

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 62

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah National Park.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah National Park.

Whereas this historical milestone for Shenandoah National Park corresponds with the Civil War sesquicentennial, enriching the heritage of both the Commonwealth of Virginia and our Nation;

Whereas, in the early to mid-1920s, with the efforts of the citizen-driven Shenandoah Valley, Inc., and the Shenandoah National Park Association, the congressionally appointed Southern Appalachian National Park Committee recommended that Congress authorize the establishment of a national park in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia for the purposes of uniting the western national park experience to the populated eastern seaboard;

Whereas, in 1935, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes accepted the land deeds from the Commonwealth of Virginia and, on July 3, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Shenandoah National Park “to this and to succeeding generations for the recreation and recreation they would find”;

Whereas the Appalachian Mountains extend through 200,000 acres of the Shenandoah National Park and borders eight Virginia counties of Albemarle, Augusta, Greene, Madison, Page, Rappahannock, Rockingham, and Warren;

Whereas the Shenandoah National Park is home to a diverse ecosystem of 103 rare and endangered species, 1,405 plant species, 51 mammal species, 36 fish species, 26 reptile species, 23 amphibian species, and more than 200 bird species;

Whereas the proximity of the Shenandoah National Park to heavily populated areas, including the Nation’s capital, promotes regional travel and tourism in partnership with its gateway communities, providing thousands of jobs and contributing millions of dollars to the economic vitality of the region;

Whereas the Shenandoah National Park, rich with recreational opportunities, offers 520 miles of hiking trails, 200 miles of which are designated horse trails and 101 miles of which are part of the 2,175-mile Appalachian National Historic Trail; over 90 fishable streams; four campgrounds; seven picnic areas; three lodges; six backcountry cabins; and an extensive, rugged backcountry open to wilderness camping to the millions of people who annually visit the park;

Whereas the park protects significant cultural resources including a National Historic Landmark (Rapidan Camp, once a summer retreat for President Herbert Hoover); a Historic District (all of Skyline Drive) listed on the National Register of Historic Places; a structure (Massanutten Lodge) individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places; 360 buildings and structures included on the List of Classified Structures; 577 significant, recorded archaeological sites, 11 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and more than 100 historic cemeteries;

Whereas Congress named ten battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley for preservation in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission Act of 1996 and the Shenandoah National Park, an integral partner in this endeavor, provides visitors with outstanding views of strategic locations vital to the Civil War legacy in their pristine, natural landscapes;

Whereas the Shenandoah National Park protects both tangible and intangible resources, including the heritage of the American people through the rigorous commitments of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the advancement of Civil Rights as Shenandoah's "separate but equal" facilities became the first to desegregate in Virginia;

Whereas, on October 20, 1975, Congress passed legislation designating 79,579 acres within the Shenandoah National Park's boundaries as wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act which protects the wilderness character of the lands "for the permanent good of the whole people;"; and

Whereas this exemplary National Park unit deserves the support of Congress to preserve the ecological and cultural

integrity, maintain the infrastructure, and protect the famously scenic views of the Shenandoah Valley: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) commemorates the 75th anniversary of the
4 dedication of Shenandoah National Park; and

5 (2) acknowledges the historic and enduring scenic,
6 recreational, and economic value of this unique
7 national treasure.

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