



WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

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1996 MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HILARY "SPARKY" WAUKAU

Whereas, on October 13, 1922 there was born, on the Menominee Reservation, a boy baby who was named Hilary, and

Whereas, this boy child grew in stature and wisdom and acquired from his elders a reverence for the waters and the forests and the fish and the wildlife, and

Whereas, shortly after Pearl Harbor was bombed in December of 1941, Hilary Waukau, in the tradition of his people, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps to defend his country, and

Whereas, because of his assigned duties as radioman, he was nicknamed and was forever after known as "Sparky", and

Whereas, in the defense of the United States, his country, "Sparky" Waukau fought in the battles for Tarawa and Siapan, and

Whereas, in his travels both in the United States, and abroad, "Sparky" came to realize what a crown jewel of Wisconsin, was the Menominee Reservation, and

Whereas, upon his return to the reservation, he became involved in the affairs of the tribe and held many positions including telephone repairman, highway supervisor, tribal judge and senior legislator, and

Whereas, beginning in the early 1950's "Sparky" Waukau became a leader in the fight against many actions that would cause harm to his reservation and his beloved Wolf River Watershed, and

Whereas, these actions included a dam on the upper Wolf River, a giant landfill at the junctions of the Wolf and Lily Rivers, a Nuclear Waste Repository deep in the Wolf River Batholith, and a proposed slide mine on the headwaters of the Wolf River, and

Whereas, "Spraky" Waukau was extremely involved in actions by the Menominee Tribe which designated all of the waters within the Menominee Reservation to be Outstanding Resource Waters, and

Whereas, this action by the Menominee people eventually convinced the Wisconsin DNR to designate the Wolf River, from the northern border of the Menominee Reservation to its source at Pine Lake, to be an Outstanding Resource Water, and

Whereas, it was greatly due to "Spraky's" close acquaintance with Wisconsin governors, and state and federal legislators, that the Wolf River, within the borders of the Menominee Reservation, was forever declared to be a National Wild and Scenic River, and

Whereas, despite failing health including loss of parts of both feet and failing eyesight brought on by diabetes and heart trouble, when Exxon and Rio Algom again proposed to open a mine on the headwaters of the Wolf River, "Sparky" Waukau, the U.S. Marine Corps veteran, again took up his spear and

Whereas, late last July just a few days before his death, "Sparky" Waukau, in his wheelchair, led a march up Spirit Hill, just east of the Mole Lake reservation to protest the impending mine, and

Whereas, on August 2, 1995, "Sparky" Waukau, the tired old veteran, was finally called to the Spirit World,

Now therefore be it resolved:

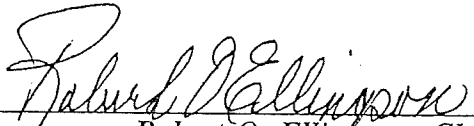
That this 199~~5~~ session of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress recognizes his fifty years of outstanding efforts in the conservation and protection of our environment, and

Be it further resolved that this 199~~6~~ session of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress proclaims Hilary "Sparky" Waukau to be one of the outstanding environmentalists in the history of Wisconsin.

Adopted this 11th day of May, 1996 by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS ASSEMBLED THIS 10th DAY OF MAY 1996 THAT WE RECOGNIZE AND HEREBY EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR HIS SERVICE RENDERED FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THE STATE.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE CONVEYED TO THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED.


Robert O. Ellingson, Chairman