

Tishomingo Refuge. These restrictions will prevent many people from enjoying activities that have occurred since the refuge was created nearly 50 years ago. It is time to manage the refuge system on a nationwide basis and to make compatibility determinations based on clear statutory language and not emotion or individual bias.

Another issue that has caused great concern for many Americans involves the Fish and Wildlife Service's refuge land acquisition policy. When a new refuge is created or additional acreage is added to an existing unit, all traditional activities, including fishing and hunting, are prohibited until a management plan is completed. This can take several years and, in the meantime, millions of Americans are denied the opportunity to enjoy the natural resources that exist on these lands.

Finally, while the number of refuges continues to increase, there is no requirement to complete a conservation plan for each refuge. In my judgment, these plans are essential because they would identify the purposes of the refuge; the fish, wildlife, and plant populations; their habitats; any archaeological values; opportunities for fish- and wildlife-dependent recreation; potential sites for administrative or visitor facilities; and ways to correct or mitigate any problems. The general public would be strongly encouraged to participate in the writing of these plans.

Our Nation's wildlife refuge system must be managed more effectively in the future. This system, which was first envisioned by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, needs to have a statutory list of purposes, uniform guidelines to determine what activities are permissible, comprehensive conservation plans, and the enthusiastic support of the American people who finance this system not only with the payment of their tax dollars, but also by purchasing duck stamps and paying excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment.

These are the goals of the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1995. This legislation will build upon and improve current law by: making wildlife-dependent recreation, including fishing and hunting, a purpose of the refuge system; defining the term "compatible use"; allowing historical uses to continue on newly acquired lands unless those uses are determined to be incompatible; requiring conservation plans for each refuge within 15 years; providing that fishing and hunting are permitted unless a finding is made that these activities are inconsistent with either the purpose of the refuge or public safety; and emphasizing a cooperative relationship with the States who have primacy on the management of fish and wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will restore the wildlife refuge system to the goals and intent of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966. It will ensure that this system is alive and well for all our constituents in the 21st century.

This measure has been endorsed by the California Waterfowl Association, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, and the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America. Furthermore, the views of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Wildlife Management Institute have been sought and incorporated into this process.

I would urge my colleagues to join with me, JOHN DINGELL, JIM HANSEN, BILL BREWSTER, JOHN DOOLITTLE, BILLY TAUZIN, PETE GEREN,

SOLOMON ORTIZ, ELTON GALLEGLY, JIMMY HAYES, KEN CALVERT, BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN, J.D. HAYWORTH, FRANK CREMEANS, BARBARA CUBIN, WES COOLEY, JOHN SHADEGG, and J.C. WATTS in this important effort by co-sponsoring the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1995.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. POSHARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. POSHARD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CONTINUATION OF REMARKS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DORNAN. Madam Speaker, a pretty exciting and historical day today. What I wanted to do was to add to this history by keeping a promise I made last month that I would finish my remarks on what was happening 50 years ago this week. The war in Europe had ended, but the struggle for the small series of islands comprising Okinawa and a smaller group of subsidiary islands was one of the bloodiest fights of the Pacific campaign.

Before I move forward to 1945, let me point out the stories of two friends of mine. Today, 30, years ago, in 1965, my best friend in the Air Force, David Hrdlicka, was shot down over Laos. He was only TDY, down from the wing on that island of Okinawa that so many young men had died on just 20 years before, and during the 20th anniversary of that 1945 struggle there we were taking the first small steps back into combat in Asia. David was in what I thought at the time was the world's greatest aircraft. I was desperately asking the Air Force to recall me to active duty so that I could fly Mach II, the world's only Mach II, twice the speed of sound, aircraft, the F-105 Thunderchief, which was eventually nicknamed after Robert Strange, evil, McNamara's no-win war. It was the thud, semi-affectionately given that name because of the number shot down coming into the Red River Valley, into the target area over Hanoi and Haiphong, the sound of the big F-105 hitting the ground, the thuds. More Republic F-105 aircraft were lost in combat, prorated to the number of planes that flew in Southeast Asia, than any other plane in the war. It carried the major burden of bombing up north along with magnificent efforts on the part of the Navy's A-4's, F-8's, and F-4's, and then eventually A-6 Intruders.

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But the 105 was a special airplane. I remember sitting with Dave Hrdlicka in the base theater at George Air Force

base when some test pilots came over from Edwards Air Force Base, our Air Force test center, and threw up on the screen big pictures of the F-105. We had only seen pictures of the Mach-2 F-104 Starfighter a few months ago, but unlike the Starfighter, a tiny airplane, with small, 7-foot wings, the F-105 was the biggest fighter aircraft ever made, longer from the pitot boom and its nose to the tip of its vertical stabilizer than was the World War II four-engine B-17 Flying Fortress.

So there was Dave, having completed with his lovely wife Carol and their little babies, a great tour in England, flying another outstanding aircraft, the F-101 Voodoo. David flew at Bentwaters, which had the only fighter version of the F-101, all the rest were interceptors or reconnaissance versions. A unique situation to have only one Air Force wing of three squadrons in the whole world where they, a two-engine fighter, the predecessor to the four-generation, four-decade Phantom, David, I thought, was leading a charmed life from George Air Force Base in the beautiful Mojave Desert to England with all of its culture, defending Europe from the evil empire, and then home for a while and then to this great assignment at Okinawa. And suddenly here he is, flying over a country that only a few years ago became famous because of a young President's accent talking about chaos in Laos. And Dave gets hit from the ground.

Not a damaging hit to him personally, but hit the rear of the airplane, made a radio call calmly that he was going to have to eject. His wing man saw him come down into a clearing. As he was disengaging from his parachute, trying to come up on his radio, they saw men surround him, probably Communist Pathet Lao soldiers. And he was taken off into the woods at the edge of a clearing.

Years later, a photograph appears in Moscow, reprinted in the Long Beach, CA newspaper and sent to Carol where she had gone home to her family to be near a ranch which was her upbringing with young children. And somebody who knew the Hrdlickas from the Air Force said, I think this is David's picture in this Long Beach newspaper. And they sent it to Carol.

She looked. Sure enough. Dave was very distinctive, stocky, typical fighter pilot, handsome face. And Carol called the Air Force at the closest base, which was probably Lowry and said, "Where is the briefing on my husband? Here is his picture."

They were so embarrassed. I remember Carol telling me that they got the highest ranking officer in the entire area, a brigadier general, a man who knew absolutely nothing about the missing in action cause, and they sent him out to Carol Hrdlicka's house to say something, anything. It was embarrassing for her and for him.

Thirty years later to this very day, Carol is still finding out things from