

REFERENCE TITLE: civilian conservation corps; recognition

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Introduced by
Representatives Saldate, Cardenas, Coleman, Wheeler: Hale, Larkin,
Lawrence, Meyer, Petersen, Rios, Shope, Senator Allen

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WORKERS WHO SERVED IN THE
CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS PROGRAM IN ARIZONA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, on March 9, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the
2 73rd Congress into emergency session to propose a program to address rampant
3 unemployment and the destruction and erosion of our nation's natural
4 resources by recruiting thousands of unemployed young men for a peacetime
5 conservation and natural resources army, which came to be known as
6 "Roosevelt's Tree Army"; and

7 Whereas, President Roosevelt's plan was adopted and the Civilian
8 Conservation Corps (CCC) was created on the signing of the Emergency
9 Conservation Work Act on March 31, 1933, resulting in the establishment of
10 one of the first of President Roosevelt's New Deal programs; and

11 Whereas, the CCC was close to the heart of President Roosevelt as it
12 combined his interests in conservation and universal service for youth; and

13 Whereas, the first CCC camp opened on April 14, 1933 and thousands more
14 followed. Throughout the course of the CCC's existence, there were nearly
15 three million enrollees. Among their many accomplishments, the CCC enrollees
16 paved 125,000 miles of roadways, strung 89,000 miles of telephone lines,
17 created 13,100 miles of foot trails, developed 800 state parks, built 97,000
18 miles of fire roads, planted 3 billion trees, developed 52,000 acres of
19 public campgrounds, erected 3,470 fire towers, improved 3,462 beaches and
20 built 46,854 bridges; and

21 Whereas, in Arizona alone, there were approximately 50 CCC camps that
22 employed a total of 41,363 men. Between 1933 and 1942, CCC enrollees in
23 Arizona strung 3,559 miles of telephone lines, built 512,093 erosion control
24 check dams and planted 7.4 million trees; and

25 Whereas, the CCC was responsible for unprecedented infrastructure
26 improvements throughout the Grand Canyon National Park. Among other
27 projects, the CCC enrollees constructed campgrounds, trails, fences, fire
28 roads, warehouse buildings, water and sewer lines, ranger residences, stone
29 walls and water reservoirs. They also fought fires, maintained the trails,
30 assisted with rescues, plowed snow and staffed visitor centers. According to
31 one estimate, 50 years of work was accomplished at the Grand Canyon in a
32 little over nine years; and

33 Whereas, between 1933 and 1940, 4,000 men worked out of two camps at
34 South Mountain Park in Phoenix. During this time, the men constructed over
35 40 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, 18 buildings, 15 ramadas, 134 fire
36 pits, 30 water faucets, water dams and other features within the park; and

37 Whereas, during the months of December 1936 through March 1937, there
38 were record snowfalls across northern Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and
39 southern Utah. The CCC's response to this event clearly displayed the CCC's
40 skill and effectiveness. During this four-month period, the CCC devoted
41 nearly all of its resources to rescue efforts. As a result of their labors,
42 many stranded people and wildlife were rescued, and hundreds of thousands of
43 sheep and cattle were saved from starvation; and

1 Whereas, the product of the proficient labor of the dedicated men of
2 the CCC continues to enrich and fortify the beauty, natural resources and
3 economic development of communities in Arizona and across the United States.
4 Therefore
5 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the
6 Senate concurring:
7 That the Members of the Legislature honor and recognize the remarkable
8 efforts and accomplishments of the thousands of workers who served in the CCC
9 program in Arizona.