

church that actively practiced segregation. It was this realization that pushed him into civil rights activism.

In 1942, he founded the Congress of Racial Equality in Chicago, and in 1947, he held the first Freedom Ride. He was beaten, arrested, and served time in prison. He was encouraged to let things settle down in the South, to let them cool off. Mr. Farmer, however, refused to back down. In 1963 he was attacked at a demonstration he had organized in Louisiana. State troopers came after him with guns, cattle prods, and tear gas, but he escaped with the help of a funeral director who drove him through the police cordon in a hearse. Although he had planned to attend the March On Washington, he was arrested in Louisiana for disturbing the peace and had to settle for watching Martin Luther King make him famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the television.

After the leadership of the Congress of Racial Equality changed hands, he surprised some civil rights leaders by joining the Nixon administration as an assistant secretary in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He knew that if African Americans were ever to have any say in national policy on race, then they had to be active in the government. Mr. Farmer recognized the potential in the position and used it to persuade the administration to approve funds for the Head Start program in Southern States. His response to those who thought he was abandoning the movement was that he saw himself as a bridge. "I lived in two worlds. One was the volatile and explosive one of the new black Jacobins and the other was the sophisticated and genteel world of the white and black liberal establishment. As a bridge, I was called on by each side for help in contacting the other."

Indeed, Mr. Farmer's concept of two worlds was what fueled his passion for equality. He often reminisced of his childhood before and after he became aware of discrimination. Growing up around colleges, he was sheltered from much of the racism that surrounded him. It wasn't until he discovered that he couldn't go wherever he wanted that he even realized he was any different from others.

At three years old, what he wanted was a soda, not social change. Given his young age and his sheltered upbringing, he couldn't understand why he couldn't use the money his father had given him to go and buy one at the drug store on the way home. He cried and pleaded to no avail. Finally his mother told him he couldn't buy a soda because it was a "whites-only" drug store, and he wasn't allowed to enter. Then she cried. And that was the day that young Mr. Farmer became determined to do something about it. He vowed to destroy segregation.

It was this same determination that got him through sitting in the "buzzard's roost," the segregated balcony in the cinema near Wiley College. And it was this same determination that put him on board the Freedom Ride to Jackson, Mississippi. He later called his organization of the Freedom Ride his proudest achievement.

Mr. Farmer had many achievements of which to be proud. I consider it an honor to have been a part of the driving force behind his most recent accomplishment which occurred just last year. On January 15, 1998, President Clinton awarded James Farmer the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest ci-

vilian honor the United States of America gives. For Mr. Farmer, it was the crowning moment on a rich past of activism and determination. "It's a vindication, an acknowledgment at long last. I'm grateful it came before I died." At 79, Mr. Farmer finally received his soda.

As we celebrate the life of James Farmer, let us remember one of his last lessons to us all. He said that we have beaten segregation, we have beaten Jim Crow. Now we have to beat racism, and it's going to take all of us to do it.

JOHN MICHAEL HURLEY

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a long time friend, John Michael Hurley of my district. John passed from this life on June 10, 1999.

John made his career in public service, first in the Armed Forces where he served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps Reserves, and Air Force. Upon his retirement from the Air Force he began a career with the City of Toledo's Streets, Bridges & Harbors Division until his 1992 retirement. While employed with the city, he rose to the top leadership post of AFSCME Local 7. He worked for the union as steward, divisional steward, chief steward, and president. He also served AFSCME Ohio Council 8 as regional vice president, and was a board member of Ohio's Public Employees Retirement System. Throughout that service, the quality guarded the hard fought rights of working people throughout our community and state.

In addition to his civil service, John was also an active member of local veterans organizations, belonging to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Northwood Post #2984 and American Legion Conn Weisenberger Post #587. Rounding out his service to community and country, John coached Toledo's North End Lorange Lions Baseball Team.

A family man, John was the proud father of Angela, Laura, Lillian, Nicole, Patrick, Andrew, David, and Kelly, and doting grandfather to 21 grandchildren. Our condolences to them, his wife Joanne, and his sisters and brothers. May they gain some small comfort in knowing the spirit and fire of John Hurley is carried through in each of them. The people of our community have been touched with his strength and kindness and our nation expresses its gratitude for his service to our country.

WEKIVA WILD AND SCENIC RIVER  
ACT OF 1999

**HON. BILL McCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Act of 1999, designating the Wekiva River and its tributaries of Rock Springs Run and Seminole Creek for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In the 104th Congress, legislation was signed into law to authorize a study of the Wekiva River by the Department of Interior to determine whether it is eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The National Parks Service recently completed this study and concluded that the Wekiva River system is an excellent candidate for receiving this designation.

This legislation would allow the Wekiva River and its tributaries to join the Loxahatchee as Florida's second river to receive this designation. The Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Act of 1999 provides Congressional designation of 41.6 miles of eligible and suitable portions of the Wekiva River, Rock Springs Run, Seminole Creek, and Black Water Creek with State management and the establishment of a coordinated Federal, State, and local management committee (Alternative C of the study). As the report states, the Wekiva River area provides "outstanding remarkable resources" which makes it eligible for this national designation.

For more than 30 years, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has been safeguarding some of our most precious rivers across the country. In October of 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act pronounced that certain selected rivers of the nation which possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Designated rivers receive protection to preserve their free-flowing condition, to protect the water quality and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.

Furthermore, this legislation recognizes the efforts that have been initiated at the local and state level through the local coordinated management committee. This committee will be responsible for determining and implementing the comprehensive management plan for the Wekiva River under this designation and will be composed of a representative from each of the following agencies: Department of Interior, through the National Park Service; The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council; The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Wekiva River GEOPark; The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Wekiva River Aquatic Preserve; The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Planning and Coordination; The Florida Department of Agriculture and Community Affairs, Seminole State Forest; The Florida Audubon Society; The Friends of the Wekiva; The Lake County Water Authority; The Lake County Planning Department; The Orange County Parks and Recreational Department; The Seminole County Planning Department; The St. Johns River Management District; and The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Floridians are blessed with some of the most rich and engaging natural resources in the world. Every year thousands of people come to Florida to enjoy our rivers and oceans. Located in Central Florida, the Wekiva River Basin is a complex ecological system of rivers, springs, lakes, and streams with many indigenous varieties of vegetation and wildlife which are dependent on this water system. Included in this area are several distinct recreational, natural, historic and cultural