

2023 -- S 0839

=====  
LC002701  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

---

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION NEW  
DEAL CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

Introduced By: Senator John P. Burke

Date Introduced: March 29, 2023

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, On October 29, 1929, the United States Stock Market crashed, thereby  
2 ending what has been called “The Roaring Twenties” and ushering in more than a decade of  
3 economic privation the likes of which had never been seen before in American history and  
4 hopefully will never be seen again; and

5           WHEREAS, Before the United States Constitution was altered by the Twentieth  
6 Amendment, newly elected Presidents used to take office on March 4th. As President Franklin  
7 Delano Roosevelt (FDR) was set to take office, America was suffering in unimaginable ways.  
8 The official American unemployment rate was at a record high of 24.9 percent and that number  
9 didn’t count those who could only find part-time work and those who had given up on finding  
10 work. According to a report from Irving Bernstein for the United States Department of Labor,  
11 “There is no doubt that 1933 was the worst year, and March the worst month, for joblessness in  
12 the history of United States”; and

13           WHEREAS, When FDR assumed office, there was a feeling that this nation’s democratic  
14 underpinnings were in peril with far right and far left totalitarians on the American scene  
15 threatening America’s very foundations. It was against this backdrop that FDR took office and he  
16 knew that he had to take immediate action to lower the jobless rate in America; and

17           WHEREAS, On April 5th, 1933, FDR signed the “Emergency Conservation Act”, also  
18 known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), an act that quickly gave much-needed jobs to  
19 approximately 275,000 enrollees and 10,000 supervisors, in camps across the United States. The

1 Civilian Conservation Corps, and similar Programs like the Works Progress Administration,  
2 allowed hungry people to get fed, have shelter and gave people hope amidst the despair. The  
3 Civilian Conservation Corps also had the additional advantage of its great benefit to the  
4 Environment; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island had more than 15,900 enrollees in the CCC, with  
6 others working in various New England States such as Vermont and Maine. Civilian  
7 Conservation workers did timber stand improvement, forest insect control, developed recreation  
8 facilities, and planted approximately 1 million trees. These CCC workers also helped towns deal  
9 with natural disasters such as the 1938 Hurricane; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby commemorates the  
11 90th Anniversary of the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps and furthermore honors the  
12 memory of the Civilian Conservation Corps workers who worked tirelessly to better Rhode  
13 Island's State parks and forests; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Martin Podskoch, Board member of CCC  
16 Legacy.

=====  
LC002701  
=====