

the Shenandoah National Park, providing 469 scenic miles for motor recreation along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina and Virginia;

Whereas North Carolina state geologist Joseph Hyde Pratt first proposed a scenic road along the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1906;

Whereas, on November 24, 1933, at the recommendation of Virginia Senator Harry Byrd, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes approved construction of the new highway to connect the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with the Shenandoah National Park;

Whereas, on September 11, 1935, construction began on the first 12.5-mile section of the Blue Ridge Parkway near Cumberland Knob in North Carolina;

Whereas Stanley L. Abbott is widely remembered as the "father of the Blue Ridge Parkway" for his work to oversee planning of the project;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway was established by Congress as a unit of the National Park Service on June 30, 1936;

Whereas the National Park Service development program, "Mission 66", oversaw the completion of most remaining gaps along the Blue Ridge Parkway during the 1950s and 1960s;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway's final stretch of road was completed in 1987 with the construction of the Linn Cove Viaduct;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway provides recreational opportunities for American families at picnic areas, campgrounds, and on scenic drives through Appalachian mountain passes;

Whereas the diverse topography and numerous vista points along the Blue Ridge Parkway make it the most accessible way to visit and experience Southern Appalachian rural landscapes and mountains;

Whereas the Parkway is world-renowned for its biodiversity, which includes 74 species of mammals, 50 salamander species, 35 reptile species, 159 species of birds and 25 species of fish;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway is the most visited unit of the National Park Service with nearly 20 million visitors each year;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway promotes regional travel and tourism by unifying the 29 counties through which it passes, engendering a shared regional identity, providing a common link of interest, and contributing to the economic vitality of the area;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway is one of the strongest economic engines in the Southern Appalachian region, generating an estimated \$2.3 billion in North Carolina and Virginia annually;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway has received volunteer support from thousands of Virginians and North Carolinians, including 1,400 volunteers in 2008 who provided more than 50,000 hours of service;

Whereas the Blue Ridge Parkway is a great public works achievement that maintains natural, historic, and cultural significance for the people of Virginia and North Carolina; and

Whereas this crown jewel of the National Park Service deserves the support of Congress to preserve its ecological and cultural integrity, maintain its infrastructure, and protect its famously scenic views: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway; and

(2) acknowledges the historic and enduring scenic, recreational, and economic value of this unique national treasure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

□ 1520

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 294 was introduced on June 30, 2010, by Representative TOM PERRIELLO of Virginia and is cosponsored by Members on both sides of the aisle from Virginia and North Carolina.

The resolution celebrates the 75th anniversary of the most visited unit of the national park system, the Blue Ridge Parkway, which links Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Shenandoah National Park.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we recognize this great public works achievement and its significance to the American people. I commend Representative PERRIELLO for bringing this resolution before us and urge the House to approve this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the measure's many sponsors recognizing the anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway, which was first proposed by Senator Harry Byrd in 1933, but was completed under President Ronald Reagan in 1987.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 294.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1503) expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Day, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1503

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States comprise a significant share of the national economy, with 43 percent of the population, 40 percent of employment, and 49 percent of economic output located in such regions;

Whereas coasts and estuaries contribute more than \$800,000,000,000 annually in trade and commerce to the Nation's economy;

Whereas more than 43 percent of all adults in the United States visit a sea coast or estuary at least once a year to participate in some form of recreation, generating \$8,000,000,000 to \$12,000,000,000 in revenue annually;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 jobs in the United States are supported through commercial and recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and other coastal industries that rely on healthy estuaries;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitat for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many that are listed as threatened species or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization and erosion prevention, and protection of coastal communities during extreme weather events;

Whereas 55,000,000 acres of estuarine habitat have been destroyed over the last 100 years;

Whereas bays once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas sea level rise is accelerating the degradation of estuaries by submerging low-lying lands, eroding beaches, converting wetlands to open water, exacerbating coastal flooding, and increasing the salinity of estuaries and freshwater aquifers;

Whereas in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.), Congress found and declared that it is national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the Nation's coastal zone, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas scientific study leads to better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and private citizens work together to effectively manage our Nation's estuaries;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts cost-effectively restore natural infrastructure in local communities, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas September 25, 2010, has been designated National Estuaries Day to increase awareness among all citizens, including local, State, and Federal officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Day;

(2) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to the Nation's economic well-being and productivity;

(3) recognizes the persistent threats that undermine the health of the Nation's estuaries;

(4) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners to

promote public awareness, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(5) reaffirms its support for estuaries, including the preservation, protection, and restoration thereof, and expresses its intent to continue working to protect and restore the estuaries of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1503 and would like to commend the sponsor of the resolution, Representative KATHY CASTOR of Florida, for her continued leadership in recognizing the importance of our Nation's estuaries.

National Estuaries Day was established in 1988 to celebrate the importance of these coastal ecosystems to the Nation's trade, commerce, industry, recreation and environmental quality and to recognize the work of national and community organizations to promote the need to preserve, protect, and restore these vital areas.

In light of the recent disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, it is clear that now, more than ever, we should pause to recognize the essential role estuaries play in economic and environmental health of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution expresses support for the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Day, which has been designated for September 25, 2010.

We have no objection to this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, Representative KATHY CASTOR of Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I would like to thank my colleague, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, very much for yielding the time and also thank my cosponsor, MIKE CASTLE, the Congressman from Delaware, for also being a leader on behalf of National Estuaries Day and thanks to the other 36 cosponsors in the House.

Estuaries are deeply connected to our Nation's economy and vital to a healthy environment. They are an integral part of our coastal ecosystems and support not only wildlife but also

human livelihoods. In these unique habitats, ecological resources and millions of jobs in tourism, fishing and other coastal industries intersect.

Estuaries have given rise to iconic port cities central to our culture, and they remain the refuge of unique species that define our environment. It is this balance that makes estuaries one of the most important ecosystems in the United States, one worth recognizing as we do here with House Resolution 1503.

Estuary regions contain 43 percent of the population, 49 percent of the economic output while occupying only 13 percent of the U.S. continental land area. As coastal regions continue to further experience development, it is important to maintain this balance between economic prosperity and ecological health.

The BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico calls attention to this delicate balance between maintaining our quality of life and sustaining our precious natural resources. Coastal health and restoration have taken on a new level of significance in light of the oil disaster, making our awareness of estuary ecosystems all the more important.

Estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, such as water filtration, flood control, erosion prevention. They also protect coastal communities during extreme weather events like hurricanes and floods.

The Tampa Bay area, my home district, is known internationally for its collaborative approach to watershed management, which has led to significant improvements in the quality of our estuary, the beautiful Tampa Bay.

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program has worked closely with the public and private sector to develop and implement a watershed management plan to bring about positive changes. The results have been obvious in Tampa Bay. Water is as clear now as it was in 1950.

We have about 10,000 more acres of sea grass now than we did in the 1980s, and we are seeing an increase of an additional 500 acres per year because of this clear, cleaner water. This is the location of an active port as well, so business and a clean and healthy environment can coexist.

Nationally, coasts and estuaries contribute more than \$800 billion annually in trade and commerce to our economy. Nearly 75 percent of all commercial fish and shellfish catch contain species that depend on estuary habitats, making ecosystems vital to commerce.

Twenty-eight million U.S. jobs are supported through commercial and recreational fishing, boating, tourism and other coastal industries that rely on healthy estuaries. Human activities are degrading estuaries at a rapid pace and threaten the health of these ecosystems unless restoration efforts are supported.

National Estuaries Day has the very worthy goals of raising awareness and

educating our constituents about estuaries and getting people excited about the natural beauty to be found there.

I ask my colleagues to vote today to support those goals and ideals by making September 25 National Estuaries Day.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 1503, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Day.

I want to thank my colleague, KATHY CASTOR, for introducing this resolution, which I have cosponsored.

We each represent coastal districts that are home to estuaries—places where the rivers meet the sea—and these estuaries are of great importance to the health of our coastal communities and environment.

In my district, the Morro Bay National Estuary is an ecological treasure.

Lagoons and wetlands that were once common along the southern California coast are nearly all filled and developed. But we are fortunate that the Morro Bay Estuary has largely survived. And we must continue to protect this natural resource.

The Estuary provides vital habitat for birds and fish. It is an important stop-over for over 150 species of migratory birds during their annual migration. And it is a critical winter home to several other bird species. The estuary also acts as a nursery for commercial fish in the area.

Since the Morro Bay Estuary was incorporated into the National Program in 1995, the inspiring team of staff and volunteers has spearheaded numerous efforts to preserve and restore the estuary.

For example, partnering with local ranchers, the Estuary Program has installed fencing along nearly 75,000 feet of creek to limit cattle access. This has protected water quality and improved riparian habitat on seven creeks.

The Program has provided funding to the City of Morro Bay to remove derelict vessels before they pollute local waters and damage habitat.

They have also established the Estuary Nature Center and WaterFest, to educate the general public about the beauty of the estuary and its importance to water quality and conservation.

In addition, dedicated volunteers collect and provide important water quality data for the Estuary Program each year. These data are critical to evaluating the health of the estuary and watershed, as well as compiling a plan to address problems.

Estuaries are among the richest habitats known on earth—providing immeasurable economic and ecological benefits. But they are threatened by human activities.

We all live in a watershed. We must understand that our actions directly affect our nation's waterways. By working together we can work to lower our impact and protect our valuable water resources.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of H. Res. 1503—to recognize National Estuaries Day and the community organizations that fight to preserve these invaluable resources.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1503.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN JAMES AUDUBON IN HENDERSON, KENTUCKY

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1508) celebrating the 200th Anniversary of John James Audubon in Henderson, Kentucky.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1508

Whereas, John James Audubon arrived in the river town of Henderson, Kentucky, in 1810 with his wife and infant son, determined to make his fortune;

Whereas, as a businessman in Henderson, he met with some initial success, and in 1816 he undertook his most ambitious project to date, building a steam-powered saw-and-grist mill in the city on the banks of the Ohio River;

Whereas, Audubon loved the frontier spirit in Henderson, and throughout his years there, he roamed the woods, observing and painting the many species of birds abundant in the area;

Whereas, Audubon ultimately lived in Henderson, Kentucky, for nine years, longer than anywhere else in the United States, during which time two of his four children were born;

Whereas, he went on to publish his ornithological works in the masterpiece, "The Birds of America";

Whereas, present-day Henderson, Kentucky, boasts the John James Audubon State Park & Museum, where Audubon's life is interpreted through his art and personal memorabilia, framed within a timeline of world events and paying reverence to its namesake through its Nature Center, which is comprised of three areas: a wildlife Observation Room; the Discovery Center with hands-on exhibits; and the Learning Center, where the park naturalist and art educator conduct environmental and art programs;

Whereas, Henderson's position on the Mississippi Flyway migration route also offers visitors the chance to take part in many of the same spectacular birdwatching opportunities that Audubon enjoyed, both at the park and at the nearby 10,000 acre Sloughs Wildlife Management Area, a National Audubon Society Important Birding Area; and

Whereas, in celebration of the bicentennial of Audubon's 1810 arrival in Henderson County, the Friends of Audubon, Ohio Valley Art League, and the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources are planning a full slate of events, which can be found at www.audubon2010.com.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors John James Audubon for his life's contribution to nature and art in Henderson, Kentucky, for 200 years and the continued showcase of his life, nature, and art at the John James Audubon State Park & Museum.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1508, a resolution introduced by our colleague, Representative ED WHITFIELD, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of John James Audubon's arrival in the town of Henderson, Kentucky.

This community on the banks of the Ohio River in western Kentucky is surrounded by rolling hills and verdant woods which were the inspiration for many of the illustrations which are published in "The Birds of America." This book was Audubon's seminal contribution to wildlife conservation and remains a valuable source of information for bird lovers across the United States.

□ 1530

John James Audubon was a pioneer in the history of wildlife conservation in the United States, and I'm pleased to support this resolution which acknowledges and celebrates his many achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution would celebrate the 200th anniversary of John James Audubon's arrival in Henderson, Kentucky. John James Audubon spent nearly a decade living in Henderson, Kentucky, and it is certainly appropriate that residents of this community would want to celebrate the accomplishments of one of its most famous citizens.

I want to compliment the author of this resolution, Congressman ED WHITFIELD, who is a classmate of mine, who worked extremely hard on this resolution.

I urge support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield such time as he may consume to, as I mentioned, the author of this resolution, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD).

Mr. WHITFIELD. I want to thank Members on both sides of the aisle for working with us on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, as it has already been said, John James Audubon came to Henderson, Kentucky, in 1810, 200 years ago this year. He was an ornithologist, naturalist, and painter. He also painted and catalogued the birds of North

America in a more precise way than any other naturalist in this Nation's history.

Not only was he a tremendous painter, he also was a great businessman, and in 1816, he brought one of the first steam-powered saw-and-grist mills on the banks of the Ohio River to Kentucky.

To commemorate John James Audubon's commitment to his community and wildlife, the Commonwealth of Kentucky dedicated the John James Audubon State Park on October 3, 1934. It is an impressive structure designed as a replica of a Norman-French inn to honor Audubon's French heritage. The museum structure has a round tower in which there is a lot of nesting birds, I must say. A cobbled courtyard with a French garden graces the immediate grounds of the museum. It also contains the world's largest oils and water colors of birds. And today, the park enjoys thousands of visitors who come and admire the work of John James Audubon.

This year their bicentennial celebration has been occurring throughout the year, and it's going to end on October 23 in Henderson with a huge gala in the community celebrating the works of John James Audubon.

I would urge the Members of the House to support this legislation, and, once again, I want to thank both sides of the aisle for working with us on it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1508.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS SEMIPOSTAL STAMP ACT OF 2010

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1454) to provide for the issuance of a Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS SEMIPOSTAL STAMP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to afford a convenient way for members of the public to contribute