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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Mark Longietti
DATE: September 5, 2012
SUBJECT: Resolution Recognizing Dr. Maurice K. Goddard

In the near future, I will be introducing a resolution recognizing the contributions of Dr. Maurice K. Goddard to the Commonwealth in the 100-year anniversary of his birth.

Dr. Maurice K. Goddard was born on September 13, 1912, in Lowell, Massachusetts. In his early years, he earned degrees in forestry and eventually moved to Pennsylvania where he led the forestry programs at several colleges.

In 1955, Dr. Goddard began his storied career as a public servant in Pennsylvania when Governor George Leader appointed him as Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters. After he was first appointed, he became so well-respected for his commitment and knowledge that he earned national recognition for conservation policy and continued to be appointed to state conservation leadership positions by both Democratic and Republican governors for the next 24 years.

During this time, he and his staff worked tirelessly to protect Pennsylvania's natural resources and to provide for access to the natural beauty of our state for all current and future Pennsylvanians. In doing so, it was his goal to locate a state park within 25 miles of every resident of the state.

Major accomplishments in his career included his work in establishing both the Delaware and Susquehanna River Basin Commissions and his participation in obtaining dedicated funding for conservation purposes through the creation of the Oil and Gas Lease Fund and bond issuances under Projects 70 and 500. By the end of his career in public service, he had spearheaded the effort to add 45 state parks and an additional 130,000 acres of land to the state park system. He was so instrumental in the creation of our current state park system that many people refer to him as the "Father of Pennsylvania State Parks." His advocacy for Pennsylvania's natural resources extended into his retirement from public service, as he continued to serve on the boards of various conservation groups until his death in 1995.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution recognizing the contributions of Dr. Maurice K. Goddard to our Commonwealth, please contact Bob Brownawell at 717-772-4035 or rbrownaw@pahouse.net.