

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

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REMARKS OF UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR JOHN A. CARVER, JR., AT DEDICATION OF THE FORT RALEIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE VISITOR CENTER, NORTH CAROLINA, JULY 13, 1966

North Carolina is a State which long ago saw the value of conservation--the need for park and recreation areas, and the wisdom of helping to place those areas of national significance in the National Park System. North Carolina--its governors, congressmen and senators, and its people--matched ideas with willing cooperation, hard work, and money. It stands unsurpassed among its sister States in providing funds for the acquisition of National Park lands. It is a leader among States in the development of its national attractions.

Every area of the National Park System in North Carolina has benefited from this generosity of the State, its private citizens, or both. The culmination of this outstanding development at the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site is one example of the accrued results. These facilities were made possible through the joint efforts of the State of North Carolina, the Roanoke Island Historical Association, the Federal Government and private individuals, including, most notably, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Morrison. Their generous donation, matched by the State, enabled the acquisition of necessary land, and the National Park Service is now completing a \$1,000,000 project.

The publics who benefit from such cooperation, here and in each of the eight National Park Service areas in North Carolina, are the people of the Nation as a whole and the people of North Carolina. Each area has national significance; tangible and intangible values are preserved. Carolinians have ready access to superb recreation, and the areas bring great economic benefit to this State, as visitors come from throughout the world.

It was estimated in 1964 that the Blue Ridge Parkway provided an annual economic benefit of \$13,731,000 to the State of North Carolina, and that Guilford Courthouse National Military Park generated an expenditure of \$650,000.

The Blue Ridge Parkway is the single most heavily used unit in the National Park System, with an annual attendance of seven million visits

throughout its 469-mile length. More than 60 per cent of this total gain entry to the Parkway in North Carolina. Great Smoky Mountains National Park receives more visitors than any other National Park in the country--an average of 5 million annually.

North Carolina's leadership in the parks and recreation field started early. The movement to establish a national park in the Great Smokies began in 1923. Shortly after the passage of the Park, Parkway and Recreation Act of 1936, your State realized the establishment of the Nation's first and for many years the only national seashore--Cape Hatteras. Today there are seven national seashores in your National Park System.

I cannot, of course, begin to name all of those who gave of their time and effort to realize these National Parklands in North Carolina. Your able and dedicated chief executive, Governor Dan Moore, carries on the tradition of such distinguished predecessors as Luther Hodges and Terry Sanford. All of these men have the vision to see the value of preserving America's scenic and historic heritages.

We are gathered here today to dedicate a magnificent visitor center to the memory of another conservationist--the Honorable Lindsay C. Warren--whose name is synonymous with dedicated service to his State and Nation.

In 1926 Congressman Lindsay Warren expressed great interest in what was then known as Sir Walter Raleigh Fort by introducing a bill in Congress to authorize "the erection of a tablet or marker in memory of Virginia Dare who was born there on August 18, 1587, and who was the first child of English parentage to be born in America." This was only the beginning: Congressman Warren showed his continued interest in Roanoke Island and the Outer Banks in many ways. He presided at celebrations; he introduced the resolution in Congress to establish the United States Roanoke Colony Commission, and served on it to prepare a plan and program for the commemoration in 1934 of the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of English-speaking civilization in America on Roanoke Island. Through his efforts and those of other spirited citizens of North Carolina, Fort Raleigh became a National Historic Site. Congressman Warren led the Congressional effort for establishment of Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

It is a privilege to dedicate the new Fort Raleigh Visitor Center to the Honorable Lindsay C. Warren.

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