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House of Representatives

HONORING POINT REYES NATINAL SEASHORE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County, CA, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Millions of people – and flora and fauna – have benefitted from the law President John F. Kennedy signed on September 13, 1962, “to save and preserve, for the purpose of public recreation, benefit, and inspiration, a portion of the diminishing seashore of the United States that remains undeveloped.”

Celebrating with the theme of *A Natural Sanctuary, A Human Haven*, Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) truly embodies these values. From its pristine beaches and forests to its ranches and grasslands, the area provides recreational and cultural resources as well as habitat for a wide variety of species. And nearly one-third of known marine mammal species feed in the waters just off the park’s coast.

The Point Reyes peninsula has an unusually rich history. Coast Miwok Indians inhabited the peninsula 5000 years ago, and, in 1579, Sir Francis Drake and his crew became the first Europeans to meet the Miwoks when they stopped to replenish water and supplies. The survivors of a shipwrecked Manila galleon came ashore a few decades later, foreshadowing a history of shipwrecks that led to the establishment of dramatic lighthouses and lifesaving stations that exist today. In the 19th century, *ranchos* were developed by Mexican land grantees, and ranching continues today in pastoral zones in which cows share the landscape with native birds, plants, and animals. Lying on the San Andreas Fault, PRNS also displays the effects of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the sign of geological land in motion as the peninsula moves north at the rate of two inches a year.

This special area was first conceived as a park in 1938, and today it hosts over two million visitors a year. It is one of the country’s most visited national parks.

Mr. Speaker, it takes hard work by many visionary and dedicated people to create and maintain a jewel like Point Reyes National Seashore. I am proud to congratulate all of them on 50 years of providing *A Natural Sanctuary, A Human Haven*.