

Washington because they are at such high elevations. But in the late 1800s, local officials began stocking some of these mountain lakes with nonnative fish. By the late 1930s, the State had assumed management of this effort, and recreational fishing in these lakes became increasingly popular.

In 1968, North Cascades was designated as a national park, and in 1988, the Steven T. Mather Wilderness Area was set aside within the park. Now, all but one of these lakes are located within the Mather Wilderness Area. Stocking continued, though, through a series of National Park Service waivers, but the National Park Service has made it clear that stocking will not continue unless the practice is specifically authorized by Congress.

H.R. 2430 will provide that authorization. We have no objections to H.R. 2430.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2430 was introduced by the ranking Republican of the committee, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and has the bipartisan support of five other Members of the Washington delegation.

This legislation simply implements the recommendations of the National Park Service's 2008 final Environmental Impact Statement on mountain lakes fishery management in the North Cascades National Park.

Beginning in the 1880s, 91 of the 245 lakes within the park complex have been stocked with trout. When the North Cascades National Park was created in 1968, the Park Service continued to allow fish stocking under the supervision of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

To address subsequent questions about the environmental impact of stocking the lakes, the Park Service agreed to complete a NEPA review on fisheries management within the park. This review began in 2002 and resulted in a record of decision last year, which concluded that fish stocking could continue in 42 of these lakes without adversely affecting native ecosystems.

The legislation creating the North Cascades National Park specifically identifies fishing as an important recreational use. Although recreational fishing is called for in the park's enabling act and stocking has continued throughout its existence, the Park Service has requested that this authority be specifically authorized for it to continue.

H.R. 2430 adopts the 42 lakes identified in the Park Service's Environmental Impact Statement as a ceiling for fish stocking, directs the agency to work with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to supervise this activity, and limits stocking to native or sterile fish.

Passing this legislation will authorize fish stocking in limited circumstances in this particular park rather than relying on a waiver from

the director of the Park Service to the agency's general policy against stocking lakes. This will ensure that allowing this activity to continue where it has been carefully reviewed and found to be appropriate does not set a precedent for other Parks.

Mr. Speaker, the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee held hearings on this legislation on April 24 of last year, and it passed the House by voice vote on July 14, 2008. This bipartisan legislation has been carefully and narrowly drafted and has the support of recreation advocates, as well as State and local government. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 2430, legislation which will allow for the continued stocking of trout in mountain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, and Ross Lake National Recreation Area in my home State of Washington.

For over 100 years, sportsmen and women in the Pacific Northwest have stocked lakes in the North Cascades with trout early each summer and returned later in the year with family and friends to camp and fish.

Fish stocking brings not only recreational benefits, but also economic benefits for rural communities that rely on sportsmen and park visitors to sustain local businesses.

The practice of fish stocking is supported by both the angling community and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Earlier this year, the North Cascades National Park issued an Environmental Impact Statement supporting the continued stocking of fish.

However, a recent legal opinion issued by the National Parks Service threatens this decades-old tradition. The Parks Service has determined that, without legal clarification from Congress, they will be unable to allow fish stocking in the future.

H.R. 2430 would provide the Parks Service with the clarification it needs to continue to allow fish stocking. This legislation will authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the State of Washington, to allow sportsmen to stock native or functionally sterile trout in up to 42 alpine lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, and Ross Lake National Recreation Area.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation to protect the tradition of fish stocking in and around the North Cascades National Park.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2430, legislation to allow for the continued stocking of fish in certain alpine lakes in the North Cascades National Park Complex, including the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

Many of these lakes have been stocked since the late 19th century, long before they became part of the National Park complex. For decades, volunteer groups, working with the State of Washington, have stocked trout in a number of lakes in this area under carefully constructed management plans written by State and Park Service biologists. In addition, congressional consideration of the creation of

the North Cascades National Park clearly indicated that fish stocking should continue. More significantly, the legislation creating the Park even identifies fishing as an important recreational use.

When questions were raised about the environmental impacts of fish stocking, the Park Service prepared an Environmental Impact Statement on the fisheries in these mountain lakes. The preferred alternative selected in the final record of decision is to allow continued fish stocking in forty-two lakes where the agency has concluded there would be no adverse impact on native ecosystems. In this report the Park Service also requested explicit authority to allow fish stocking to continue within the Park.

In order to protect this longstanding practice in the North Cascades, I introduced H.R. 2430 to ensure that fish stocking can continue. After years of consultation with local leaders on this issue, it is clear to me that communities in and around the North Cascades National Park Complex want fish stocking to continue. Many tourists visit the Park for its scenic beauty as well as for its fishing opportunities, helping make fish stocking an important component of the Central Washington economy.

Finally, I would like to thank many of my Washington state colleagues who cosponsored H.R. 2430, including RICK LARSEN, NORM DICKS, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, BRIAN BAIRD and ADAM SMITH. I especially would like to note the assistance provided by NORM DICKS, whose involvement in this issue goes back to his time as a staff member in Congress. I urge all my colleagues to support this common sense legislation and ensure that local residents and all visitors to the North Cascades National Park can continue to enjoy recreational fishing as they have for more than a century.

Mr. LAMBORN. I would 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 gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2430.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY ACT OF 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 40) to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 40

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Native Americans are the descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were the original inhabitants of and who governed the lands that now constitute the United States;

(2) Native Americans have volunteered to serve in the United States Armed Forces and have served with valor in all of the Nation's military actions from the Revolutionary War through the present day, and in most of those actions, more Native Americans per capita served in the Armed Forces than any other group of Americans;

(3) Native American tribal governments included the fundamental principles of freedom of speech and separation of governmental powers;

(4) Native Americans have made distinct and significant contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

(5) Native Americans should be recognized for their contributions to the United States as local and national leaders, artists, athletes, and scholars;

(6) nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the fabric of American society will afford an opportunity for all Americans to demonstrate their respect and admiration of Native Americans for their important contributions to the political, cultural, and economic life of the United States;

(7) nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the Nation will encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in Native Americans of all ages;

(8) designation of the Friday following Thanksgiving of each year as Native American Heritage Day will underscore the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments;

(9) designation of Native American Heritage Day will encourage public elementary and secondary schools in the United States to enhance understanding of Native Americans by providing curricula and classroom instruction focusing on the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the Nation; and

(10) the Friday immediately succeeding Thanksgiving Day of each year would be an appropriate day to designate as Native American Heritage Day.

SEC. 3. HONORING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Congress encourages the people of the United States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments, and interested groups and organizations to honor Native Americans, with activities relating to—

(1) appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to observe Native American Heritage Day;

(2) the historical status of Native American tribal governments as well as the present day status of Native Americans;

(3) the cultures, traditions, and languages of Native Americans; and

(4) the rich Native American cultural legacy that all Americans enjoy today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) 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 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.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 40 honors the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States. The descendants of the original indigenous people of this great Nation have greatly contributed to our Nation's rich cultural heritage and deserve to be recognized for their contributions to the United States as national leaders, artists, athletes, scholars and patriots.

Native Americans have made distinct and significant contributions to the United States and the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art. Native Americans have distinguished themselves as notable inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars.

Tribal governments have embodied the spirit of the U.S. Constitution and the liberties of democracy since before the Founding Fathers. They enjoyed the fundamental principles of freedom of speech and separation of governmental powers that we hold so dearly. Native Americans have, and continue to be, noteworthy and tireless community activists, fair and impartial judges, and deft politicians.

With this resolution, we honor the contributions and cultural heritage of Native Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this time to congratulate and thank our colleague, Mr. BACA of California, for his hard work to bring this bill to the floor. Were it not for him, the continuing legacy of Native Americans would go unrecognized for its great achievements. Mr. BACA's dedication to all Native Americans is most admirable.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of House Joint Resolution 40.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We have no objection to the joint resolution, and in fact, we wholeheartedly support passage of this measure. This measure encourages all people in the United States to recognize the legacy, as well as the future, of Native Americans as an intrinsic part of our Nation's culture and history.

Indian Country has produced such a treasury of wisdom and talent that it is difficult to know how to begin to describe it all. From the Indian people who encountered the Pilgrims, to those who helped Lewis and Clark, from the courageous souls who fought in the Revolutionary War, to veterans of the foreign wars, from Chief Joseph, to Maria Tallchief, to Jim Thorpe; Indian

people from hundreds of different tribes have distinguished themselves across history as leaders, peacemakers, and in many walks of life. They bequeathed a legacy that inspires and enriches future generations.

It is right that this resolution encourages all Americans to recognize the day after Thanksgiving as a day to appreciate and learn more about Native Americans, and again, we support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this resolution, Congressman BACA of California.

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 40, the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009.

I would like to thank Natural Resources Chairman NICK RAHALL, Ranking Member DOC HASTINGS, and the leadership for their support and efforts in bringing this resolution to the floor.

I also would like to recognize the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, Representative CHRISTENSEN, and DOUG LAMBORN from Colorado, for their hard work in the Natural Resources Committee.

H.J. Res. 40 will help pay tribute to Native Americans for their many contributions to the United States by encouraging all Americans to observe Native American Heritage Day through appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

I have been working diligently towards an official day of recognizing for Native Americans since my time in the California legislature.

In the 110th Congress, H.J. Res. 62 was passed in both the House and the Senate and was signed by President George Bush. This bill encouraged all Americans to recognize the Friday after Thanksgiving in 2008 as Native American Heritage Day. This law was the first time in 25 years that Native Americans were honored on such a national level.

Due to House rules that restrict commemorative legislation, we are not able to have legislation on an annual basis recognizing the Native American holiday and I hope one day we will be able to do that. This legislation needed to be reintroduced to ensure that this day of recognition continues in 2009.

So in this Congress, under a new administration, I introduced H.J. Res. 40, the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009. The act encourages all Americans, the Congress, and President Barack Obama to recognize the important contributions of the Native American community.

I will work with Senator DANIEL INOUE and his colleagues to pass this resolution in the Senate and send this once again to the President for his signature. This recognition should not be just for 1 year or one Congress, but it should be for every year.

I thank Senator INOUE and the National Indian Gaming Association for their help in this Congress and for all of their efforts from the 110th Congress.

It is important that we recognize the contributions of Native Americans in all aspects of our society, including government, language, and history. Native Americans distinguished themselves throughout history as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, athletes, and scholars. People caring about people. They have made significant contributions in the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art.

We must not forget that Native Americans have fought with valor in every American war dating back to the Revolutionary War. In fact, Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups. More than 44,000 served with distinction between 1941 and 1945 in both European and Pacific theaters of war. One Native American hero many of us are familiar with is Corporal Ira Hayes, the courageous soldier immortalized forever when he helped to raise the flag at Iwo Jima.

More than 40,000 Native Americans left their reservations to work in ordnance depots, factories, and other war industries. They also invested more than \$50 million in war bonds, and contributed generously to the Red Cross and the Army and Navy Relief societies.

During the Vietnam War, over 42,000 Native Americans fought bravely, of these over 90 percent of them volunteers. Native American contributions in United States military combat continued in the 1980s and 1990s as they saw duty in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, and the Persian Gulf.

Last Congress, as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I worked with my colleagues to ensure the PBS World War II documentary "The War" included the sacrifices of both our Native American and our Hispanic heroes.

But there are many other Native American contributions away from the battlefield that also deserve to be recognized. Our history, our culture, our traditions, and what we give to our society and each of our communities is part of an integral educational process that we should do.

□ 1500

In an area near and dear to my heart—athletes—Native Americans have produced one of the greatest football players ever—Jim Thorpe. And their native languages are cultural treasures that were often used to keep the United States safe from attack—as was the case with the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II, who fought for freedom and democracy.

Last Congress—again, in my role as the chair of CHS—I fought with my colleagues to beat back harmful English-only amendments that would have threatened the continued exist-

ence of their language and their contributions to our society.

Today—through Indian gaming—Native Americans build an important economic engine that creates good-paying jobs, that can't be outsourced, in many of our communities.

In my own area, the Inland Empire of Southern California, the Pechanga and Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians both make it a point to give back to the community, along with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. My good friend James Ramos and I served to make sure that the legislation passed in the State of California.

These tribes contribute extensively to local charities and also have donated funds to counties and local governments. The funds have been used to purchase everything from police equipment to books for the classroom.

It is important for all of us to see the significant contributions of the cultures and traditions and that everyone is properly educated on the heritage and achievements of Native Americans. And I state: everybody is properly educated, without the stereotypes that have been in place.

That is why my bill encourages public schools to place a greater emphasis on teaching Native American history and culture to our children. We must ensure that future generations understand the significant cultural legacy of Native Americans to this country—the true Americans, the true heroes, and the true citizens of this country.

For many of us, the Friday after Thanksgiving is known simply as a day of shopping or a day off work or off school. It's a day to recognize what it means in recognizing those who have contributed to our country. Let us make this day a true reflection of the significant contributions of all Native Americans.

As we all know, nationwide recognition of this contribution is long overdue. I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Resolution 40, and take a firm step in honoring Native Americans. I thank both of my colleagues for supporting this legislation.

Mr. LAMBORN. I want to commend Representative BACA for his work on this issue and for his eloquent remarks. At this point I will reaffirm that we support this measure wholeheartedly.

Mr. FALCOMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Joint Resolution 40, which honors the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes.

I want to commend the sponsor of this resolution, my good friend from California, Mr. JOE BACA, for introducing such an important piece of legislation designating a day to honor and celebrate the rich traditions and cultures of our Native American heritage. I also want to thank and recognize my fellow colleagues and supporters of this joint resolution.

Today, this legislation honors the distinct and notable contributions the Native Americans have made to the United States and the rest of the world. They have achieved significant accomplishments and have made many

contributions to the many fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art. These First Americans who were here prior to the arrival of Europeans have been and always will be an integral part of our U.S. history. This resolution recognizes the contributions they have made through politics, economics, and, importantly, enriching the cultural fabric of our country.

Our Native American brothers and sisters have always volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces since the time of the Revolutionary War and they continue to serve with valor in our military today. We must also acknowledge the contributions and impact the Native Americans had on the creation of the fundamental principles that make our great country. Either through inspiring the Founding Fathers of the separation of governmental powers or providing for and the protection of freedom of speech, the Native American tribal governments are instrumental in the creation of our United States Constitution.

This day, Native American Heritage Day, will provide for the nationwide recognition of all our Native Americans who are estimated to number almost 2.5 million. It will help the American public celebrate and understand the culture and history of the many 562 federally recognized tribes as well as the other hundreds of tribes who have yet or are in the process being recognized by the states and the federal government. By way of programs, ceremonies, or activities to celebrate Native American Heritage Day or the enhancement of classroom instruction, we will better appreciate and understand the richness of the Native Americans.

In today's world, our country is more diverse than ever and it is important that we honor the Native Americans. It is imperative that we celebrate and recognize the rich cultural legacy of our first brothers and sisters.

For these reasons, I strongly urge my fellow colleagues to support this resolution honoring the First Americans.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for H.J. Res. 40, the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009. Though I was unable to vote for this measure, I would like the record to reflect that I wholeheartedly support the establishment of a Native American Heritage Day whereby all Americans can pause to remember the numerous contributions Native Americans have made to our country.

Their commitment to family, to community and our country is noteworthy and substantial. They have played important roles in our society as artists, teachers, leaders, statesmen and stateswomen, soldiers and public servants. As Native American communities across Arizona and the country seek to empower and improve their community through self-governance and strengthen the bond of the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments, we should welcome the opportunity to reflect on their past and continued contributions to the United States' society and culture.

It is an honor to have 11 tribal communities in the First Congressional District of Arizona. My commitment to serving their communities and improving their lives by working together is a natural extension of my earliest memories living and growing up on White Mountain Apache tribal lands.

Establishing Native American Heritage Day is an important step to help celebrate and preserve the cultures of Native America, and I congratulate Rep. BACA and this House for their support and recognition of Native America.

Mr. LAMBORN. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I, too, want to thank and commend Congressman BACA for this resolution. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 40, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 421) recognizing and commending the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 421

Whereas groups of local citizens and officials in western North Carolina and east Tennessee in the 1920s displayed enormous foresight in recognizing the potential benefits of a national park in the southern Appalachians;

Whereas the boundaries and location of said park were selected from among the finest examples of the most scenic and intact mountain forests in the Southeast;

Whereas its creation was the product of over two decades of determined effort by leaders of communities across western North Carolina and east Tennessee;

Whereas the State Assemblies and the Governors of those two States exercised great vision in appropriating funding, along with the Laura Spellman Rockefeller Memorial Fund for the purchase of the over 400,000 acres of private lands which had been accumulated;

Whereas the citizens of surrounding communities generously contributed to that land acquisition funding to bring the park into being;

Whereas over 1,100 families and other property owners were called upon to sacrifice their farms and homes for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations;

Whereas Great Smoky Mountains National Park was created by Congress on June 15, 1934;

Whereas Great Smoky Mountains National Park covers approximately 521,621 acres of land, in both Tennessee and North Carolina

making it the largest protected areas in the Eastern United States;

Whereas the park provides sanctuary for the most diverse flora and fauna of any national park in the temperate United States, and preserves an unparalleled collection of historic structures as a "time capsule" of Appalachian culture during the 19th and early 20th centuries;

Whereas, on September 2, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Great Smoky Mountains National Park;

Whereas the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has been America's most popular national park since it opened, and now attracts 9,000,000 to 10,000,000 visitors each year, making it the most visited of the 58 national parks; and

Whereas park visitors contribute over \$700,000,000 each year resulting in over 14,000 jobs within the States and the surrounding local economies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the citizens of east Tennessee and western North Carolina for their vision and sacrifice;

(2) commends the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the National Park Service for 75 years of successful management and preservation of the park land;

(3) congratulates the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th anniversary; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Headquarters located at 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738, for appropriate display.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, The Great Smoky Mountains National Park was created by Congress on June 15, 1934. The park now encompasses more than 520,000 acres of land in Tennessee and North Carolina, making it the largest protected area in the eastern United States. It is also our Nation's most visited national park.

This great park is world-renowned for the diversity of its plant and animal life, the beauty of its ancient mountains, and the quality of its remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture.

House Resolution 421, introduced by the gentleman from Tennessee, Representative DAVID ROE, would express the commendation of the House of Representatives to Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the National Park Service for 75 years of successful management and preservation of the park land.

Mr. Speaker, we support House Resolution 421, and urge its adoption by the House today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. I rise in support of House Resolution 421 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution celebrates one of the most popular national parks in our country. It is a beautiful part of the country that I have had the privilege of visiting on several occasions.

I congratulate Congressman ROE for bringing this resolution to the House so that we may recognize the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

At this time I would yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), whose congressional district includes about half of the Tennessee portion of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Mr. DUNCAN. I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding me this time. I rise in support of this resolution to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a resolution that was introduced by my good friend and neighbor from the First Congressional District of Tennessee, Dr. ROE.

I represent about half of the Tennessee part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Dr. ROE represents the other half of the Tennessee portion, which is, of course, the bigger portion of the national park.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the things of which those of us from east Tennessee are most proud. It has often been said that our national parks are our Nation's crown jewels. If that is true, then the Great Smoky Mountains National Park must certainly be one of the largest jewels in that crown.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is, by far, our most visited national park, with over 9 million visitors each year—approximately three times the number of visitors that go to our second and third largest national parks.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, with only 520,000 acres, seems huge to anyone who comes there. Of course, it is very small in comparison. We talk often here about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which is 19.8 million acres, which is 36 or 37 times the size of the Great Smokies, but it certainly is one of the most beautiful areas of this country. And more than 50 percent of the Nation's population lies within a day's drive of the park.

Within the park you can find more than 1,500 species of plants, over 200 species of birds, 66 species of mammals, 50 species of fish, and so on. You will also find plenty of recreation opportunities in the park, including 800 miles of hiking and horse trails, and some of the most beautiful valleys and high