

House Resolution 734 to express support for and honor September 17, 2009, as "Constitution Day."

IN RECOGNITION OF BASS PRO SHOPS FOUNDER JOHNNY L. MORRIS, FOR HIS LIFETIME CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE TEDDY ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has become an icon to fishermen, an innovative retailer and perhaps the humblest guy you might ever meet. You may not immediately recognize the name Johnny Morris, but you probably know the company he started in 1972—Bass Pro Shops. Johnny is also a dedicated conservationist who supports a host of national wildlife and habitat conservation efforts.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, the Nature Conservancy, International Game Fish Association, Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Quality Deer Management Association, Trout Unlimited, International Bowhunting Organization, The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, Quail Unlimited, Federation of Fly Fisherman, and Safari Club International are among the organizations that Bass Pro Shops publicly supports.

Johnny's ideal work is fishing. While fishing the Bassmaster professional circuit, he was always taking notes of what lures were catching fish, who made them and how to find them. Starting with hand-tied lures and bait made from sowbellies and sold in jars, Johnny started his business in his father's store. Within two years he needed more room for his growing enterprise.

In 1972 Bass Pro Shops—or Pro Bass as many of his regulars still call it—began issuing catalogs. Today those books are 700 pages of full color pictures of lures, worms, hooks, sinkers, reels, rods and everything an angler would ever need. There is a line of hunting equipment and clothing too.

Among Johnny's successful ideas was selling fishing boats in packages—boat, motor, trailer and trolling motor. It had never been tried before, but it's an industry standard now. That is just one of several reasons why he was named the National Retail Federation's Retail Innovator of the Year in 2008.

Johnny Morris' vision has expanded from that small space in his dad's store to 56 megastores in the United States and Canada, a 1.7-million-square-foot warehouse and headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and jobs for 16,000 employees.

If you want to know the real success of Morris' Bass Pro Shops, visit one of their stores. Complete with aquariums full of game fish or rare turtles, a Bass Pro Shops store is a visit that will satisfy your interest in everything outdoors. Equipment for most any sportsman's experience is available along with advice from people who have used it. Bass Pro Shops receives nearly 100 million customers, sight-

seers and visitors a year. The Springfield store is Missouri's number one visitor attraction, welcoming more than 4 million people through its doors last year.

Johnny is a conservationist who enjoys the outdoors and preservation of America's scenic beauty found in its open spaces, wildlife and waters. Earlier this week, the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership honored Johnny Morris with its Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award for his dedication to conserving our national resources and ensuring the future of America's sporting traditions.

This is an honor Johnny Morris has earned through a lifetime of work as a retailer and sportsman. Foremost, I think Johnny would like to be thought of simply as a pretty good fisherman.

RECOGNIZING TIBOTEC THERAPEUTICS FOR CONDUCTING THE GRACE STUDY, A GROUND BREAKING HIV CLINICAL TRIAL FOCUSED ON WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Tibotec Therapeutics, part of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies, for demonstrating continued innovation and corporate responsibility in the fight against HIV/AIDS by conducting the groundbreaking GRACE study. GRACE, which stands for Gender Race And Clinical Experience, is the largest study to date in treatment-experienced women with HIV to examine gender and race differences in response to an HIV therapy. In recent HIV studies of treatment-experienced patients, women accounted for less than 11 percent of the patients being studied, on average. GRACE was able to enroll nearly 70 percent women and 84 percent people of color.

In my home State of Missouri, there are almost 12,000 people living with AIDS, and African Americans represent over a third of these cases. Women account for more than one quarter of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the United States, with African American and Latina women representing 79 percent of women living with the disease. People of color have been historically underrepresented in clinical trials in the United States, and HIV/AIDS disproportionately impacts African Americans. In terms of new HIV infections, African American women are infected at a rate 15 times higher than white women.

The trial was designed to help overcome some of the barriers, identified by the advisors, which have historically deterred women and people of color from participating in clinical studies, including stigma, lack of child care, transportation and personal support systems. Based upon advisor and community input, study participants could obtain assistance to cover costs associated with their participation in the study, including funds for travel and childcare, as well as food vouchers. I am proud to say that one of the study sites in this historic clinical trial is located in my congressional district.

Results of the GRACE study showed that there were no statistical differences in the safety, tolerability or effectiveness of the HIV regimens used in the study between male and female participants, or for people of different ethnicities. Additionally, the GRACE study showed that with the appropriate commitment from the trial sponsor and input from affected communities and providers, clinical trials can enroll meaningful numbers of women and racial and ethnic minorities.

Madam Speaker, I commend Tibotec Therapeutics and Johnson & Johnson for their commitment to addressing the disproportionate impact of this epidemic on women and people of color.

U.S. POLICY TOWARDS BURMA

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, today the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs held a hearing on U.S. policy towards Burma. I would like to contribute some remarks on this important topic. I represent the Third District of Indiana, which is home to the largest concentration of people from Burma in the U.S. In recent years, resettlement agencies have placed well over 2,000 refugees in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Fort Wayne has also become a "community of choice" amongst the refugee community, and secondary migrants have increased Fort Wayne's population of people from Burma to over 6,000. As a result, the Third District is acutely aware of the atrocities and suffering that the people from Burma have faced at the hands of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

I am disappointed that this hearing, which is intended to evaluate the role the U.S. can play in facilitating democratic reform, did not invite testimony from a single representative of Burma's democracy movement or one individual who has endured the violence of the Tatmadaw. A thorough evaluation is impossible without their perspective.

Over the years, U.N. reports have documented some of the military regime's harrowing crimes, including widespread rape, conscription of child soldiers, torture, and the destruction of thousands of villages. It is clear that the SPDC has in part been conducting a war against its own citizens.

In spite of these realities, the Administration has recently engaged in direct dialogues with the Burmese regime and the Senate Committee's hearings today are in part seeking to re-evaluate the role of sanctions in U.S. policy. I support the establishment of a peaceful and democratic Burma. However, it is improbable that this can be achieved through negotiations with the junta—a dictatorship will not act in good faith and broker a deal that will lead to its own demise.

Before such dramatic changes in policy can be made, it is necessary for the military dictatorship to demonstrate a clear movement towards democracy. This must include ending the current violence against its citizens, installing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to her rightful place as Burma's democratically elected Prime Minister, and drafting a constitution that creates the possibility for true civilian leadership.

Until we see this kind of progress, the U.S. cannot give validity to this illegitimate government.

HONORING BEN G. PORTER

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor one of Macon, Georgia's great citizens, Ben G. Porter, someone who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in Middle Georgia and throughout the State of Georgia.

Ben and his wife Hazel have lived in Macon for over 50 years. He is an avid outdoorsman and his passion for the natural beauty of our land punctuates his business and charitable endeavors. As a former Chairman of the Board of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources, Ben advocated for the conservation and preservation of our natural and cultural resources so that current and future generations can take pleasure in the unique history, diversity and great beauty found in every region of our state. As a founder and member of the Ocmulgee Land Trust, as Chairman of the Jekyll Island Authority as well as in his service as on the Advisory Council of the Trust for Public Land, Ben actively encourages property owners across our nation to conserve and protect land that has natural, recreational, scenic, historic, or productive value.

In his hometown of Macon, Ben Porter's vision and leadership has anchored a number of organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, where he served a term as President, the Macon Heritage Foundation and Mercer University's School of Medicine, where he currently serves on the Board of Governors. But, his most lasting and—I believe he would say—his proudest accomplishment in Macon is the leadership he provided along with a handful of others in the creation of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail. More than 15 years ago, Ben and a small group of civic and public leaders in Macon began to envision a walking trail that would connect some of Macon's historical and cultural gems—the Ocmulgee National Monument, Rose Hill Cemetery and the historic water treatment facility—to its great natural asset and the lifeblood of our community, the Ocmulgee River. What made this idea special was the reason behind it: most of the land abutting the Ocmulgee River in Macon was owned by private citizens and therefore not accessible to the public. There were few places where the everyday person in Macon could touch the river, could sit beside it in quiet contemplation or enjoy the beauty of its banks. The gift of river access to the Ocmulgee River is the enduring legacy that Ben has helped to give to the citizens of Macon. Today, the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail extends 10 miles, but Ben Porter and the other leaders of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail executive board dream big, and eventually the Trail will connect landmarks and towns throughout Middle Georgia.

I'd like to close my comments today on a personal note. I have known Ben for many years in both a professional and personal capacity. Ben is a man of faith, a generous giver, a caring mentor and an exceptional vi-

sionary whose perseverance and quiet yet influential leadership style has been an example to us all. He is savvy, strong and involved. And he is someone I am proud to call a friend.

Please join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Ben G. Porter, a great and influential citizen of Macon, Georgia.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3692, THE NATIONAL FOREST ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, today, with bipartisan support from 151 of my colleagues, I introduced the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2009, which will protect 58.5 million acres of pristine wild forests by prohibiting new road construction and reconstruction and providing critical ecological protections. Roadless areas provide clean drinking water to over 60 million Americans, recreational opportunities, and undeveloped habitat for more than 600 threatened, endangered or sensitive plant and animal species. In Washington, 2,015,000 acres of roadless areas, almost 22 percent of our wildlands, are at stake. Washington State crown jewels, like Eagle Rock and Dark Divide, should be preserved for future generations. This legislation will codify the Clinton Administration's Roadless Area Conservation rule to protect these lands and move us closer to permanently protecting our nation's unique and invaluable wildlands.

In 2001, President Clinton issued the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, protecting 58.5 million acres of National Forest land (30 percent of all National Forest land) from new road construction. The Clinton Roadless Rule was the result of a two-year rulemaking process that included the most extensive public involvement process in federal rulemaking history. The U.S. Forest Service held more than 600 meetings, with more than 1.6 million Americans submitting comments to the plan, where my constituents and many other Americans voiced their overwhelming support for the rule.

While the Clinton Roadless Rule enjoyed enormous public support, the Bush Administration fought a multi-year battle to overturn it. In 2005, the Bush Administration issued a new roadless rule that removed protections and opened roadless areas up for further development. In addition, numerous lawsuits have tracked the roadless rule's course, both in favor and opposed. Recently, the 9th District court has decided in favor of the 2001 Roadless Rule. This legislation will permanently protect our nation's roadless areas and remove all ambiguity concerning their conservation and protection.

As a native Washingtonian and a lifelong outdoorsman, I grew up exploring and enjoying our National Forests. It is my hope that my grandchildren will be able to explore and enjoy the same untouched and protected forests that I have grown to love. By carefully and thoughtfully conserving our National Forest lands, they will be here for future generations to come.

I have led the fight for our roadless areas in Congress since 2002 and will continue to seek ways to protect our National Forests.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS J. MANNING

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas J. Manning and his dedicated years of service to the State of New Jersey and its workers. Mr. Manning recently retired after a long career as an advocate for New Jersey's workers. Through his tenacity and hard work he became a positive force in the lives of so many.

In 1969, Mr. Manning graduated from Mater Dei High School, located in New Monmouth, New Jersey. He soon became involved in the steamfitting trade, serving a five year apprenticeship before achieving the position of Mechanical Superintendent. Mr. Manning is a member of Local Union No. 475 and has served his union in a number of distinguished capacities. In 1994, he was elected to the position of Business Agent and in 2000 he was selected to serve as the union's Business Manager. He was also a trustee and Co-Chairman of the Steamfitters Local 475 Employee Benefit Trust Fund.

Mr. Manning has also served in several state-wide union positions, during which time he represented and fought for thousands of his fellow workers. He served as President of the New Jersey State Association of Pipe Trades. In this capacity, he worked to represent 11,000 plumbers, pipefitters, sprinklerfitters, and HVAC service providers. Mr. Manning has also served as Vice President of the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades, President of the Mechanical Allied Crafts, and as an Executive Board Member of the New Jersey AFL-CIO.

Mr. Manning is a founding member of my labor advisory committee and has become a trusted advisor to me on not only labor issues but on the environment, the economy and workers' health care.

Importantly, Mr. Manning sought to continue his education in the fields of labor and political studies. He completed courses in both Labor Law and Labor History at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. He also attended Rutgers University's Labor Education Center where he studied political science.

Mr. Manning has been a member of numerous government and local advisory groups. In 2005, he was appointed by Governor Dick Codey to serve as a member of the School Construction Corporation Board of Directors. He also served as a member of New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine's Economic Development Transition Team and was later appointed to a position with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

Madam Speaker, Local 475, the labor movement and the people of New Jersey are losing a true champion with the retirement of Tom Manning. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating his impressive career. His long record of advocacy on behalf of New Jersey's workers is truly remarkable.