

Charlie Crary was the first person to enter the cave, and 6 years later it was reported to be 3 miles long. An early landowner was once heard saying he had "given up finding the end of Wind Cave."

For nearly 20 years, the cave was held in private ownership through mining and homestead claims. In the late 1890s, the Department of the Interior took jurisdiction over the area after it ruled that no legitimate mining development was occurring and that homesteaders were not acting in good faith to occupy the land. On January 9, 1903, President Teddy Roosevelt, one of our Nation's most revered conservationists, signed legislation creating Wind Cave National Park, the seventh national park in the country and the first ever in the world to protect a cave. Later, Wind Cave officials were put in charge of managing new parks in the Black Hills area, including Devils Tower National Monument and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, until those parks established their own management programs.

For 100 years, Wind Cave National Park has been one of the jewels of the National Park System. Today, the cave is one of the world's longest and most complex cave systems, with more than 103 miles of mapped tunnels, with more passageways still being discovered. Indeed, we may never find the cave's end. Cavers and tourists from around the world are attracted by the cave's unique boxwork, a honeycomb-shaped formation that covers the cave's ceilings and walls. And while that park's namesake is its focal point, the land above the cave is equally impressive, with 28,000 acres of rolling meadows, majestic forests, creeks, and streams. As one of the few remaining mixed-grass prairie ecosystems in the country, the park is home to abundant wildlife, such as bison, deer, elk and birds, and is a National Game Preserve.

As many of my colleagues may know, last year, I introduced the Wind Cave National Park Boundary Revision Act. This legislation would enhance Wind Cave National Park's value to the public and help visitors enjoy it even more by expanding the park in its southern "keyhole" region. This land currently is owned by a ranching family that wants to see it preserved for future generations. The land is a natural extension of the park, with mixed-grass prairie and ponderosa pine forests set off by a dramatic river canyon. The area also boasts archaeological sites, such as a buffalo jump over which early Native Americans once drove the bison they hunted. The addition of this land would enhance recreation for hikers who come for the solitude of the park's backcountry.

Wind Cave National Park is a national treasure, and I can think of no better way to help the park enter its next century than by approving this expansion. The Senate approved the expansion last November, but unfortunately, it was not considered by the

House before Congress adjourned for the year. I intend to reintroduce this legislative soon, and hope that my colleagues will again support its passage so we can permanently protect these extraordinary lands for future generations of Americans to enjoy.

I congratulate the National Park Service and the staff of Wind Cave National Park on the centennial of the park's founding, and wish them all the best for the next 100 years.●

#### HONORING JIM SEARS OF INDIANAPOLIS, IN

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Jim Sears, a fellow Hoosier, an Indiana State Police officer, a family man and a friend, who passed away on December 31, 2002.

As those who knew Trooper Sears would attest, his strong commitment to the city of Indianapolis was reflected in his distinguished career. In 1962, he became the first African American to wear an Indiana State Police uniform. He opened doors for other African Americans who aspired to become State Police officers and to break through barriers of all kinds. Marion County's first African American Sheriff, Frank Anderson was a classmate of Sears' at Short Ridge High School in 1956 and was with him on the day they both went downtown to apply for the force. State Police Superintendent Melvin Carraway referred to Sears as "our mentor."

Jim Sears' life was an example of kindness, gentleness and perseverance in the face of constant prejudice. His guiding principle was to protect the dignity of the public, especially those whom he was forced to deal with for legal infractions. He once shared that if he caught someone speeding, he would ask the person to step out of the car if children were present in an attempt to protect the children from witnessing their parent in an embarrassing situation.

Trooper Sears sought to keep others from humiliation, although often he was the recipient of cold, disparaging treatment from fellow troopers and the public because of the color of his skin. Not easily discouraged Trooper Sears remained a perfectionist and a stickler for regulations, allowing others to benefit from his shining example. In 1976, Trooper Sears and a group of other Black troopers settled a racial discrimination lawsuit with the State Police, which subsequently agreed to recruit and promote minorities. "Despite the bad things that happened, I'd do it all over again," Trooper Sears said after the settlement. "Because someone had to straighten out this mess of people not being hired strictly on color. I helped open the door."

After 15 years as a trooper, Jim Sears was transferred to the job he called "the highlight of his career," serving on the security detail for Gov. Otis Bowen from 1977 to 1980. After that detail, Sears was head of the depart-

ment's planning arm when he retired in 1992 after 30 years of service. After retirement, Jim Sears graduated from Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis and worked for the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Trooper Jim Sears opened doors for those who followed. He was a true leader and humanitarian whom the city of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana will miss tremendously.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the late Jim Sears for his lifelong service to Indiana and our Nation.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MILLARD AND HATTYE MAE BIDDLE

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 70th wedding anniversary of my dear friends Millard and Hattye Mae Biddle. Our friendship has spanned some three decades. I want to congratulate them on behalf of all Delawareans wish them both the very best in all that lies ahead.

As they celebrate this milestone in their lives, they will surely reflect on the many changes, successes, and accomplishments they have experienced together over the last 70 years. Theirs is a journey of which they can be proud.

The Biddles have lived in the Dover community for many years. For a number of those years, they owned a bed and breakfast in Wyoming, DE. At the start of my career, I worked in Kent County and lived in New Castle County in the northern part of our State. Their trademark hospitality was in full swing. I stayed so often as their guest, they finally gave me my own bedroom and a key to the House! They have always made me feel like a member of their family, and their home became, in many ways, mine as well.

Both Millard and Hattye Mae have lived their lives in the service of others. Long before it was popular, Hattye Mae recognized the tremendous need for early childhood education for kindergartners and preschool children in Kent County. She started a successful preschool called the Little School. Both the school and its students—hundreds of them—have grown up, stronger under her watchful eye.

Hattye Mae volunteers at the Old State House in Dover, giving tours to the many visitors. She has served as a member of the board of directors and is now an honorary member of the Board of Directors of Kent/Sussex Industries, a nonprofit organization that provides work opportunities for Delawareans each year. And no July in Harrington is complete without seeing her sweet smile at the annual Delaware State Fair.

Millard started his career delivering milk for the Frear Milk Company. After serving in World War II, Millard opened a grocery store. He returned to public service as a Kent County assessor shortly thereafter, from which he happily retired.