

For 88 years, the members and adult volunteers of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. have worked tirelessly for the betterment of this nation. I congratulate them on their achievements and wish for them a prosperous future as the Girl Scouts continue to nurture the lives of America's young women.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 273) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 273

Whereas March 12, 2000, is the 88th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America;

Whereas on March 16, 1950, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America became the first national organization for girls to be granted a Federal charter by Congress;

Whereas through annual reports required to be submitted to Congress by its charter, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America regularly informs Congress of its progress and program initiatives;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America is dedicated to inspiring girls and young women with the highest ideals of character, conduct, and service to others so that they may become model citizens in their communities;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America offers girls aged 5 through 17 a variety of opportunities to develop strong values and life skills and provides a wide range of activities to meet girls' interests and needs;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America has a membership of nearly 3,000,000 girls and over 900,000 adult volunteers, and is one of the preeminent organizations in the United States committed to girls growing strong in mind, body, and spirit; and

Whereas by fostering in girls and young women the qualities on which the strength of the United States depends, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, for 88 years, has significantly contributed to the advancement of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week"; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week" and calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

RESOLUTION INDEFINITELY
POSTPONED—S. RES. 270

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate Resolution 270 be indefinitely postponed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT
ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 440, S. 1653.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1653) to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate today has unanimously passed S. 1653, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Committee on Environment and Public Works, which I chair, reported this bill, again unanimously, last month. At that time, I noted how important it was to get the local communities and businesses involved in protecting the environment.

The Foundation was created in 1984 because Congress saw the need to create a private, nonprofit organization that could build public-private partnerships and consensus, where previously there had only been acrimony and, many times, contentious litigation. It was also envisioned that the Foundation would serve as an important tool in our effort to make a difference on the ground in communities throughout the United States. In its 16 years of existence the Foundation has more than lived up to our original expectations.

We have long known that the Federal government does not have all the financial resources necessary to solve the numerous environmental problems that exist in our country. We also know that local communities care and know more about their natural environment than the agencies in Washington, D.C. More often than not local communities recognize problems before they become environmental disasters that require significant amounts of money to resolve, if they can even be resolved. In order to ensure that the funds are available to local communities the Foundation has established something called "challenge grants."

"Challenge grants" are a mixture of federal and non-federal funds directed to on-the-ground conservation projects. They are called "challenge grants" because any grant awarded is expected to be matched by non-federal dollars. During this time of fiscal constraint, it is important to use all available resources to help us protect the environment. Local communities, states, individuals, nonprofit organizations and businesses can apply to the Foundation for a "challenge grant" for a specific project in one of five major areas: conservation education, wetlands and private lands, neotropical bird conservation, fisheries conservation and man-

agement, and wildlife and habitat management.

Since 1984, the Foundation has raised over \$305 million in private donations using \$135 million in Federal funds as leverage. Last year alone, they raised more than \$50 million using \$17 million of federal seed money. With these funds, the Foundation has financed more than 3,500 conservation projects throughout the United States and in 35 other countries. This is an extremely impressive record. Moreover, all of the Foundation's operating costs are covered by private donations, which means that federal and private dollars given for conservation are spent only on conservation.

The Foundation's 1999 annual report was just released, and I encourage all my colleagues to take a look at the number of partnerships that the Foundation has forged with, and the range of innovative projects that they have spearheaded. The organizations that the Foundation works with are a virtual who's who in the business world. Let me take a few minutes to discuss some of the projects they are currently working on.

The Foundation has pioneered some notable conservation programs, including implementing the North American Waterfowl Management plan, Partners in Flight for neotropical birds, Bring Back the Natives Program, the Exxon Save the Tiger Fund, and the establishment of the Conservation Plan for Sterling Forest in New York and New Jersey, to name a few.

The Shell Oil Company has pledged \$5 million to the Foundation over the next five years to create the Shell Marine Habitat Program, a matching grant program. The Shell Marine Habitat Program supports problem-solving habitat restoration projects, practical research, education programs and innovative partnerships to preserve the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf coast marine environments. Funding is focused on efforts to reduce hypoxia and red and brown tides, and to protect barrier islands, coral reefs and other marine habitats. Last year alone \$3.4 million were spent on these efforts, \$3.15 million of which was from Shell and other private donors. More importantly, this project is receiving a significant amount of local support. A day-long effort last year to restore saltmarsh habitat had over 1,500 volunteers who planted 57,000 plants. It is these kinds of efforts that will make a significant difference to the health of the Gulf of Mexico.

Another fine example is the Budweiser Outdoor Programs. For six weeks last fall, a percentage of all bottles and cans of Budweiser sold was allocated for conservation purposes. The Foundation partnership with Budweiser resulted in more than a quarter of a million dollars that will help conserve vital elk and deer habitat, enhance wetlands and sustain