

National Wildlife Refuges are a key component of our nation's conservation network. Because of the establishment of the Refuge System, wildlife of all types have a safe place to live and human beings have a place to interact with the wildlife and nature in an ecologically responsible way. The National Wildlife Refuge System has had a successful 100 years and I hope we can continue to support the system so it prospers for the next 100 years.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I join my colleagues from Florida in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Wildlife Refuge System. One hundred years ago, President Teddy Roosevelt established the first wildlife refuge, Florida's 3-acre Pelican Island. This small beginning has given rise to more than 500 National Wildlife Refuges throughout our country, demonstrating that Americans want unique places for wildlife to flourish and allow for recreation.

While Florida is home to the first refuge, my state of Vermont home to two refuges, the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge and the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge.

The Missisquoi Refuge, founded in 1943, was established to provide a resting feeding area for migratory waterfowl, and as a general wildlife refuge. It spans 6,592 acres on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain. It is a mix of hardwood forests and open fields and home to the largest heron rookery in Vermont. More than 200,000 ducks converge on the refuge each fall and most of Vermont's black terns nest on the refuge. Osprey nest on the refuge and Missisquoi River and the shoreline of Lake Champlain provide outstanding fishing opportunities.

Our Silvio O. Conte Refuge, founded in 1997, is shared with New Hampshire and Massachusetts. It was established to protect the abundance and diversity of native species throughout the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River watershed. In addition to protecting rare species, native plants and animals and their habitat, managers of this refuge are working with partners throughout New England to help control invasive species.

The wildlife and recreation opportunities provided by our refuges are made possible by the dedication of the Fish and Wildlife Service employees, who I could like to congratulate today. Without their expertise and dedication to providing visitors with hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, interpretation and environmental education opportunities, our refuge system would not be enjoying the success we are celebrating today. They provided this public service to more than 55,000 annual visitors at our 2 refuges and I hope that these classrooms of natural continue to provide children and adult alike a unique educational experience.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the thousands of volunteers nationwide who give their time and ex-

pertise to making the National Wildlife Refuge experience a memorable one for all of us.

Congratulations to all involved in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 87) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 87

Whereas March 14, 2003, will mark the Centennial Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas the United States Senate continues to fully support the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and shares President Theodore Roosevelt's view that: "Wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people who are alive today, but the property of unknown generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander";

Whereas President Theodore Roosevelt's vision in 1903 to conserve wildlife started with the plants and animals on the tiny Pelican Island on Florida's East Coast, and has flourished across the United States and its territories, allowing for the preservation of a vast array of species; and

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System of 540 refuges, that now hosts 35,000,000 visitors annually, with the help of 30,000 volunteers, is home to wildlife of almost every variety in every state of the union within an hour's drive of almost every major city: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the National Wildlife Refuge System on its Centennial Anniversary;

(2) expresses strong support for the National Wildlife Refuge System's continued success in the next 100 years and beyond;

(3) encourages the National Wildlife Refuge System in its continued efforts to broaden understanding and appreciation for the Refuge System, to increase partnerships on behalf of the National Wildlife Refuge System to better manage and monitor wildlife, and to continue its support of outdoor recreational activities; and

(4) reaffirms its commitment to continued support for the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the conservation of our Nation's rich natural heritage.

HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF JAMES L. BUCKLEY

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 88 which was submitted earlier today by Senator HATCH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 88) honoring the 80th birthday of James L. Buckley, former United States Senator for the State of New York.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 88) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 88

Whereas James Buckley served in the United States Senate with great dedication, integrity, and professionalism as a trusted colleague from the State of New York;

Whereas James Buckley served with distinction for more than a decade as a Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit;

Whereas James Buckley's long and distinguished career in public service also included serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, as Undersecretary of State for Security Assistance, and as President of Radio Free Europe;

Whereas James Buckley celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges and honors the tremendous contributions made by James Buckley during his distinguished career to the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the United States; and

(2) congratulates and expresses best wishes to James Buckley on the celebration of his 80th birthday.

HONORING FORMER GOVERNOR ORVILLE L. FREEMAN

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 89, which was introduced earlier today by Senators Dayton and Coleman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 89) honoring the life of former Governor of Minnesota Orville L. Freeman, and expressing the deepest condolences of the Senate to his family on his death.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 89) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 89

Whereas the Senate has learned with sadness of the death of former Governor of Minnesota Orville L. Freeman;