

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 931

AN ACT

To designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Marjory Stoneman
5 Douglas Wilderness and Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center
6 Designation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1)(A) Marjory Stoneman Douglas, through her
4 book, “The Everglades: River of Grass” (published
5 in 1947), defined the Everglades for the people of
6 the United States and the world;

7 (B) Mrs. Douglas’s book was the first to stimu-
8 late widespread understanding of the Everglades
9 ecosystem and ultimately served to awaken the de-
10 sire of the people of the United States to restore the
11 ecosystem’s health;

12 (C) in her 107th year, Mrs. Douglas is the sole
13 surviving member of the original group of people
14 who devoted decades of selfless effort to establish
15 the Everglades National Park;

16 (D) when the water supply and ecology of the
17 Everglades, both within and outside the park, be-
18 came threatened by drainage and development, Mrs.
19 Douglas dedicated the balance of her life to the de-
20 fense of the Everglades through extraordinary per-
21 sonal effort and by inspiring countless other people
22 to take action;

23 (E) for these and many other accomplishments,
24 the President awarded Mrs. Douglas the Medal of
25 Freedom on Earth Day, 1994; and

1 (2)(A) Ernest F. Coe (1886–1951) was a leader
2 in the creation of Everglades National Park;

3 (B) Mr. Coe organized the Tropic Everglades
4 National Park Association in 1928 and was widely
5 regarded as the father of Everglades National Park;

6 (C) as a landscape architect, Mr. Coe’s vision
7 for the park recognized the need to protect south
8 Florida’s diverse wildlife and habitats for future
9 generations;

10 (D) Mr. Coe’s original park proposal included
11 lands and waters subsequently protected within the
12 Everglades National Park, the Big Cypress National
13 Preserve, and the Florida Keys National Marine
14 Sanctuary; and

15 (E)(i) Mr. Coe’s leadership, selfless devotion,
16 and commitment to achieving his vision culminated
17 in the authorization of the Everglades National Park
18 by Congress in 1934;

19 (ii) after authorization of the park, Mr. Coe
20 fought tirelessly and lobbied strenuously for estab-
21 lishment of the park, finally realizing his dream in
22 1947; and

23 (iii) Mr. Coe accomplished much of the work
24 described in this paragraph at his own expense,

1 which dramatically demonstrated his commitment to
2 establishment of Everglades National Park.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to com-
4 memorate the vision, leadership, and enduring contribu-
5 tions of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Ernest F. Coe
6 to the protection of the Everglades and the establishment
7 of Everglades National Park.

8 **SEC. 3. MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS.**

9 (a) REDESIGNATION.—Section 401(3) of the Na-
10 tional Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–
11 625; 92 Stat. 3490; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is amended by
12 striking “to be known as the Everglades Wilderness” and
13 inserting “to be known as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas
14 Wilderness, to commemorate the vision and leadership
15 shown by Mrs. Douglas in the protection of the Everglades
16 and the establishment of the Everglades National Park”.

17 (b) NOTICE OF REDESIGNATION.—The Secretary of
18 the Interior shall provide such notification of the redesign-
19 nation made by the amendment made by subsection (a)
20 by signs, materials, maps, markers, interpretive programs,
21 and other means (including changes in signs, materials,
22 maps, and markers in existence before the date of enact-
23 ment of this Act) as will adequately inform the public of
24 the redesignation of the wilderness area and the reasons
25 for the redesignation.

1 (c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
2 tion, document, record, map, or other paper of the United
3 States to the “Everglades Wilderness” shall be deemed to
4 be a reference to the “Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilder-
5 ness”.

6 **SEC. 4. ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.**

7 (a) DESIGNATION.—Section 103 of the Everglades
8 National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 (16
9 U.S.C. 410r-7) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing new subsection:

11 “(f) ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.—On comple-
12 tion of construction of the main visitor center facility at
13 the headquarters of Everglades National Park, the Sec-
14 retary shall designate the visitor center facility as the ‘Er-
15 nest F. Coe Visitor Center’, to commemorate the vision
16 and leadership shown by Mr. Coe in the establishment and
17 protection of Everglades National Park.”.

18 **SEC. 5. CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

19 Section 103 of the Everglades National Park Protec-
20 tion and Expansion Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 410r-7) is
21 amended—

22 (1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking
23 “personally-owned” and inserting “personally-
24 owned”; and

1 (2) in subsection (e), by striking “VISITOR
2 CENTER” and inserting “MARJORY STONEMAN
3 DOUGLAS VISITOR CENTER”.

Passed the Senate September 16, 1997.

Attest:

Secretary.

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