



[TOP](#)

Nixon Completes 100 Missouri Miles Challenge on Katy Trail

JULY 28TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

Nixon Completes 100 Missouri Miles Challenge on Katy Trail

*Submitted by
Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

Jefferson City, Missouri – Gov. Jay Nixon on Saturday completed the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge with a 12.5 mile hike on the Katy Trail. The Governor and First Lady have both completed the Challenge and are encouraging Missourians to join them as they continue to log miles as part of this initiative to promote physical fitness and the outdoors.

Participation in the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge continues to surge with involvement from private employers, non-profit organizations, fitness groups and health advocates. Since the June 1st launch, more than 5,700 Missourians have walked, run, biked, paddled and rolled more than 240,000 miles on Missouri's greenways and blueways. In fact, more than 700 Missourians have already completed the Challenge, with many continuing to log miles independently and as groups using the new function on the 100MissouriMiles.com site.

"The response to this initiative has been overwhelming, with more than 5,700 Missourians completing more than 240,000 miles in the first seven weeks alone," Gov. Nixon said. "The First Lady and I are proud to join the hundreds of Missourians who have completed the Challenge and who continue to log miles on Missouri's award-winning

trails system. With thousands of miles of outstanding trails to explore and more Missourians joining each day, we look forward to achieving our 1 million mile goal later this year.”

Missouri was recently named the “Best Trails State” by American Trails, a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting our nation's hiking, biking and riding trails. The award recognized efforts by federal, state and local agencies as well as private organizations to expand and improve Missouri’s comprehensive recreational trail system, which offers trails for a wide range of interests and abilities, including hikers, backpackers, cyclists, paddlers and equestrians.

To celebrate this distinction and promote Missouri’s outstanding trails system and the health benefits of physical activity, the Governor and First Lady launched the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge, inviting Missourians to complete 100 miles of outdoor physical activity by the end of the year. Since the official launch of the initiative on June 1, 5,700 participants have run, walked, biked, paddled and rolled more than 240,000 miles, including 114 miles by the Governor. The First Lady, who completed the Challenge on July 13, has logged 123 miles.

Missouri State Parks offers almost 1,000 miles of managed trails and the state claims more than 500 miles of National Recreation Trails designated by the U.S. Department of Interior. Notable trails include the Lewis and Clark, Trail of Tears, Santa Fe National Historic Trails, and the Katy Trail, the longest developed rail-trail in the nation.

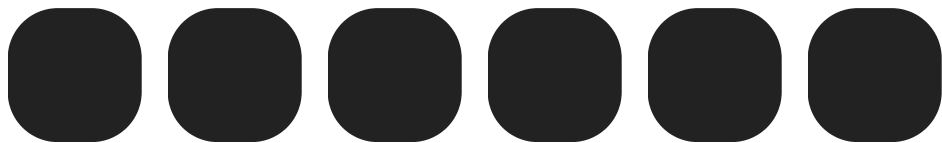
Missouri State Parks was also named recently as a top-four finalist for the 2013 National Gold Medal Awards. The Gold Medal Awards program honors communities that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning and program development. This recognition is a reflection of the state's dedication to protecting and preserving Missouri's natural resources.

The Governor’s 100 Missouri Miles Challenge is a partnership with the Missouri State Parks, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Division of Tourism. For more information and to take the Challenge, visit MO.gov. Participants can also share adventures, post photos and learn about upcoming events by connecting with 100 Missouri Miles on Facebook and Twitter.

To take the Governor’s 100 Missouri Miles Challenge, visit www.mo.gov.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

Kent Hampton's Capitol Report July 26, 2013

JULY 26TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Kent Hampton's Capitol Report July 26, 2013

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

1st Postmaster General,

Mr. Benjamin Franklin

On this day in 1775, the U.S. postal system is established by the Second [Continental Congress](#), with [Benjamin Franklin](#) as its first postmaster general.

Franklin (1706-1790) put in place the foundation for many aspects of today's mail system. During early colonial times in the 1600s, few American colonists needed to send mail to each other; it was more likely that their correspondence was with letter writers in Britain. Mail deliveries from across the Atlantic were sporadic and could take many months to arrive. There were no post offices in the colonies, so mail was typically left at inns and taverns. In 1753, Benjamin Franklin, who had been postmaster of Philadelphia, became one of two joint postmasters general for the colonies. He made numerous improvements to the mail system, including setting up new, more efficient colonial routes and cutting delivery time in half between Philadelphia and [New York](#) by having the weekly mail wagon travel both day and night via relay teams. Franklin also debuted the first rate chart, which standardized delivery costs based on distance and weight. In 1774, the British fired Franklin from his postmaster job because of his revolutionary activities. However, the following year, he was appointed postmaster general of the United Colonies by the Continental Congress. Franklin held the job until late in 1776, when he was sent to France as a diplomat. He left a vastly improved mail system, with routes from [Florida](#) to [Maine](#) and regular service between the colonies and Britain. President [George Washington](#) appointed Samuel Osgood, a former [Massachusetts](#) congressman, as the first postmaster general of the American nation under the new [U.S. constitution](#) in 1789. At the time, there were approximately 75 post offices in the country.

Today, the [United States](#) has over 40,000 post offices and the postal service delivers 212 billion pieces of mail each year to over 144 million homes and businesses in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the American Virgin Islands and American Samoa. The postal service is the nation's largest civilian employer, with over 700,000 career workers, who handle more than 44 percent of the world's cards and letters. The postal service is a not-for-profit, self-supporting agency that covers its expenses through postage (stamp use in the United States started in 1847) and related products. The postal service gets the mail delivered, rain or shine, using everything from planes to mules. However, it's not cheap: The U.S. Postal Service says that when fuel costs go up by just one penny, its own costs rise by \$8 million.

Citizens and Legislators Working Group on Medicaid Eligibility and Reform will hold a hearing to discuss Missouri's system of Medicaid and will accept public input. The hearing will be held next Wednesday, July 31st at the B.A.I.L.S. center in Kennett from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you wish to testify, please contact our office at

(573) 751-3629. Your participation is appreciated.

See ya in Church Sunday!!

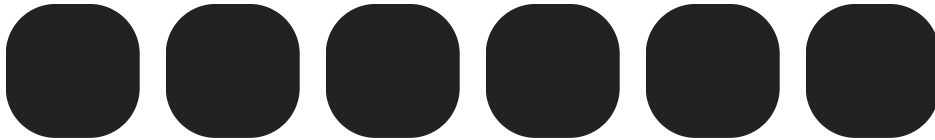
As always, it is an honor to serve you in the Missouri House. If you would like to discuss any issue, please call 573-751-3629. You can also email me at

kent.hampton@house.mo.gov

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[TOP](#)

Noranda Aluminum To Expand Smelter

JULY 26TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Noranda Aluminum To Expand Smelter

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

New Madrid, Missouri - Noranda Aluminum Holding Corporation, a leading North American producer of aluminum, will significantly expand the footprint of its smelter in New Madrid, Gov. Jay Nixon announced today. The facility expansion includes a \$45 million capital investment and is expected to create 29 new jobs.

This is the second major investment announcement by Noranda in the New Madrid facility in the past three years. In 2010, the company announced plans to invest \$38 million to increase the aluminum smelter's annual metal-production capability by approximately 35 million pounds. The latest investment includes funding for an 80,000 square-foot expansion and the purchase of new state-of-the-art equipment.

"Noranda's continued commitment to expanding its Missouri presence is good news for our economy," Gov. Nixon said. "I'm pleased my administration could support Noranda and help make this project possible to create jobs and stimulate economic growth in southeast Missouri."

Originally founded in 1968, the New Madrid smelter has become one of the largest employers in southeast Missouri and currently employ more than 1,000 workers. The facility expansion will allow Noranda to meet greater product demand by increasing the facility's capacity to produce redraw rod, which is used in many electrical infrastructure applications.

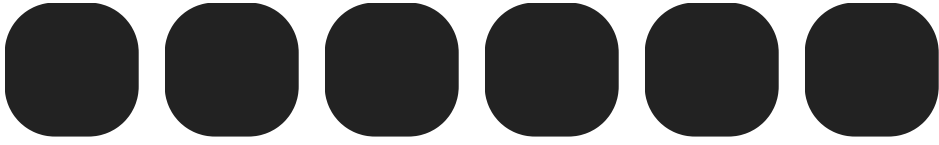
"The aluminum smelter here in New Madrid accounts for approximately 13 percent of total U.S. primary aluminum production," says Layle (Kip) Smith, Noranda President and Chief Executive Officer. "Missouri's skilled workforce and competitive business climate have allowed us to compete in the global market and we look forward to our continued growth in aluminum production."

The state of Missouri helped make Noranda's expansion in New Madrid possible through a strategic package of economic incentives, which the company can redeem if it meets the strict job creation and investment criteria.

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[TOP](#)

Honor Our Korean Veterans

JULY 26TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Honor Our Korean Veterans

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

Washington, Missouri - Gov. Jay Nixon will take part in a ceremony on Saturday (July 27) in Washington, Mo., to mark the 60th anniversary of the armistice that ended fighting in the Korean War.

More than 50 veterans of the Korean War are expected to attend and be honored at the event. Krog Park in Washington is the site of a memorial honoring those who served in the war, and Gov. Nixon will place a wreath at the memorial after he speaks. The ceremony is being presented by Chapter 324 of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Saturday, July 27, 2013

WHO: Gov. Jay Nixon

More than 50 veterans of the Korean War

WHAT: Ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the end
of the Korean War

WHEN: 10 a.m.

WHERE: Krog Park

801 E. Fifth St.

Washington, MO

From the Governor:

Sixty years ago this month, the fighting ended in a war that, today, many Americans know little about. Thousands of young Missourians who fought bravely on the Korean peninsula to halt unprovoked aggression and to defend freedom came home to farms, small towns and big cities across our diverse state. Yet, returning from halfway around the world, few were greeted with fanfare or hailed as heroes. It is unfortunate that it would take decades before the full significance of what they had accomplished was realized.

On July 27 - the 60th anniversary of the armistice that ended "America's Forgotten War" - we should embrace the opportunity to recognize those brave Missourians who waged a valiant fight to protect the freedom of a distant nation, and make the world a safer place. It is also a tremendous chance to educate younger generations about the brave service of these Americans.

When North Korea launched its invasion in June 1950, President Truman vowed that we would not let South Korea fall to an unprovoked attack. More than 6,000 miles from home, serving alongside our allies from South Korea and 15 other nations, American servicemen faced some of the toughest combat conditions imaginable: sub-zero cold and searing heat, attacks that came in waves, and the knowledge that capture could mean summary execution or brutal physical and psychological conditions as a prisoner of war.

Our troops battled for more than three years against Communist forces from North Korea and China, which were backed by the Soviet Union. Those Americans fought courageously in battles whose names live on in our nation's history - Pork Chop Hill, the Chosin Reservoir, Bloody Ridge - and in many other battles without names.

More than 36,000 Americans were killed, and 7,500 remain listed as missing in action; more than 100,000 were wounded. It was a high price, but the legacy of what that generation of veterans accomplished can be found today in the Republic of Korea: a peaceful and stable nation, a democracy where individual freedoms are cherished, and a trusted ally that has brought prosperity to its people - a stark contrast to the suffering that continues under the brutal dictatorship to the north.

I share a bond with many Missourians who had a relative serve in Korea, as my father is a Korean War-era veteran. So it was a special honor to lay a wreath in the Missouri section of the Hall of Heroes at the Korean War Memorial in Seoul this past March. Listed on the memorial were the names of more than 900 Missourians who did not make it back - a stark reminder of the price of freedom.

Today, men and women from Missouri and across the U.S. still serve in the Republic of Korea, some at the world's most fortified border. They are linked to that first generation of Americans who went there more than 60 years ago by their commitment to service, their courage, and the knowledge that freedom is not free.

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[TOP](#)

Senator Blunt's Staff to Be in Dexter

JULY 24TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Senator Blunt's Staff to Be in Dexter

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

Dexter, Missouri - U.S. Senator Roy Blunt's staff will host a Listening Post Meeting on Thursday, August 1, 2013 from 1:30pm to 2:30pm at Bootheel Regional Planning Commission.

Listening Posts are intended for Missourians to share their questions and concerns during meetings with members of Senator Blunt's staff.

Senator Blunt's Jefferson City office also extends one-on-one service to all Missourians who have an issue with a federal agency or need additional assistance.

To reach the Senator’s Office of Constituent Services, please call at (573) 634-2488 or send a letter at 308 E. High Street, Suite 202, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

What: Senator Blunt's Staff Hosts Listening Post Meeting

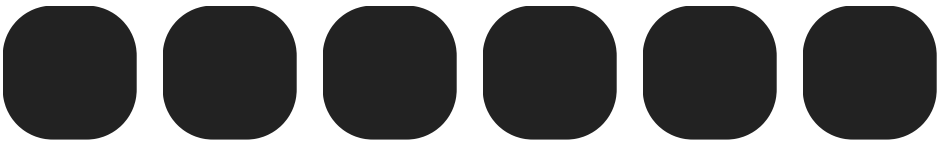
When: Thursday, August 1, 2013 from 1:30pm to 2:30pm CT

Where: ***Bootheel Regional Planning Commission***
105 E. North Main
Dexter, MO

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