

A Ceremony
Unveiling the Portrait
of
THE HONORABLE
RICHARD W. POMBO



Tuesday, July 28, 2015
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE PRINT

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Unveiling the Portrait
of
THE HONORABLE
RICHARD W. POMBO

*A Representative in Congress from the State of California
January 3, 1993–January 3, 2007*

*Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources
for the
One Hundred Eighth
and
One Hundred Ninth Congresses*



PROCEEDINGS
before the
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

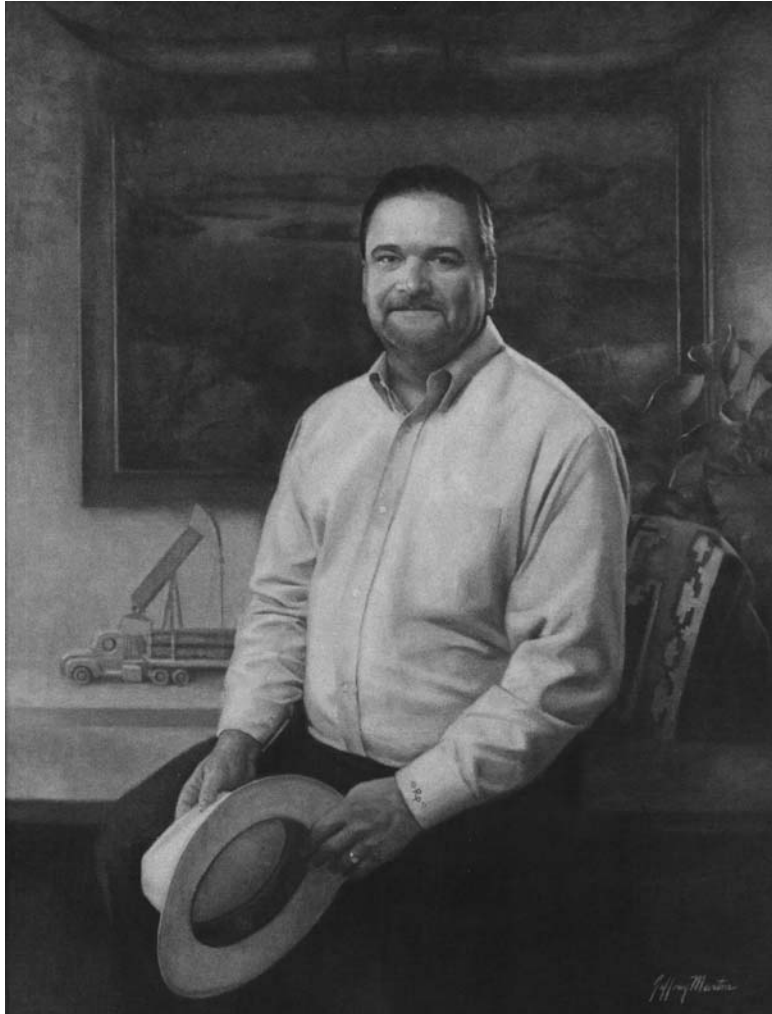
*U.S. House of Representatives
July 28, 2015*

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ARTIST: JEFFREY MARTIN

THE HONORABLE RICHARD W. POMBO

Republican of California

House Committee on Natural Resources

Chairman 2003–2007

(IV)

THE HONORABLE RICHARD W. POMBO

Richard Pombo, former Chairman of the Resources Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992 and represented California's 11th district until January of 2007. During his time as Chairman, he was the key author of several pieces of legislation, including reforms to our nation's environmental laws, energy policy, Native American and Tribal issues, farm bill legislation, healthy forests reform, private property rights, and international species protection policies.

During his time serving in the House, he also served on the Transportation Committee, the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and the Resources Committee. Pombo also served as the Co-Chair of the Speakers Task Force on Affordable Natural Gas, is a past Chairman of the Western Caucus, and was a Co-Founder of the Portuguese-American Caucus. Pombo's work on the protection of private property rights led him to author the widely reviewed book, "This Land is Our Land," and to be a staunch defender of property rights on Capitol Hill. As a rancher from the Central Valley of California, he currently splits time between his ranch, where he and his wife, Annette, have raised their three children, and Washington, D.C.

JEFFREY MARTIN, ARTIST

Award winning portrait and pastel landscape artist Jeffrey Martin strives to make every portrait flattering, reflective of individual personality, and stunningly accurate in likeness. Mr. Martin attended Susquehanna University, graduating with a BA in English Education. He then attended art school in New York City at the Art Students League of New York and continued his education at Penn State University where he earned an MFA in Painting and Drawing. Mr. Martin taught art classes at Susquehanna University from 1989-1992 and again from 2001-2006.

PROGRAM

WELCOME

*The Honorable Frank Lucas
Former Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture*

REMARKS

*The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Devin Nunes
Chairman, House Select Committee on Intelligence*

ACCEPTANCE OF THE PORTRAIT AND REMARKS

*The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives*

UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT

Richie Pombo, Renà Pombo, and Rachel Pombo

REMARKS

*The Honorable Richard W. Pombo
Former Chairman of the House Resources Committee
Member of Congress (Ret.)*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Richard Pombo Portrait Committee—Darrell Henry, Kristin Schrader Marcell, Lisa Wallace, Seth Voyles
Curator, U.S. House of Representatives—Farar Elliott
Portrait Artist—Jeffrey Martin
Gavel Resources—Jacquelyn Sommer, Suzanne Youngblood
Photographer—Dana Renee
U.S. Capitol Historical Society—Peter McGuire*

Richard would like to especially thank his family, friends, supporters, colleagues and former staff for being a part of today's ceremony.

The Unveiling and Presentation of the Official Portrait of

THE HONORABLE RICHARD W. POMBO

CHAIRMAN 2003–2007

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, D.C.

The ceremony began at 4:55 p.m., in room 1334, Longworth House Office Building.

Mr. LUCAS. My good friends, thank you for being here today. As a Member who has been hung, but in a different room—

[Laughter.]

Mr. LUCAS [continuing]. This is the most pleasant way that this can occur.

For those of you perhaps who have not been a part of this process before, this is a tradition that goes back about a century in the U.S. House. It acknowledges the men and women who have served as Committee Chairmen, who have toiled in the trenches, dug in the ditches, so to speak, and moved Democracy forward.

After you retire, and again, for all of my fiscally-conservative friends in the room, and I am sure a good many of you are part of helping make this possible, this effort, not a penny of taxpayers' money was involved in producing a portrait to commemorate the Chairman's past experiences, which will hang in the Committee hearing room forever or at least as long as they don't remember Pombo and I.

[Laughter.]

Mr. LUCAS. But I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to offer a personal thought or two.

I was sworn in in May of 1994 in a special election. Pombo and I, at that time Pombo was a freshman, were members of what was the last of the old 40-year Democratic majority. I took the oath of office down in the well. Speaker Foley was not very happy about it because I replaced a Member of his side of the room, took a seat. And I proceeded to the back, having picked out a zone that looked fairly safe to have a seat.

Lo and behold, I encountered for the first time in my life a Portuguese Californian.

[Laughter.]

Mr. LUCAS. He looked up, and he said, "Well, at least you were brief with that speech. Have a seat, Lucas." And that is when I first met the Chairman.

And over the course of our serving together for 14½ years, something like that, on the Ag Committee together and working with him in his involvement on Resources, we developed a relationship that will endure forever.

Richard is one of these folks who, from day one, came committed to make a difference. Yeah. Farmer/rancher in California, that is a tough challenge these days, but it has always been a tough challenge. A fellow who came by way of the Tracy City Council because he idealistically believed local government could do better for the citizens.

And then, amazingly, he discovered when he was on the city of Tracy Council, he used to tell me, that the real problem wasn't the city council; it was those yahoos east of the Mississippi River. So when an opportunity came to run for Congress, a competitive race—you were what, 31 when you were sworn in?

Mr. POMBO. Yes.

Mr. LUCAS. Pombo came charging to where the problem was. He focused on property rights, focused on agriculture, focused on preserving our natural resources, focused on making a real difference from a real person's perspective.

And the thing about Pombo is that he never forgot that perspective of being a Portuguese in California, being a rancher, even if he is the knight of something or other in the Portuguese empire.

[Laughter.]

Mr. LUCAS. I don't understand all this nobility stuff.

But he never forgot that, in all the bills and all the legislation and all the things he worked on ever so consistently.

I have the greatest respect for him. You do, too, or you wouldn't be here.

Now, I have vented my spleen. I feel better for having told the truth.

[Applause.]

Mr. LUCAS. I would now like to turn the floor to Chairman Bishop for whatever comments he might offer.

REMARKS OF HON. ROB BISHOP

Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

I thank you all for being here. This is a wonderful occasion to honor the former Chairman of the Resources Committee, the best Committee in Congress. I understand some of you think of it as a B Committee, but for those of us in the West, this is the most important Committee that happens to be here.

My first session was also the first time that Chairman Pombo was Chairman of this Committee. So, for me, I judged the Chairman by the standards that he set. And it is going to be a very difficult road for me to try and live up to the standards Chairman Pombo set for this particular Committee.

I am, though, happy to see that we are about the same height.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. You have to realize, when I was here, I was always sitting down at the bottom looking up at him. For my entire first 6 years here, I always looked up at Pombo. I always thought he was a lot bigger than that.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. But I am appreciative of you all being here. This is a great honor for Richard, and it is an honor for me; you have to be nice to me because I still get to decide where this is actually hung.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. And we all know that is a lie, because the staff will tell me where to put it.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. So thank you for being here. Thank you for your service to the country. Thank you for the standards you set for this Committee. I am looking forward to trying to do as well as you did. And we are happy to have you here forever in these rooms.

[Applause.]

Mr. LUCAS. The Speaker of this greatest House of Representatives, who we all served with on the Ag Committee for a long time, will bestow a few words upon us and hopefully accept this fine work of art.

Mr. Speaker.

REMARKS OF HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

Speaker BOEHNER. Well, let me just say I thank all of you for being here.

Richard, it is amazing to see you.

[Laughter.]

Speaker BOEHNER. You know, these portrait unveilings tend to become a reunion of sorts. And I know a lot of people that are here, some of you we haven't seen since 2006.

But I remember, in 1992, there was a candidate running from Stockton, California. Remember that? And we did an event at a little house out on the front yard. And all I can remember is this guy was tenacious. He won the seat and got here and was just as tenacious.

You know, I will never forget, as he was going out the door, and here he was, on the Floor of the House, pushing for drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf. Packing the office, moving out—no, no, not possible. He was still pushing till the last moment.

If you looked at his work on the Endangered Species Act, I don't know how many bills, how many times he worked this thing, but he worked it and worked it and worked it. It never really got anywhere, but—

[Laughter.]

Speaker BOEHNER. Listen, a great Member, a tenacious Member, somebody who did a great job leading this Committee. On behalf of the House, it is my honor to accept this portrait into the House gallery.

Richard, God bless you.

[Applause.]

Mr. LUCAS. I would now like to call up the Chair of the House Intelligence Committee, a Representative from the California delegation.

REMARKS OF HON. DEVIN NUNES
Chairman, House Select Committee on Intelligence

Mr. NUNES. Thank you, Mr. Lucas.

So, Richard, this really is a pleasure and an honor to be here for you today.

And it was so nice for Richard to shut off the air conditioning in the Longworth House Office Building.

[Laughter.]

Mr. NUNES. I am quite sure that was a message that was sent by you to the environmental groups, that this is what happens if you never reform the Endangered Species Act.

[Laughter.]

Mr. NUNES. If Richard would have had his way back in the day, he was really ahead of his time, California wouldn't be having the problems that it is having today with the implementation of the Endangered Species Act. Unfortunately, Richard could never get it across the line, although we came close in the Senate, but I think now California is paying the repercussions for not listening to a real statesman and friend like this that we have had only a few times in our lifetime, in a guy like Richard.

And the Speaker said it very well, that Richard was fierce and he was loyal. There was never a time that I would come to Richard and he couldn't do something for me. He would help me to get to the place that I needed to get to.

And you had a very loyal staff and friends. I haven't seen a lot of them for a long time. Some of them are still on the Committee. But the staff was very loyal to you and loyal to your friends. And a lot of my best friends that I met were through you in our time when Bishop and I were sitting on the bottom of the Resources Committee.

[Laughter.]

Mr. NUNES. And I will tell you one of my favorite freshman stories, and then I will be quiet.

I was only in Congress for a couple months, and I get this call from Richard on the weekend at my house. He says, "Very important. I've got to talk to you. I need you to go with me on this trip to Alaska." And so I said, "OK, all right." So I dropped everything, changed my schedule, because I figured, if the Chairman calls, I have to go.

So then we came back to Washington. We flew from here to Alaska. Well, I realized when I got on the plane I was part of the problem because it was, like, me, the gentlelady from Guam—

[Laughter.]

Mr. NUNES [continuing]. Denny Rehberg, and, like, nobody else, right? So, clearly, he had to have me to at least fill the plane.

[Laughter.]

Mr. NUNES. And then we landed, outside of Anchorage there, Valdez, and then we went up to a place called Deadhorse. And it was, like, 20 below, and I said, "Well, this isn't too bad." You know, I don't think I had ever been in weather below 10.

And you know the rest of the story. We fly to the North Slope, and it was, like, negative 45 with the windchill. And I said, "Oh, my God." And then we get out, and the tires on the plane had frozen—frozen and locked. So you had me, Ms. Bordallo, and Rehberg out there rocking the plane because the tires were locked.

[Laughter.]

Mr. NUNES. But I think that is a testament to you, Richard, because nobody wanted to go up there, but you were willing to go up there. And you conducted real hearings, made your point. And, like Rob said, you are a tough act to follow because you did such a good job.

So congratulations to you and to all your family.

[Applause.]

Mr. LUCAS. Chairman Pombo will make comments in just a moment and, at that point, he will introduce his lovely bride. That is more appropriate for him to do.

So I think, at this point, could we have the heir and heiresses to the empire come up?

I have to comment that Rachel wasn't even a threat to anybody's life when Pombo came to Congress.

And whether you want to admit it or not, you used to entertain us on the back row when you would come visit us as a 4-year-old.

[Laughter.]

Mr. LUCAS. So let's all take a deep breath.

I sent Pombo several copies of various cartoons from 10 years ago, and I asked if any of those were going to be the face in the portrait. He denies that. Therefore, let's unveil him.

[Applause.]

Mr. LUCAS. Former Chairman of the House Resources Committee, former Vice Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, The Right Honorable Richard W. Pombo.

[Applause.]

REMARKS OF HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

Mr. POMBO. I want to just start off by thanking everybody for being here and everything that went into this event here today.

You know, this is something, after I left, I wasn't coming back. I didn't want to do a portrait, I didn't want to do anything. And because of the encouragement of former staff and my kids, my family, I finally agreed that I would do the portrait. And I am glad I did, because I am having a lot of fun with it.

And I want to thank, of course, the Speaker for taking time to come over here.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for doing this for me.

And thank Frank and Devin, who are two of my closest friends, two of the guys that I know we will always be friends no matter what. And those of you that are in this political world know that there are not very many people here you can call your friend till the end, but those are two of the guys that always will be my friends.

The other one that I commuted back and forth from northern Virginia for 14 years with, John Doolittle, who is here, he came in for this.

[Applause.]

Mr. POMBO. And Jim Costa is here. Tom McClintock is here. I don't know who else I am missing that walked in, but—

Mr. LUCAS. Congressman Weller is here.

Mr. POMBO. Oh, yeah, Jerry is here, and Congressman Burton.

But thank you, everybody, for coming over and, again, making this.

You know, first of all, this whole thing was just a team effort from the beginning to the end. It started back in 1992 when I called my wife, I was thinking about running for Congress, so I called her, and I said, "What do you think about moving to Washington?" She said, "Yeah, that would be fine. Did you guys find a ranch up there?"

[Laughter.]

Mr. POMBO. Not thinking that I was dumb enough to want to run for Congress. But, after I explained it to her, she went along with it, happily, I guess.

But she has been there from the beginning and always supported me and helped me get through everything. My kids, Richie, Renà, and Rachel, who, when most of you saw them last, they were a little bit smaller.

But, you know, I say this was a team effort from the beginning. I see guys here that were with me in my very first office when I first opened up in the Longworth building, a couple floors up. Guys like Tom Pyle and Chris D'Arcy, Jack Victory, those guys were in the first office when I first got here, and we had a great staff.

And I was one of those who had always believed that I didn't have to be the smartest person in the room, I just had to have them working for me. And I was lucky that I always had such great staff through the whole time I was here. Steve Ding, my former chief of staff, deserves a lot of credit for that because he put together a heck of a team, both in the personal office and then on the Committee.

And, you know, all of you got together and joined me in this battle, and we went to war over this. We knew going in we were outmanned and we were outgunned, but we were going to fight, and we were going to do what was right.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to see so many of you here today that worked for me, that worked with me over the years, because you guys are still fighting. You haven't given up. And that is what it is all about. You have to keep fighting.

There are a few things in the painting that I started thinking about what I was going to do and how I was going to make it. Of course, I had to do it casual because that is me. But, when it comes right down to it, I looked at what the jurisdiction of the Committee was. And, at the top, we have the longhorns for the cattle grazers out West. In the background is Shasta Dam, and it is the development of the greatest water project in the world. We have a logging truck and an oil rig at the bottom. And hanging over the chair is a Native American blanket that was given to me when I was Chairman by a Tribal Chairman.

And, to me, that embodies what the Committee was, and it embodies all the work that we did over the years. So I wanted to make that part of the official portrait.

So, all of you, thanks for being here. I appreciate it. You know, I had so much help: the guys over at Gavel with me, my former staff, Sophia here on the Committee. Everybody pitched in to make this all work.

So, thank you. Enjoy yourselves. Have fun. To my colleagues, thanks again for coming over.

[Applause.]

[Whereupon, at 5:15 p.m., the ceremony was concluded.]

