

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE DUNES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and tremendous pride that I recognize the 50th anniversary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is dedicated to preserving the lands along the southern shore of Lake Michigan that are protected within the park's boundary. Since its inception in 1966, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has acquired and maintained over 15,000 acres of land and, in doing so, it provides a home for endangered plants and animals to thrive as well as a rich natural resource for residents of, and visitors to, Northwest Indiana to enjoy. On November 5, 2015, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore launched its 50th anniversary celebration, which will run through the end of 2016.

The Indiana Dunes long served as a destination for those weary of city life to escape and reconnect to nature at the turn of the twentieth century. Chicagoans in particular found respite among the shoreline, seeking peace among the valleys of the tranquil sand dunes. In 1896, University of Chicago botanist Henry Chandler Cowles traveled to Indiana and discovered the Indiana Dunes for the first time, where he found conditions to be an ideal location to study the relationship between plants and their environment. His observations documented the unique ecology of this region, laying the foundation upon which future organizations would base their arguments for protecting this resource from industrial development by designating it as a national park.

Following the appointment of Stephen Mather as the first director of the National Park Service, hearings were held in Chicago in 1916 to weigh public opinion on the creation of "Sand Dunes National Park." Over 400 people were in attendance at this meeting and forty-two people spoke in favor of the proposal. There were no opponents to the proposal, but the United States' entry into World War I changed national priorities, and plans for the park were shelved. The Great Depression followed the war, and many worried a national park that would allow for the preservation of the dunes would never come to fruition.

Post World War II America saw much growth in industrial development, and Indiana moved to capitalize on this trend by seeking a deepwater port on Lake Michigan. Port construction would require the demolition of Central Dunes. In 1952, the Save the Dunes Council, now known as Save the Dunes, was created when a group of concerned citizens came together and took on the extraordinary task of establishing the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to protest the destruction of the dunes and protect the remaining dune complex along the shoreline. With support

from then-Senator Paul Douglas, and through the tireless efforts of many, including the Council's founder, Dorothy Buell, and activists Herb and Charlotte Read, Ruth and Ed Osann, and Sylvia Troy, as well as countless others who championed the cause, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established in 1966 when the 89th Congress passed a bill authorizing the preservation of eight miles of shore and 8,330 acres of parkland along the lake.

Throughout the last three decades, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Save the Dunes have worked tirelessly to secure the lands within the park boundary, increasing its holding to 15,000 acres. Today, people can enjoy a variety of landscapes inside the park such as dunes, wetlands, prairies, rivers, and forests. In the coming year, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will sponsor several events to celebrate its history, including a year-long lecture series, a science conference, and a youth poetry and art contest in honor of those citizens involved in the creation of the park.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Throughout the years, the staff and volunteers of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Save the Dunes, and other organizations have dedicated themselves to preserving the natural landscape of the Lake Michigan shoreline, and their passionate commitment to the park is worthy of the highest praise.

SIMPSON HOUSE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, on November 13, 2015, administrators of the Simpson House, the oldest existing retirement community in the world that is historically related to the United Methodist Church will celebrate its Sesquicentennial Anniversary; a significant milestone for the Simpson House and the City of Philadelphia.

Founded in 1865, in Philadelphia, wounded Civil War soldiers needed care. Memorialized in the Ladies' United Aid Society meeting minutes is the sentiment that compassionate Methodist women found themselves, called to work in spheres of which they had never dreamed or had the remotest idea. At the end of the Civil War, in 1865, Jane Henry, Simpson House Foundress knew experienced empowered volunteers could capably address other issues of their era. When she felt a call to ensure that aged individuals who had no money, no family and no means of supporting themselves had a safe and secure place to live, she did not sit idly by. Rather, she took decisive actions which would lead to a meet-

ing on June 14th 1865, and the founding of the Methodist Episcopal Home for the Aged, today known as Simpson House.

Dedicated volunteers and staff have led and guided the Simpson House since the beginning. They include its Founder, Jane Henry, Mrs. Ellen Holmes Verner Simpson and her husband Bishop Matthew Simpson who served as the second president and member of the Advisory Committee; Arthur & Anne Flanagan, unpretentious and generous donors; Margaret McKay Gerhart, volunteer and executive director; and The Rev. David W. Powell, Executive Director. Richard Coyle, RN, NHA, Simpson House Executive Director and Kim W. Williams, Simpson House Senior Services President and CEO are their successors and guardians of the mission.

Generous and ongoing support from many donors helps make commitment to high quality and dignified housing and health care services to the women and men of the Greater Philadelphia Region possible. The Simpson House continues its commitment to benevolent and charity care, a promise since its founding.

Today the Simpson House offers independent living apartments; personal care apartments; memory support and skilled nursing care, serving an average of three hundred senior adults per year. A committed and dedicated staff of more than three hundred employees provides these service and care.

The Simpson House Sesquicentennial Anniversary celebrates the fifteen decades of service. They are honored to serve residents who wish to share their lives and common interests in a caring and active setting. I urge this body to join with me in celebrating the Simpson House and the quality affordable care and accommodations it provides for Philadelphia's older adults.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK FOLEY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Eastham Fire Chief Mark Foley on the occasion of his retirement.

Chief Foley dedicated his professional life to public service as a firefighter and emergency services expert. Respected by all for his commitment, leadership, and professionalism, he will retire after serving his community for 28 years.

Beginning his career in the Yarmouth Fire Department, Chief Foley has proven himself a remarkable first responder, rising through the ranks to Lieutenant over the 18 years he spent in the department. He also served as the Deputy Director of the Barnstable County Fire Rescue Training Academy. Adding to his growing list of qualifications, Chief Foley took a position as the Deputy Chief of the Eastham Fire Department before ascending to the position of Chief in 2013.

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