

Congress authorized the establishment of a 23,000 acre national wildlife refuge in south San Francisco Bay in 1972. On October 28, 1988, President Reagan signed Public Law 100-556 authorizing the acquisition of an additional 20,000 acres, for a total of 43,000 acres. The Fish and Wildlife Service has completed the environmental assessment process for the refuge additions, and work is underway to acquire property for this regional resource.

The objectives of the refuge are to protect the wildlife resources of the south San Francisco Bay area, provide wildlife-oriented recreation, and preserve a natural area in close proximity to a large urban center. The marshes, mudflats, open water, and salt ponds form an ecosystem which supports a rich diversity of fish and wildlife. It is a major nesting and feeding area for waterfowl and shorebirds, hauling out ground for the harbor seal and habitat for three endangered species. The refuge has more than 300,000 visitors annually participating in the many opportunities for fishing, animal and bird observation, research and environmental education.

This great bay area resources exists, in no small part, thanks to the tireless work of Don Edwards, and it is altogether right and fitting that he be memorialized by having it named in his honor. Both those who were fortunate enough to have served with Don, and those who never got to know this consummate legislator and statesman, pay tribute to a life of public service by voting to pass this legislation and, in doing so, we help to honor this House and our profession as legislators.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY].

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time. I certainly want to congratulate the committee and certainly know this bill will pass with a unanimous vote in naming the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge after Dan Edwards, a great friend of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of serving with Don Edwards for a number of years. He was a wonderful Member, a fine friend of ours. He is enjoying life in traveling and visiting friends.

Mr. Speaker, he was the vice chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs when I was chairman of this great committee. He was a person easy to work with. In fact he could have been the chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee but he had to take another committee assignment.

I wish that sometime that we could name something else for Don Edwards in the veterans' field, because he was very supportive of all veterans' programs. I am proud to have had the privilege of working with him, so I congratulate the committee, and I rise in strong support for naming this refuge the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may

consume to the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON].

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to add to those who thought that Don Edwards was one of the finest individual Members ever to set foot in this House of Representatives; his decency, compassion in many fields. I just think this is an important tribute. I want to congratulate the chairman and the ranking member for taking this action.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just like to say that those of us from the bay area certainly believe that we honor our area by naming this grand refuge after Don Edwards, for all of his work.

We also believe, and I think those who had the pleasure of serving with Don and his wife Edie believe that we honor our institution when we think of the grace and the courage that they both brought to public life, in their combined service in and on behalf of so many people who strongly needed the attention of the Government to help make their lives better. People knew that you could always call on Don Edwards and on Edie to provide a voice, to provide support, to provide commitment.

So this is a very proud day for those of us who served with Don and Edie, and certainly those of us from the San Francisco Bay area and from California, as we think we honor ourselves as an institution and Members of the institution and our region with this naming.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I can only echo what has been said about Donny Edwards. He called me DONNY YOUNG, he was Donny Edwards. In fact, I had an amendment to the bill. I was going to strike out Edwards and put "Young" after "Don" in each one of them. I am confident that would kill the bill for sure.

But in reality, I would like to suggest that he was an asset to this House when he served, the time that he served with distinction. I know this area, being from California, and being much wiser in going to Alaska. I recognize the importance of this area.

This is a tribute to Mr. Edwards and his support. Maybe someday after I have left this great House, they will be able to take and name the refuge after me.

Just keep that in mind, my fellow colleagues.

I again want to express my support for this legislation in recognition of a good friend that left here. Although he and I were not many times on the same sides of issues, he was a gentleman and indeed he brought a great deal of respect to this House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] for all his help and cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, in 1972, Congressman Don Edwards sponsored legislation to establish the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. In subsequent years, the Congressman was successful in securing funds to acquire land for the refuge and to expand the boundaries of that unit.

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is more than 21,000 acres, it is a key wintering area for diving ducks along the Pacific flyway, and it supports hundreds of thousands of shorebirds. Furthermore, the refuge is comprised of valuable wetlands located around the bay and it is heavily visited by more than 250,000 people who enjoy its facilities each year. The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is the largest urban refuge in the United States.

H.R. 1253 was introduced by then Representative Norm Mineta on March 15, 1995. It was the subject of a subcommittee hearing on May 25, and the sole purpose of this legislation is to rename the refuge as the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in recognition of the former Congressman's commitment and dedication to its success.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill. It is a fitting tribute to a man who tirelessly worked for the good of this refuge for over 20 years. I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 1253.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1253.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL PARK AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEMS FREEDOM ACT OF 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2677) to require the Secretary of the Interior to accept from a State donations of services of State employees to perform, in a period of Government budgetary shutdown, otherwise