

Oct. 9 / Administration of George Bush, 1992

cians but as leaders and as human beings, and ask who best reflects your values, and vote for who you trust to lead America at home and abroad.

Barbara and I have tried to uphold the trust of the American people every day we have been in that White House. I hope we have earned your support. Ohio is important. I ask you to work hard. Give me

your vote. We have changed the world, and now let's lift everyone up in America and change America.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you very much. Thanks for coming.

Note: The President spoke at 6:03 p.m. at Port Columbus International Airport.

Statement on Signing the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Act of 1992

October 9, 1992

I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 1435, the "Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Act of 1992." This Act provides for the future establishment of a national wildlife refuge at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal immediately outside of Denver, Colorado. The refuge will be a unique addition to the National Wildlife Refuge System, for both the natural resources it supports and the fish and wildlife-related public uses it provides for Denver residents and all Americans.

The 26 square miles of land at the Arsenal have provided valuable wildlife habitat for many species since the Arsenal was established in 1942. Despite some of the land being contaminated by military and industrial use, the Arsenal continues to host wildlife populations rarely found in such proximity to a major urban area.

A significant population of endangered bald eagles, averaging nearly 100 birds, winters there, along with an extraordinarily high number of hawks. Extensive prairie dog towns cover over 5,000 acres at the Arsenal, and deer, coyotes, burrowing owls, migratory waterfowl, and other species are readily observable.

An essential objective of this Administration is to develop increased opportunities for urban populations to learn about wildlife and the environment. Approximately 50,000 visitors have toured the Arsenal in the past 2 years to view its wildlife and learn about the ongoing contaminant cleanup. Once the refuge is established, the site will educate

and enthrall thousands more.

We have done an outstanding job to date of implementing the remediation process at the Arsenal while preserving its wildlife. This legislation, the result of close and bipartisan cooperation between the Administration and members of the Colorado congressional delegation, builds on that effort.

The Act ensures that the ongoing Superfund cleanup process will fully protect humans and the environment and will not be altered by the ultimate designation of the area as a wildlife refuge. Once the Environmental Protection Agency certifies that the remediation process is complete, the Arsenal will officially become the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

The Act also acknowledges the need to coordinate management of the refuge with the operation of the nearby Denver International Airport, which will open next year.

The very idea of converting the Rocky Mountain Arsenal into a national wildlife refuge would have been inconceivable a few years ago. Our success in doing so demonstrates that, when we focus on opportunities rather than problems, we can match the resilience of nature with human ingenuity. In signing H.R. 1435, I applaud this approach to resolving the Nation's environmental problems and urge its application to other challenges that confront us.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
October 9, 1992.

Note: H.R. 1435, approved October 9, was assigned Public Law No. 102-402.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Report of the White House Conference on Indian Education

October 9, 1992

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 5502 of Public Law 100-297, as amended by section 306 of Public Law 102-27, requires that I submit to the Congress the final report of the White House Conference on Indian Education and recommendations with respect to the report.

Enclosed are a "Response to the Recommendations of the Report of the White House Conference on Indian Education,"

the final report of the Conference, and an executive summary.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

Note: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dan Quayle, President of the Senate.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Death of Willy Brandt

October 9, 1992

The President was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of a great German statesman and patriot, Willy Brandt.

Willy Brandt was a towering figure of the postwar era, a man of vision and courage. History will crown him as a stalwart champion of freedom and democracy, who, as Governing Mayor of Berlin during the city's darkest days, fearlessly faced down a Soviet menace that threatened the lives and ideals of his beloved city and people. History will also record his as a powerful voice for reconciliation between East and West. First as Foreign Minister and then as Chancellor, he actively pursued a relaxation of tension in Europe that made the world a safer place for us all. The collapse of communism and the onward march of democracy in Eastern

Europe and the former Soviet Union soundly vindicate his bold vision of two decades ago.

Americans will remember Willy Brandt not only as a champion of freedom and democracy but also as a steadfast friend of the United States. His strong support of the transatlantic community reflected his belief that close German-American cooperation was crucial to the preservation of peace and promotion of freedom and democracy.

Together with our German friends and all those who fought in the causes to which Willy Brandt dedicated his life, the American people mourn his loss.