

HONORING MR. DON S. MCCLURE FOR HIS PROMOTION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH THE 28 DAYS OF FEBRUARY PROGRAM

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 1999*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Don S. McClure of Memphis, Tennessee, for his continual promotion of Black History Month with the 28 Days of February Program, Calendar and Black History Awards Ceremony.

Mr. McClure's consulting and marketing company has successfully developed and implemented the 28 Days of February Program in honor of Black History Month. The program and calendar are now used across the nation to educate young people about the vital role of African Americans throughout history. The program has also been used by Professors at the International University in Tokyo, Japan, and other sites around the world.

Mr. McClure's vision included launching the 28 Days of February Program from Memphis, Tennessee, and eventually reaching the entire world with his message of courage and strength from the African American community. He works each year to change the way individuals view African Americans in our society, and provides valuable information which broadens our knowledge of history.

Don McClure concludes Black History Month each year with a special awards banquet to honor outstanding individuals in Memphis. The Black History Awards Banquet culminates the annual Black History Month celebration. For these contributions, today I honor Mr. McClure and wish him continued success in all of his endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF QATAR ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR HISTORIC ELECTIONS

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to sponsor a concurrent resolution congratulating the State of Qatar and its citizens for their commitment to democratic ideals and women's suffrage on the occasion of Qatar's historic elections of a Central Municipal Council scheduled for March 8, 1999. Particularly, I thank the co-chairs of the Congressional Women's Caucus, Rep. CAROLYN MALONEY and Rep. SUE KELLY, for their support and co-sponsorship of this resolution.

His Highness, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, issued a decree a number of years ago creating the Central Municipal Council. In the past year additional decisions about the elections were made, and Qatari women were granted the right to vote in this historic first municipal election and to run for office.

Our colleagues agree that the United States highly values democracy and women's rights. Accordingly, the resolution applauds the Emir of Qatar, for his leadership, and commends the citizens of Qatar for participating in this im-

portant civic function. Clearly, this election will demonstrate the strength and diversity of the State of Qatar's commitment to democratic expression.

The resolution also reaffirms that the United States is strongly committed to encouraging the suffrage of women, democratic ideals, and peaceful development throughout the Middle East. I request that the text of the resolution be printed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for our colleagues' review, and I urge their support for this initiative.

H. CON. RES. 35

Whereas His Highness, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, issued a decree creating a central municipal council, the first of its kind in Qatar;

Whereas on March 8, 1999, the people of the State of Qatar will hold direct elections for a central municipal council;

Whereas the central municipal council has been structured to have members from 29 election districts serving 4-year terms;

Whereas Qatari women were granted the right to participate in this historic first municipal election, both as candidates and voters;

Whereas this election demonstrates the strength and diversity of the State of Qatar's commitment to democratic expression;

Whereas the United States highly values democracy and women's rights;

Whereas March 8 is recognized as International Women's Day, and is an occasion to assess the progress of the advancement of women and girls throughout the world; and

Whereas this historic event of democratic elections and women's suffrage in the State of Qatar should be honored: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) commends His Highness, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for his leadership and commitment to suffrage and the principles of democracy;

(2) congratulates the citizens of the State of Qatar as they celebrate the historic election for a central municipal council on March 8, 1999; and

(3) reaffirms that the United States is strongly committed to encouraging the suffrage of women, democratic ideals, and peaceful development throughout the middle East.

PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR AMERICA'S RESOURCES 2000

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 1999*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, together with 33 House co-sponsors and our colleagues Senator BARBARA BOXER and Senator ROBERT TORRICELLI in the other body, I am introducing today the Permanent Protection for America's Resources 2000 Act, historic and sweeping legislation to restore our national commitment to America's resources.

Resources 2000 is designed to redeem the solemn pledge made over 30 years ago to reinvest the profits from offshore energy production in our public resources. Billions of dollars have been produced from those offshore lands; and yet Congress and past Administrations have failed to live up to the initial bargain that pledged a sizable portion of those dollars to resource protection for future generations.

Not surprisingly, those resources have deteriorated over the years.

The bill we introduce today—with the enthusiastic support of our nation's leading environmental, wildlife and historic preservation organizations—fulfills that promise of steady, certain and adequate funding.

Resources 2000 will provide permanent, annual allocations for high priority resource preservation goals; acquisition and sound management of public lands, parks and open space, marine and coastal resources, historic preservation, fish and wildlife, and urban recreation facilities. Our bill provides states, local communities, farmers and others with the resources they need to plan and manage our irreplaceable assets.

Funding for our legislation is taken from part of the over \$4 billion currently provided annually to federal taxpayers in revenues from offshore oil and gas drilling. The legislation does not increase revenues from oil and gas drilling and does not impose any new taxes or royalties. And unlike the other OCS revenue bills under consideration, Resources 2000 creates no incentives for additional leasing or development of offshore oil and gas: not in current areas, and certainly not in areas covered by legislative moratorium.

Our bill also contains a far more equitable distribution of revenues than other bills which lavish more than half percent of the public's money on a half dozen states and short-change the rest of America.

I am delighted that we are joined in introducing this bill not only by over 20 members of Congress, but also by many of the most broad-based, grassroots environmental, parks, and wildlife organizations throughout this country, including The Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Defenders of Wildlife, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, National Parks & Conservation Association, Preservation Action, National Audubon Society, Center for Marine Conservation, US PIRG, National Recreation & Park Association, Police Athletic/Activities League (P.A.L.), National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, and Scenic America.

The effort to provide these funds on a permanent basis in an idea whose time has come. Five years ago, I called for permanent, full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to preserve our parks and public lands for generations to come. If we can do it with Social Security and with the Highway Trust Fund, we should be able to do the same with the fund the American people were promised to protect our national environmental treasures.

I particularly commend the Clinton Administration for recognizing the importance of this initiative in its budget request for the fiscal year 2000. We are committed to working with the Administration and with the sponsors of other congressional initiatives—Senators MARY LANDRIEU (D-LA) and FRANK MURKOWSKI (R-AK), and my own chairman Congressman DON YOUNG (R-AK) and his co-sponsors—to craft legislation that restores our resources' legacy, preserves our national environmental heritage, protects our coasts, and is enacted on behalf of the American people during the 106th Congress.