

## Draft Remarks for Governor Hughes

- I am very pleased to be here today to recognize the monumental contributions of the Civilian Conservation Corps to the conservation and improvement of Maryland's public lands and natural resources.
- The CCC was among the first and most successful public works programs initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 to rescue the nation from the Great Depression by putting Americans back to work.  
*OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER  
GOLDSBORO CCC Camp*
- As our ~~present-day~~ economy has struggled in recent years, many of us have gotten a taste of what the Great Depression was like...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "H".

- However, in those days, with no Social Security, no Medicare, and little government-funded unemployment relief, if you were out of work, you were out of luck.

95¢ per  
night - 4 hrs.

Generation of long Lines - for jobs, food, shelter

- So, for a nation filled with young men eager and willing to work, when no work was available, the Civilian Conservation Corps provided true opportunity.

1933 to 1942

- For many, joining the CCC wasn't just something to fill time or a resume; it was a chance to prove themselves, a chance to have three square meals a day, a chance to help support their struggling families, and a chance to learn new skills. Some CCC veterans will tell you that the Corps it saved their lives.

- In nine years, the CCC put more than 2 million young men across the nation back to work.

\$30/month - \$25 sent home

38,500 in Md (men only) - in 30 CCC camps.

- They developed valuable skills, discipline and a sense of pride—things they would need during World War II, when CCC members made up a large number of the early recruits.
- They did work that would have otherwise gone undone....  
In 1936, Maryland State Forester Fred Beasley credited the CCC with constructing 350 miles of roads, 150 miles of horse and foot trails, and 200 bridges across 60,000 acres of state forests in just three years. This made 75% of those public lands accessible for fire protection and recreation.
- And, from picnic shelters to cabins and residences, CCC facilities are still in use at seven state parks today.
- But the real legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps lives on -- not only in forests and parks across the state and the

nation -- but in the successful programs modeled after the CCC.

- Here in Maryland, two such programs proudly carry on the CCC legacy: the Maryland Conservation Corps, and the Conservation Jobs Corps.
- The MCC – which I’m happy to have played a part in creating 27 years ago -- gives young men and women life and job skills training and opportunities to restore natural and cultural resources and conduct interpretation and environmental education for children and families in state parks.
- The CJC, created by Governor O’Malley, provides at risk youth in some <sup>of</sup> our most disadvantaged areas a chance to do valuable work in State Parks while connecting with a natural world that is foreign to many.

- Like their CCC predecessors who forged the way, today young people from both of these programs are performing valuable work in our parks – work that might not otherwise get done – and gaining valuable skills and experience to prepare and inspire them for higher education and fulfilling careers.
- Clearly, President Franklin Roosevelt taught America a lesson worth learning – one that certainly bears repeating today: *Let me close by quoting him because it is so appropriate to today: Roosevelt said;* “More important, however, than the material gains will be the moral and spiritual value of such work. The overwhelming majority of unemployed Americans, who are now walking the streets and receiving private or public relief, would infinitely prefer to work... We can take a vast army of these unemployed out into healthful surroundings. We can eliminate, to some extent at least,

**the threat that enforced idleness brings to spiritual and moral stability.”**

#### **Additional CCC History/Information**

To rescue America from the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration developed a series of public works programs to put Americans back to work, including the Works Progress Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the National Recovery Administration, and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Created in March 1933, the CCC was the greatest national public forest and park development effort in our country's history. From 1933 to 1942, it employed over 2 million young men between the ages of 17-25.

The CCC boys earned \$30 a month, \$25 of which was sent home to needy families. They were provided uniforms/clothing, quarters (they lived in army tents until they built their quarters), tools and equipment, and the means to good hygiene. The remaining \$5 was used for luxuries, such as cigarettes, candy bars, stationery and movie tickets.

Most came from poor families and were often underweight and malnourished. The CCC put the boys on a steady and good diet, as well as, put them to work doing a lot of manual labor. As surviving photos often testify, many boys took to working without their shirts as their health improved.

To save money on expensive machinery and to put as many men to work as possible, most work was done by manual labor. Ditches were dug and filled with shovels, rather than bulldozers.

The boys received training from experts in the field. For example, representatives from an axe manufacturer would lead the boys in lessons on how to properly use an axe, etc.

The CCC conducted meaningful and lasting conservation work on both public and private lands by constructing roads, buildings, and pavilions; erecting fire towers; fighting forest fires; planting millions of trees; and stabilizing soil erosion.

The CCC was a joint and cooperative effort between the War Department (who ran the camps), the Labor Department (who found the labor), and the Departments of Interior and Agriculture and local and state governments (who identified projects).