

House Resolution 929

By: Representatives Burchett of the 176th and Corbett of the 174th

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge upon the 88th anniversary of its
2 establishment; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, officially established on March 30, 1937, as a refuge and breeding ground for
4 migratory birds and other wildlife, this year represents the Okefenokee National Wildlife
5 Refuge's 88th birthday; and

6 WHEREAS, with more than 407,000 acres of land and water, the refuge is the largest
7 national wildlife refuge east of the Mississippi River, serving as the headwaters for both the
8 Suwannee and St. Marys rivers; and

9 WHEREAS, the Okefenokee represents the largest and best-preserved precipitation-based
10 freshwater wetland ecosystem in the United States, 353,000 acres of which have been
11 designated as a Wilderness Area; and

12 WHEREAS, the swamp's undisturbed peat beds preserve thousands of years of land history
13 and store carbon, contributing to both ecological and historical conservation; and

14 WHEREAS, the refuge is a vital habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species, including
15 several that are threatened or endangered, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, wood stork,
16 and eastern indigo snake; and

17 WHEREAS, the refuge further supports the restoration of longleaf pine, a native species in
18 steep decline across the southeastern United States; and

19 WHEREAS, the Okefenokee is home to over 850 plant species, including 18 species of
20 carnivorous plants, as well as more than 120 miles of land and water trails for walking,
21 biking, or paddling; and

22 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable refuge be appropriately
23 honored during this special time.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body congratulate the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge upon the
26 88th anniversary of its establishment as well as extend best wishes for its continued
27 conservation and success.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
29 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
30 public and the press.