

Baseball player, I appreciate their athletic excellence. As a United States Senator from Kentucky, I appreciate the dignity and decorum with which they played.

I am proud to read the names of these teammates into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today. They are Whitney Atcher, Alicia Ewen, Jodi Pence, Jennifer Young, Jennifer Kisselbaugh, Tiffany Dean, Courtney Roller, Holly Goemmer, Jessica McGohon, Krystle Johnson, Kasey Graham, and Jennifer Johnson.

The citizens of Kentucky should be proud of these young ladies. Their example of dedication and hard work should be an inspiration to the entire Commonwealth. I wish them continued success both on and off the softball field.●

IN RECOGNITION OF SENATOR CARPER'S NATIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

● Mr. CARPER. Madam President, today I give thanks to the members of my National Parks Committee in Delaware for all of their efforts, time, and dedication in attempting to establish a national park in Delaware.

Delaware is the only State that does not have a national park, national monument, national historic site or any other unit of the National Park Service. It is through the hard work of the members of this committee that we have narrowed down the search in recommending the first national park in the First State.

I began the process of trying to establish a national park in 2002. My staff and I took suggestions from the public via surveys, a web poll, and phone calls. We received hundreds of responses, and suggestions ranged from Fort DuPont to Cape Henlopen State Park to the Underground Railroad to the World War II Towers. After several months of hearing what the public recommended, I established the National Parks Committee in 2003.

The committee was comprised of 12 people, including Dr. James Soles, the head of the committee, Dr. Wilma Mishoe, Ms. Norma Lee Derrickson, the Honorable John Schroeder, Mr. O. Francis Biondi, Mr. Ernst Dannemann, Dr. Linda Johnson-Gilliam, Ms. Jane Richter, Ms. Maria Matos, Mr. Ruly Carpenter, Mr. Bill Powers and Mr. Edwin Mongan III. For several months, the members met and discussed extensively each of the suggestions offered by the public. They held workshops in each county whereby the public could attend, participate and offer suggestions. They took a tour of the proposed sites to determine which location would make the best national park.

After months of deliberation, the committee came to its final recommendation: the creation of "The Delaware National Coastal Heritage Park." This National Park would memorialize the rich and diverse history of Delaware's coastal areas, bringing

that history and related attractions into sharp focus for area residents and visitors alike.

This park would be unique among national parks in both its physical dimensions and its theme. Physically, the park would be comprised of a series of four interpretive centers. The centers would largely direct visitors to already existing attractions related to the theme of the park—that is that Delaware's coastal region is comprised of a series of historic, cultural and natural interwoven threads that hold great significance in the history of both Delaware and the United States.

The concept of the unit recognizes that Delaware's coastal region is a near perfect microcosm of America's coastal regions and that they have always played a key role in human activity. It recognizes that the fabric that makes up our Nation is in turn made up of many threads of human and natural activity and that most of those threads have their origins in coastal regions like Delaware's.

In the First State, these threads start with the development of the earliest human settlers in the area and run through to some of the most sophisticated human activities of modern times. Among the most significant are the history of the first European settlers in the Delaware Valley who built Fort Christina in 1638, the development of coastal defenses from the beaches of Cape Henlopen on the Atlantic Ocean to Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River and, the successful operation of the Underground Railroad, by which thousands of enslaved Africans found their way to freedom along Delaware's ocean, bay and river coastline. Other threads include: the history of the Native American tribes such as the Leni Lenape in what is now Delaware, the arrival of the Finns and the Swedes at the Rocks in Wilmington, the increased influence of the English and Dutch as European immigration grew, the development of transportation and commerce along the same waterways starting with the earliest explorers and extending to today's ultra modern Port of Wilmington, the expansion of modern industry including the early gunpowder factories of Irene DuPont, the rise of the chemical industry and today's two modern auto assembly plants and the credit card giants that dominate Wilmington's skyline, Delaware's significant contributions to the development of our constitutional republic, including Delaware's historic vote at the Golden Fleece Tavern in Dover to ratify the Constitution of 1787, making it the first State to do so, and the beautiful and ecologically important natural areas along the coast that are already preserved as wildlife refuges.

These threads will be highlighted and showcased in a format unique to the National Park system. The park will be structured much like a series of four bicycle wheels, each with a hub and spokes. The hubs will be interpretive centers located strategically along the

coast line. The spokes will be the multitude of attractions and sites that relate to the various threads described above.

The "gateway" or "headquarters" hub will be located on the 7th Street Peninsula at the site of the original Fort Christina. Within a short walking distance of the existing Fort Christina State Park is the Old Swedes Church, the oldest Episcopal Church in America in continuous use; the Kalmar Nyckel, a replica of the ship that carried early Swedes to our shores; Tubman-Garrett Park, located at a point in Wilmington where escaping slaves swam across the Christina River as part of their journey on the Underground Railroad, and other attractions. As a hub, it would provide information, recommendations and directions about other sites in the Wilmington area that relate to the threads of the coastal region.

A second hub would be located in the City of New Castle. It would provide information on attractions in the city's renowned historic district as well as related attractions in New Castle County such as Fort Delaware State Park on Pea Patch Island and Old St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Middletown, originally founded in 1705.

A third would be located in Kent County, along the coast of the Delaware River. It would provide information on the existing preserved natural areas such as Bombay Hook and on the myriad other attractions in Kent County that are integral parts of the threads highlighted by the park. These would include the John Dickinson Mansion, Dover's historic Green and others.

The fourth and final hub would be located in the Lewes area and would provide information on the numerous historic sites and natural areas that have made Sussex County's coastal region so pivotal to Delaware. These would include the Zwaanendael Museum, the Fenwick Lighthouse, and the Georgetown County Courthouse.

Together, these four interpretive centers would direct visitors to the many existing attractions that help us understand and appreciate the entire fabric of our society, a fabric woven from the many threads of Delaware's coastal region.

It is through the dedication and hard work of these sixteen members that this park is even a possibility. Each of the members took time out of their busy lives to help with this important project marking Delaware's history. I thank them, along with several members of my staff, for all their hard work and congratulate them on a job well done.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOICES OF DETROIT INITIATIVE

● Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Voices of Detroit Initiative, VODI. VODI provides an opportunity for people living in Detroit and Wayne