flew the B-47 through Paradise Valley. Unfortunately, the bomber and crew crashed into the side of Emigrant Peak, scattering debris that can still be seen today (Show Photos?)

One resident remembered the crash and hiked up years later. Bryan, who is here today, hiked up to the crash site many times, but decided more should be done to honor the four men. In 2016, Bryan built a memorial for the crew and invited the families.

After working with Bryan on the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act, he approached me about getting a plaque on the ridge for those crew members. And today, here we are.

The companion bill, led by Senators Daines and Tester, had a productive hearing last year, and I am hoping for the same here.