

dedication, Jim was chosen to testify before Congress in support of the Eastern Wilderness Act, which was signed into law in 1975, and the Sipsey Wilderness, in the Bankhead National Forest, became the first wilderness designated in the act. Thanks to Jim and that determined group, generations to come will continue to enjoy pristine, undeveloped lands east of the Mississippi River. Since passage of the act, more than 140 Wilderness Areas and nearly 1.5 million acres have been protected in the eastern United States.

Like FDR, who, following in the footsteps of his “uncle” Teddy Roosevelt, left a great conservation legacy, Jim saw “an America whose rivers and valleys and lakes—hills and streams and plains—the mountains over our land and nature’s wealth deep under the earth—are protected as the rightful heritage of all the people.” Thanks to men like Jim Manasco, more than half of the people who live in Alabama enjoy outdoor recreation every year in the most biologically diverse State east of the Mississippi River and one of the most biologically diverse States in the entire country. Alabama boasts forests, woodlands, wetlands, caves, glades, beaches, and prairies, not to mention more than 4,500 documented species.

The importance of protecting and wisely managing this natural wealth cannot be overstated. In Alabama, outdoor recreation generates 135,000 direct jobs—that is more than twice the number of auto manufacturing jobs—it generates \$3.9 billion in wages and salaries and \$857 million in State and local taxes.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Jim Manasco’s other important legacy, that of Cherokee wisdomkeeper. The Cherokee played a significant role in the history of Alabama, and many Alabamians proudly claim Cherokee ancestry. Jim was long honored as a Tribal elder for his teachings about carvings on beech trees, native symbols, ceremonial knowledge, and Tribal history and for his intimate knowledge of the plants and animals that inhabit the landscape of the South. Some of this wisdom was captured in his popular book, “Walking Sipsey,” published in 1992.

Jim always downplayed his accomplishments, often saying, “Raw talent’s got nothing over dogged determination.” Well, Jim Manasco was right, and America needs more men with dogged determination to do the right thing. I hope to be one of them.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDRA ABRAHAMS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Alexandra Abrahams, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Alexandra is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she ma-

jors in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRADLEY ALDRIDGE

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Bradley Aldridge, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Bradley Aldridge is a student at the University of Central Florida, where he majors in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SAMANTHA BROWN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Samantha Brown, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Samantha is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she majors in political science and criminal justice with a minor in legal studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO FARAH FOUAD

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Farah Fouad, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Farah is a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University, where she majored in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL GILLIAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize John Paul Gillian, a 2017 spring intern in my Jacksonville, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has

done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

John Paul is a student at the University of North Florida, where he is pursuing his masters of science in management. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to John Paul for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO PETER GILLIAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Peter Gillian, a 2017 spring intern in my Jacksonville, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Peter is a student at the University of North Florida, where he is majoring in accounting. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Peter for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KYLER GRAY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Kyler Gray, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Kyler is a student at the University of Central Florida, where he majors in public administration. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE HELLMANN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Natalie Hellmann, a fall intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Natalie is a student at the Rollins College, where she majors in business administration. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ETHAN HULLIHAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Ethan Hulihan, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all