

AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

• Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize the winner of the American Sportfishing Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, Mr. Johnny Morris, who is also a friend of mine. This award is being given to Johnny today in recognition of his outstanding lifetime contribution to sportfishing.

Johnny Morris is the founder of Bass Pro Shops, which offers anglers and sportsmen the same equipment that the tournament professionals use. His business has expanded from its original store to include eight additional shops, a catalog, a line of Bass Pro products and a wholesale operation that supplies more than 7,000 independent sporting goods stores in the United States and several foreign countries.

Since 1970, Johnny has provided a place for sportsmen, and the entire family, to outfit their outdoor and sporting activities. Because of my love for the outdoors and fishing, the Bass Pro Shops has long been one of my favorite places in Springfield to visit. I am not alone. The Bass Pro Shops is one of Missouri's top tourist sites, attracting over three and a half million visitors a year.

In addition to outfitting anglers, Johnny donates ten percent of Bass Pro Shops' earnings to conservation efforts, which benefit fishing areas far beyond Missouri's borders. Johnny believes "the future of the sport and of our business depends more on conservation and how we manage our natural resources than absolutely anything else." To further that belief, Johnny is an outspoken supporter of not-for-profit and youth organizations that support or raise awareness of conservation issues. Organizations such as the Missouri Beautification Association, which helps clean up trash along Missouri's roadways and riverbanks, and "Operation Game Thief," a program launched to curb poaching in Missouri, have benefitted from Johnny Morris' support. In March 1998, the first ever World's Fishing Fair was hosted by Bass Pro Shops, and the proceeds were given to Missouri forests and fisheries. I personally have witnessed Johnny's commitment to his community through the many educational events which Bass Pro Shops hosts. Great Outdoors Day, for example, brings together families to learn more about hiking, fishing, archery, shooting and conservation through hands-on experience. He also hosts Kids' Fishing Fun Day in Springfield, an event that brings thousands of young participants to a local pond to try their hand at sportfishing. His efforts show that individual initiative to preserve one's local environment for future generations is not only responsible citizenship but just plain good sense.

I commend Johnny Morris both for receiving this award and for his efforts to enrich the fishing experience for all

Americans and to promote conservation through the Bass Pro Shops.●

A TRIBUTE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on June 9, 2000, at the annual State Conference of the Fraternal Order of Police in Lansing, Michigan, there will be a memorial service honoring 70 active and associate members of the F.O.P. In addition, four law enforcement officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice, dying in the line of duty, will also be honored. I rise today in their memory, and to thank them posthumously for their many courageous efforts.

There is perhaps no greater sign of dedication to a community than risking one's life to protect it. Law enforcement officers do this on a daily basis. They risk their lives to ensure that our streets and our neighborhoods are safe. We must not let ourselves forget the incredible dedication that these men and women have to the people they protect. Theirs should not be a thankless job.

Mr. President, the comfort, the protection, and the safety that we enjoy often comes at a very high price to the law enforcement officers themselves. Last year, in the State of Michigan, four officers were killed in the line of duty. In the name of protecting our communities, and our families, they left behind their own communities, and their own families.

As a tribute to these four officers, Mr. President, I would like to have their names inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Officer Leslie (Les) Keely of the Flint Police Department, Trooper Frederick Hardy, Michigan State Police, Detroit Post, Trooper Rick Lee Johnson, Michigan State Police, Paw Paw Post, Officer Gary Priess, DeWitt Township Police.

I do this not only on behalf of myself, but on behalf of all of my constituents, as a symbol of our appreciation and our gratitude for the work that law enforcement officers do every day throughout the State of Michigan. While this is a small gesture, I hope it will hold some meaning to their families and their fellow officers.●

TRIBUTE TO MARC KOENINGS

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an accomplished and respected steward of our National Park System, Marc Koenings, Superintendent of Assateague Island National Seashore. Marc has recently been selected to head Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and New Jersey and I want to wish him well with this important new assignment and thank him for the terrific job he did in managing Assateague over the past seven years.

Throughout his 29-year career in public service, Marc Koenings has distinguished himself as a leader in natural and cultural resource management and

conservation at the local, national and international levels. Beginning with the Peace Corps in 1971, Marc also served for nine years in a variety of positions with the Heritage Recreation and Conservation Service before joining the National Park Service. He quickly advanced to top management jobs in four Parks including Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore and Virgin Islands National Park where he made substantial contributions to improving park facilities, protecting park resources and developing highly professional work forces.

I came to know Marc in 1993 shortly after he came to Maryland from Virgin Islands National Park. I had invited Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to join me on a tour of Assateague Island and to officially dedicate the Beach-to-Bay Indian Trail as a National Recreational Trail. Marc served as host and Master of Ceremonies for the visit and I was immediately impressed not only by his professionalism, but by the knowledge and vision which he had for Assateague after such a short period on the job. Over the past seven years, I have had the opportunity and privilege to work closely with Superintendent Koenings and members of his staff at Assateague in efforts to restore the north end of the island, construct a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge, protect the seashore from encroaching development, and develop the new Coastal Ecology Teaching and Research Laboratory. I know from personal experience that these initiatives would not be taking place, but for his persistent efforts, energy and innovation. In addition to these projects, under Marc's leadership, Assateague's barrier island visitors center was expanded and improved, a new Administrative facility was constructed, and new partnerships were formed to develop water trails and promote other eco-tourism opportunities in the area.

The efforts of Marc Koenings throughout his career in the National Park Service have had a lasting effect not only on the parks he has worked to protect, but on the people with whom he has come in contact. He has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues in the Park Service as well as the visitors and citizens in the local communities surrounding the parks. It is my firm conviction that public service is one of the most honorable callings, one that demands the very best, most dedicated efforts of those who have the opportunity to serve their fellow citizens and country. Throughout his career Marc Koenings has exemplified a steadfast commitment to meeting this demand. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of hard work and dedication to the principal conservation mission of the National Park Service and join with his friends and coworkers in wishing him and his family well with his new endeavors.●