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Celebration honors 25 years of the National Scenic Byways Program

More than 100 supporters of scenic byways gathered at the Capitol Visitor Center in Washington on December 6 to honor the 25th anniversary of the passage of transportation legislation that created the National Scenic Byways Program.

Scenic America co-hosted the reception with the National Scenic Byway Foundation and the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Scenic Byway. Congressional Hosts for the evening were Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island, Rep. Ted Poe of Texas, Rep. John Delaney of Maryland and Rep. Sam Farr of California.

 Scenic Byways 25! logo

No new National Scenic Byways have been designated since 2011, when Congress revoked funding for the Program. Scenic America is working with our coalition partners to encourage Congress to restore the modest funding required to restart the designation process.

[Click here](#) to read more about the byways reception.

Scenic awards go to Alexander, Farr and AASHTO

Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander, a longtime advocate of scenic roads, received a Scenic Byway Trailblazer Award during the 25th anniversary reception. Senator Alexander said that as governor he worked to create 10,000 miles of state roads and scenic highways with no billboards, because "we knew tourists came to Tennessee for the scenery, not the billboards."



Congressman Sam Farr received a Scenic Hero award and remarked that his father, the late California State Senator Fred Farr, had dedicated the state's first scenic highway at Big Sur in 1966 with Lady Bird Johnson at his side. Farr said that his hometown of Carmel, CA takes great pride in its visual environment and when people ask him about industry in his town he tells them "we sell scenery." He encouraged all



in attendance to keep pursuing the goals of scenic byways and a more beautiful America.

A Scenic Byway Trailblazer Award was also presented to the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO). Bud Wright, executive director of AASHTO, accepted on behalf of his organization and said that scenic byways are sources of pride for state Departments of Transportation and exactly the kind of projects they love to get invested in.



Reno City Council moves to enforce voter-approved billboard ban

After 16 years it appears residents of Reno, Nevada will finally see a ban on new billboards, which they approved in a 2000 ballot initiative, [formally and properly enforced](#).

Citizens, led by Scenic Nevada, have struggled with city leadership for years over the intent of the ban. Residents contend that it prohibits the relocation of existing billboards or their conversion to digital. With the City Council now in agreement and the ban being enforced, the public should see a reduction in the number of billboards in Reno over time.

Congratulations to Scenic Nevada for a tenacious and sustained effort to uphold the will of voters and make Reno a more beautiful place!

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