

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4241

To amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness, to amend the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 to designate the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 1996

Mr. DEUTSCH (for himself and Mr. GOSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness, to amend the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 to designate the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Marjory Stoneman Douglas, through her
6 book, “The Everglades: River of Grass” (1947), de-
7 fined the Everglades for the American people and

1 for the world. Her book was the first to stimulate
2 widespread understanding of the Everglades eco-
3 system and ultimately served to awaken the desire to
4 restore its health.

5 (2) In her 106th year, Mrs. Douglas is the sole
6 surviving member of the original group of people
7 who devoted decades of selfless effort to establish
8 Everglades National Park.

9 (3) When the water supply and ecology of the
10 Everglades, both within and outside the park, be-
11 came threatened by drainage and development, Mrs.
12 Douglas dedicated the balance of her life to the de-
13 fense of the Everglades through extraordinary per-
14 sonal effort and by inspiring countless others to take
15 action.

16 (4) For these and many other accomplishments,
17 the President awarded Mrs. Douglas the Medal of
18 Freedom on Earth Day, 1994.

19 (5) Ernest F. Coe (1886–1951) was a leader in
20 the creation of Everglades National Park. He orga-
21 nized the Tropic Everglades National Park Associa-
22 tion in 1928 and was widely regarded as the “Fa-
23 ther of Everglades National Park”.

24 (6) As a landscape architect, Mr. Coe’s vision
25 for the park recognized the need to protect south

1 Florida’s diverse wildlife and their habitats for fu-
2 ture generations. His original park proposal included
3 lands and waters subsequently protected within Ev-
4 erglades National Park, the Big Cypress National
5 Preserve, and the Florida Keys National Marine
6 Sanctuary.

7 (7) Mr. Coe’s leadership, selfless devotion, and
8 commitment to achieving this vision culminated in
9 the authorization of Everglades National Park by
10 Congress in 1934. Afterwards, Mr. Coe fought tire-
11 lessly and lobbied strenuously for establishment of
12 the park, finally realizing his dream in 1947. He ac-
13 complished much of this work at his own expense,
14 which dramatically demonstrated his commitment to
15 establishment of the park.

16 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to com-
17 memorate the vision, leadership, and enduring contribu-
18 tions of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Ernest F. Coe
19 in the protection of the Everglades and the establishment
20 of Everglades National Park.

21 **SEC. 2. MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS.**

22 Section 401(3) of the National Parks and Recreation
23 Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–625; 92 Stat. 3490) is hereby
24 amended by striking out “to be known as the Everglades
25 Wilderness” and inserting in lieu thereof “to be known

1 as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness” to com-
2 memorate the vision and leadership shown by Mrs. Doug-
3 las in the protection of the Everglades and the establish-
4 ment of Everglades National Park.

5 **SEC. 3. ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.**

6 Section 103 of the Everglades National Park Protec-
7 tion and Expansion Act of 1989 (Public Law 101–229)
8 is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the follow-
9 ing new subsection:

10 “(f) ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.—Upon com-
11 pletion of construction of the main visitor center facility
12 at Everglades National Park headquarters, the Secretary
13 of the Interior shall designate the visitor center facility
14 as ‘The Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center’ to commemorate
15 the vision and leadership shown by Mr. Coe in the estab-
16 lishment and protection of Everglades National Park.”.

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