

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 24

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah
National Park.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2011

Mr. WEBB (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following concurrent
resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the dedication of
Shenandoah National Park.

Whereas the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah National Park corresponds with the Civil War sesquicentennial, enriching the heritage of both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States;

Whereas in the early to mid-1920s, as a result of 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 purpose of providing the western national park experience to the populated eastern seaboard;

Whereas, in 1935, the Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, accepted the land deeds for what would become Shenandoah National Park 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 Shenandoah National Park and border the 8 Virginia counties of Albemarle, Augusta, Greene, Madison, Page, Rappahannock, Rockingham, and Warren;

Whereas 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 Shenandoah National Park to heavily populated areas, including Washington, District of Columbia, promotes regional travel and tourism, providing thousands of jobs and contributing millions of dollars to the economic vitality of the region;

Whereas 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, more than 90 fishable streams, 4 campgrounds, 7 picnic areas, 3 lodges, 6 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—

- (1) Rapidan Camp, once a summer retreat for President Herbert Hoover and now a national historic landmark;
- (2) Skyline Drive, a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places;
- (3) Massanutten Lodge, a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places;
- (4) 360 buildings and structures included on the List of Classified Structures;
- (5) 577 significant, recorded archeological sites, 11 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and
- (6) more than 100 historic cemeteries;

Whereas Congress named 10 battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley for preservation in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission Act of 1996 (section 606 of Public Law 104–333; 110 Stat. 4174), and Shenandoah National Park, an integral partner in that endeavor, provides visitors with outstanding views of pristine, natural landscapes that are vital to the Civil War legacy;

Whereas Shenandoah National Park also protects intangible resources, including aspects of the heritage of the people of the United States 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, 1976, Public Law 94–567 was enacted, designating 79,579 acres within Shenandoah National Park’s boundaries as wilderness under the Wilder-

ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), which protects the wilderness character of the lands “for the permanent good of the whole people”; and

Whereas Congress should support efforts to preserve the ecological and cultural integrity of Shenandoah National Park, maintain the infrastructure of the Park, and protect the famously scenic views of the Shenandoah Valley: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
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 the Park.

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