



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

226 Broadway
P.O. Box 585
Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845

620-273-6034 phone
620-273-6099 fax

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release
Heather Brown, (620) 273- 6034

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Receives its 250,000th Visitor

On November 12, 1996 the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve became a unit of the National Park Service. Since that day, the staff have been tracking daily visitation. Thirteen years have passed and ¼ million people have visited this special place in the heart of the Kansas Flint Hills. From all over the world, visitors come to the preserve to see some of the last remaining tallgrass prairie still in existence.

On Sunday, November 15, two very special people visiting from Hawaii became the 250,000th visitor to the park. Kelly Kobayashi and Joseph Vierra were visiting the Kansas national parks. It came as quite a surprise when the rangers informed them of their special achievement.

The celebratory event was marked with a special awards ceremony. Kelly Kobayashi was awarded with a Distinguished Visitor Award, a gold painted ranger flat hat, books and gifts from the on- site bookstore, and refreshments for all in attendance.

We wish to thank these two very special visitors for choosing to visit the preserve and for helping to celebrate this milestone in the preserve's history. As Joseph wrote in the preserve's sign in register "Congratulations to Kelly (250,000th) and Joseph (250,001st) visitors!" Photos of the event are posted at the web address below.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway). For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr, email

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tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273- 8494. Superintendent Wendy Lauritzen can be reached at the Cottonwood Falls office headquarters at 620- 273- 6034.

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