

# WILDLIFE FOREVER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF HABITAT AND WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

## HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, Congress has devoted considerable resources and effort to protecting the environment over the past few decades.

Wildlife Forever, based in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, has been a visionary partner in our nation's efforts to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife.

Today, I rise to salute Wildlife Forever as it celebrates its 20th anniversary and thank all the members and volunteers for all they do to protect our precious environment.

Since 1987, Wildlife Forever has provided funding to more than 800 projects in all 50 states through private special interest conservation groups, state game and fish departments and federal agencies. Species that have received direct benefit from Wildlife Forever grants include the American bald eagle, billfish, black bear, blacktail deer, bluebirds, bluegill, Canada geese, catfish, coyote, crappie, ducks, elk, gray whale, great gray owl, grizzly bear, herons, kestrels, largemouth bass, Massasaqua rattle snake, moose, mule deer, muskie, otter, peregrine falcon, pheasant, prairie chicken, quail, ruffed grouse, salmon, sea bass, Sonoran pronghorn, songbirds, striped bass, trout, trumpeter swan, walleye, white-tailed deer, wild turkey—the list goes on and on.

Partnerships are key to Wildlife Forever's success. Project highlights over the last 20 years include: Acquisition of 32,340 acres of land for public recreation; Wetland Restoration of more than 29,400 acres; Construction and placement of more than 9,224 bird and waterfowl nesting structures; Research utilizing radio telemetry and global positioning system with elk, grizzly bear, white-tailed deer, black bear, bighorn sheep, moose, goshawks and coaster brook trout; 125,747,367 public impressions with a 'Stop Invasive Species' message; Stream improvements and riparian repair of over 240 miles; Land Management practices including controlled burns, prairie restoration, shrubby plantings, and reforestation efforts of more than 325,310 acres; Fish hatchery support producing a yield of 30,371,109 fish stocked in public lakes and streams; Placement of more than 130 Watchable Wildlife interpretive signs.

Madam Speaker, our Nation sends its thanks and gratitude to Wildlife Forever President and Chief Executive Officer Doug Grann and his entire team for all they do to protect the environment.

## TRIBUTE TO CRYSTAL CITY IN ZAVALA COUNTY, TEXAS

## HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the historic 100 year anniversary of

the founding of Crystal City in Zavala County in the great State of Texas.

In 1907, two land developers, Carl F. Groos and E.J. Buckingham, set about developing this town on the site of the 10,000-acre Cross S Ranch, which they purchased in 1905. In 1908 the arrival of a railroad set the foundation for the city's development as a processing, packing, and shipping center for vegetables, and in particular the locally grown spinach.

Originally named for its crystal clear artesian wells, today Crystal City is known as the "Spinach Capital of the World." Texas Governor James V. Alfred bestowed the title on the city after the First Annual Spinach Festival was held there in 1936. Staking claim to its spinach status, Crystal City is also home to a larger than life statue of Elzie C. Segar's Popeye. The well known sailor that is "strong to the finish 'cause he still eats his spinach" also serves as the Annual Spinach Festival mascot. Crystal City's landmark Popeye statue was erected in 1937 and dedicated "To All the World's Children."

The Spinach Festival centers on the agricultural heritage of the region and is held every second weekend in November. The three day festival attracts over 60,000 people to Crystal City and celebrates the production and consumption of spinach. Throughout its history, the festival has been recognized in issues of National Geographic, Texas Highway, and Texas Monthly magazines, and by the publishers of the Special Event Industry and Event Business News. In 1945 the California Packing Corporation, later the Del Monte Corporation, built an extensive canning plant just northwest of Crystal City.

Today, Crystal City still serves as the center for Texas's "Winter Garden" region, an area named for its year-round production of vegetables by irrigation.

This community of over 7,000 people has a historically significant past. During World War II, Crystal City was home to the largest alien internment camp housing American civilians of German, Italian and Japanese ancestry. On November 1, 1947, more than two years after the end of World War II, the Crystal City internment camp was formally closed.

In the 1960s, Crystal City was also at the center of the beginning of the Mexican-American civil rights movement. In 1969, a conflict arising from the ethnicity of cheerleaders resulted in 200 Mexican-American students staging a walk-out from the high school, that soon spread to the middle and elementary schools. The U.S. Department of Justice became involved in the dispute and ultimately negotiated a settlement that paved the way for bilingual education and better testing programs.

Crystal City's rich—and sometimes turbulent—past has made it what it is today, a shining example of a truly American community.

I am proud to represent the people of Crystal City and to recognize the city upon its 100th anniversary.

# TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PRO- GRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

## HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their insurance policies, leaving businesses vulnerable to the threat of future terrorist attacks. In response, Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, TRIA, in 2002 and extended it in 2005 to create a federal backstop to protect against terrorism related losses.

As a result, TRIA has helped make terrorism insurance available and affordable to businesses, particularly those in our major urban areas. If TRIA were allowed to expire at the end of this month, many major development projects across the country would come to a halt, putting many jobs and economic development opportunities at risk.

Although I am disappointed that the stronger House version of this legislation did not get enacted, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2761 so that this important program will continue for years to come.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL ON THEIR 2007 5A STATE FOOTBALL CHAM- PIONSHIP

## HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous pride and personal pleasure that I rise today to honor St. Paul's Episcopal School on their 2007 5A Alabama State Football Championship.

In 1947, William S. Mann founded St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile, Alabama. St. Paul's began with a class of 20 kindergartners and has grown to an enrollment of more than 1,600 students, making St. Paul's the largest Episcopal school in North America. While perhaps best known for their outstanding faculty and top-notch college-preparatory curriculum, St. Paul's is also fast becoming acknowledged around the State for having one of the best athletic programs as well. In fact, just last year St. Paul's was recognized by the Birmingham News as having the best overall sports program in the entire State of Alabama.

First-year head coach Mike Bates led the 14-1 Saints to his school's first-ever football State championship. Even though St. Paul's has a rich and proud history of winning championship trophies in many other sports, this most recent honor on the gridiron brings the number of State championships won by St. Paul's teams to three this year. Madam Speaker, these three championships mark the school's 134th, 135th, and 136th respectively in St. Paul's storied history.

Indeed, the St. Paul's Saints proved they are a team of champions in their victory on December 7, 2007, at Legion Field in Birmingham as they defeated Briarwood Christian in a thrilling 14-13 victory.