

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE JON PORTER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable JON PORTER for his service to the people of Nevada and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman PORTER has represented the Third Congressional District of the State of Nevada for the past 6 years.

Born and raised in Fort Dodge, Iowa, JON attended Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa, majoring in Theology. JON later moved to Henderson, Nevada, to begin his professional career as a small business owner with the Farmers Insurance Group. JON's political career began with his election to the Boulder City City Council in 1983. Immediately following his term on the City Council, JON was elected mayor of Boulder City in 1987 and went on to serve in the Nevada State Senate. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002, becoming the first Representative of the newly created Third Congressional District.

Appointed to the powerful Ways and Means Committee at the beginning of the 110th Congress, JON used this post to influence revenue legislation affecting the gaming and tourism industries which are the backbone of Nevada's economy. He also worked to shed light on travel requirements in order to facilitate easier travel to and from the United States in order to boost tourism to the Third District.

Education has also been a priority of JON's. Working with John Walsh, child advocate and host of America's Most Wanted, JON introduced legislation mandating criminal background checks for teachers in States that had not previously required them. The House passed bill was later enacted as part of the larger Adam Walsh Child Protection Act.

JON is also a founding member of the "Second Amendments," a bipartisan band of congressional Members that plays for various charities in Washington. The band has also traveled to Iraq playing for the troops at Christmas.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his children, J. Chris and Nicole, as well as his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of Nevada and the United States of America.

JON will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF AM 560 KWTO RADIO'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVING SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an Ozarks institution—KWTO Radio. AM 560 KWTO will celebrate its 75th anniversary of continuous service to Southwest Missouri providing music, news and information. On Christmas Day 1933, broadcast pioneer Ralph Foster brought KWTO to life with its first broadcast from the old Chamber of Commerce Building on St. Louis Street in Springfield.

Foster decided that KWTO's hallmark would be to provide the highest quality news, weather, farm reports and entertainment to its listeners and dubbed the station's call letters "Keep Watching the Ozarks." Adherence to that tradition has kept KWTO the region's longest continuously operating radio station.

75 years is a long time to keep any business going. By hiring great talent in broadcasting and entertainment, Foster amassed an amazing group of artists and journalists that would become well known and trusted names in radio. Floyd Sullivan, Bill Bailey and C.C. Williford, who was widely known as one of the nation's best weathermen, filled the region's airwaves from the 1930s.

Another group of broadcasters were also laying the foundation for what would become "the Golden Age" of entertainment on KWTO AM. Slim Wilson, George Earl and Bill Ring were the showmen that Foster and associate Si Simon used to launch and develop programming that would take a weekly "hillbilly variety" program and turned it into one of television's early sensations.

KWTO's Korn's-A-Krackin', which began airing during World War II and continued into the 1960s, was picked up nationally by the Mutual Broadcast System. In July 1954, KWTO became part of American broadcast history when the KWTO Barn Dance program was revamped for the brand new medium and named The Ozarks Jubilee. This live program broadcast from Springfield was an early TV hit (1955 to 1960 on ABC).

KWTO, which also produced the Ozarks Country Jubilee, and its television cousin used local artists like Wilson, Red Foley, Mother Maybelle Carter and the Carter Family, Johnny Cash, Porter Wagoner, Les Paul, Brenda Lee and a guitar player named Chet Atkins. These were staff musicians hired to perform live on KWTO from the 1930s through 1950s well before they established iconic careers in country music that led many to Country Music Hall of Fame and/or the Grand Ole Opry decades later.

Other notables broadcasting for KWTO at the start of their careers:

Charles McCord, from the nationally syndicated Don Imus Show, and whose grandmother, May Kennedy McCord, was also a KWTO broadcaster during the 40s and 50s.

Jim Bohannon, now nationally syndicated and a member of the Radio Broadcaster Hall of Fame, was a news reporter at KWTO.

Les Garvin, creator of MTV.

While not originating his program from KWTO, Ralph Foster's close friend Paul Harvey frequently broadcasted live from the KWTO studio.

More contemporary alums from KWTO now hold important positions in business, education and broadcasting including Greene County Clerk Richard Struckhoff, President of the St. Johns Foundation Mike Peters, and Vice President of University Advancement at Missouri State University Brent Dunn, just to name a few.

KWTO has long provided vital information to its family of listeners on local and world events. It's where Ozarkers learned on a cold December morning about the attack on Pearl Harbor and heard President Roosevelt's response a day later. KWTO was also the source for news of the surrender of the Imperial Japanese Armed Forces. Its broadcasters reported the shocking news of President Roosevelt's death as well as the elation of President Harry Truman's surprise win in 1948. KWTO was home to the Lone Ranger and many other radio favorites for generations.

KWTO's commitment to community involvement has also been an integral part of its mission to enhance the quality of life for its listeners. There was "free ride day" that started as a charity event cosponsored with the Salvation Army at the Ozark Empire Fair and the hugely successful KWTO Christmas Parties held at the Shrine Mosque that drew crowds so large some people had to be turned away.

Local news has always been a critical part of KWTO's commitment to the region. Reporting on a wide range of social, political, law enforcement, and events that marked and shaped the area was a mainstay of everyday programming. In more recent years, the KWTO microphones have been opened to the public for talk show programming that gives voice to a range of opinions.

This Christmas Day AM 560 KWTO Radio will celebrate its 75th year of operations and its continuing dedication to serving the Ozarks. I wish KWTO and its current owner Kenneth Myer continued success and many more years of "Keep Watching the Ozarks."

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE MARILYN MUSGRAVE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable MARILYN MUSGRAVE for her service to the people of Colorado and the United States House of Representatives. Congresswoman MUSGRAVE has represented the Fourth Congressional District of the State of Colorado for the past six years.

Born and raised in Weld County, Colorado, MARILYN cleaned houses and waited tables to earn a degree from Colorado State University. She married her high school sweetheart, Steve, during college and taught school for several years before deciding to stay home to raise their four children. MARILYN and her husband have owned and operated a farm equipment business in Eastern Colorado for over 20 years.

In 1990, MARILYN won her first election to the Morgan County School Board. Two years

later, she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, and in 1996, she was elected to the state Senate.

Elected to Congress in 2002, MARILYN quickly stood out from her peers. She was named by Newsweek magazine as the "Rising Star" in the House and the National Journal referenced her as one of two freshman congressmen to watch. She is probably most known as the chief House sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, MARILYN has upheld her strong conservative views as a vocal member of the Republican Study Committee Caucus as well as founder of the Congressional Second Amendment Caucus. She served on the Small Business Committee and as chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs.

As the top-ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee's Specialty Crops Subcommittee, MARILYN served as a member of the Farm Bill conference committee, where she was a leading voice in the crafting of the legislation. She worked to obtain nearly \$3 billion in emergency funding for farmers and ranchers who have been plagued by a multitude of natural disasters over the past six years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know her family, her husband, Steve; her four children, Chad, Becky, Amy, and John; and her many friends and colleagues join me in honoring her accomplishments and extending thanks for her service over the years on behalf of the State of Colorado and the United States of America.

MARILYN will surely enjoy the well deserved time she now has to spend with her family and loved ones. I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEE BASS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Mr. Lee Bass. His successes are many, but it is his unabashed willingness to serve Arkansas that demands recognition. I am proud to honor Lee Bass for his 34 years of federal service as Chief of the Operations Division of the Little Rock Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Bass holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas and has completed postgraduate courses from the University of Arkansas, University of Denver and the University of Santa Clara.

Bass is recognized as a leader throughout the Corps of Engineers and has received numerous performance awards in a variety of jobs and districts. He received two Hammer Awards from the Office of the Vice President of the United States and was once recognized as Civilian of the Year. His staff nominated him for Federal Manager of the Year in Arkansas, which he won. He was recognized and inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineers. He is a past president and regional director of the State Chapter of the American

Society of Civil Engineers. He was the chapter director of the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers, and served in various offices of the Razorback Post of the Society of American Military Engineers.

Lee Bass's career has numerous milestones but he will be remembered most for his dedication to excellence and his vision of serving the Army Corps and his employees to the best of his ability. His wide-ranging experience in civil works activities far exceeded the norm and has allowed the region to plan, build and operate many water management projects in the Arkansas.

On behalf of the Congress, I extend deep appreciation to Lee Bass for his decades of leadership and his dedication to the area's infrastructure. We salute his efforts that have made Arkansas' waterways safe and efficient and has thank him for making our state and nation a better place to work, live and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING ACTS OF COMPASSION AND THE SUPPORT OF A COMMUNITY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, make no mistake about it: what we do in this chamber, the decisions we make as Members of Congress, have far-reaching implications for the Americans we represent and people around the world. I sometimes worry, though, that citizens look first to government to solve problems rather than searching within themselves for the power to make a difference. I'd like to share with you a story about one family that proves the way we change the world happens one person at a time.

Over the last several months, I have had the privilege of assisting a professor and his family attempt to make our world a better place. Dr. John Simmons, a life sciences instructor at Barton County Community College in Great Bend, Kansas, and his wife Lori, along with their four biological children, will travel to Ethiopia at the end of this month to adopt two orphaned sisters.

Famine, AIDS, and other diseases have created a sad situation in Ethiopia where 25 percent of the children are orphaned by age 12. While orphanages do their best to provide for these children and see that young girls and boys have a bright future, what these children really need is a mom and dad who will care for them as their own. Few acts are more generous and loving than welcoming another as part of one's own family. I have great respect for the Simmons and all those who choose to adopt.

While adopting 2 young girls is alone commendable, what sets John and Lori apart is their effort to serve other children at the orphanage and involve the Great Bend community in that mission.

This summer, John launched a fundraising effort to feed and clothe children at the orphanage, purchase humanitarian supplies and pay for their shipping costs. John's goal of raising \$10,000 was accomplished primarily by selling "Barton to Africa" t-shirts for \$30 each. The shirts were printed with "Barton" in Ethio-

pia's official language on the front and a map of the United States on the back with a star in the center of the country, marking Barton County, Kansas. John even created more excitement for the fundraiser by promising to shave his head if the community helped him reach his goal by November 8.

After nearly 5 months of speaking with civic clubs, church members, neighbors, colleagues and students, John exceeded his fundraising goal and at halftime of a Barton County Community College basketball game, he and Barton County Community College Admissions Representative Louie Ochoa had their heads shaved.

I imagine most people would rest on such an accomplishment. But, John dreams of more. It is his hope that the trip to Ethiopia this month will be the beginning of a long-lasting relationship between Ethiopians and the citizens of Great Bend who joined him in his effort. John envisions providing orphans with educational opportunities at Barton County Community College. Doing so would not only offer disadvantaged children a brighter future but also further facilitate relationships between Kansans and Ethiopians.

John's fundraising effort raised awareness about the needs of others in a far corner of the world. It galvanized the community around a common goal and showed that when people work together, there is no limit on what can be accomplished.

I rise today to commend and congratulate John and Lori Simmons, their family and the citizens of Great Bend. Their compassion and effort will help make the lives of orphaned children in Ethiopia better.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE CHRIS SHAYS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable CHRISTOPHER SHAYS for his service to the people of Connecticut and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman SHAYS has represented the Fourth Congressional District of the state of Connecticut for the past 22 years.

Born in the city of Darien, CHRIS is a lifelong resident of the state of Connecticut, attending school at Principia College where he received his bachelor of arts in American history and political science. Following college, CHRIS and his wife, Betsi, spent two years in the Fiji Islands as Peace Corps volunteers. CHRIS later attended New York University where he received his master of business administration in 1974, specializing in urban affairs and economics, followed by his master of public administration in 1978.

CHRIS began his political career at the age of 29 in the Connecticut State House of Representatives, serving from 1975 to 1987. In 1987, CHRIS was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives by a special election to fill the seat of the late Stewart McKinney. During his long career in Congress, CHRIS has served on