

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote Nos. 740–745. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall votes 740–741 and 743–745. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall vote 742.

CARLSBAD MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Carlsbad Mental Health Center for their innovative use of health information technology, which was recognized in two nationally syndicated publications highlighting the findings of a report prepared by Dr. Edward Kako for the federal Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

As recently as 2007, the Carlsbad Mental Health Center was witnessing rising costs, budgetary shortages and high wait times for patient appointments and in-takes. The facility responded to these challenges by adopting an innovative new program to harness health information technology to improve efficiency and cut costs. Within a year the facility's new practices brought a number of successful developments.

First, the new practices improved the quality of care for patients, while cutting wait times for patient appointments. The new system provided the staff access to more detailed information, allowing them to better diagnose and treat patients. In addition, further research into the facilities high no-show and cancellation rates produced new policy changes, which reduced the wait time for an appointment from up to 6 weeks to an average of 11 days.

Second, these new practices resulted in dramatic cost reductions. The innovative use of health information technology by the Carlsbad Mental Health Center illustrates how adopting cutting edge technologies and practices can cut health care costs and provide better service to patients. Adopting the best practices for mental health care will not only help the general public, but will also help our veterans who are experiencing high rates of mental health disorders and substance addictions. This is of particular importance to me as I believe providing veterans with the best possible care available is among our highest obligations.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing and in honoring the Carlsbad Mental Health Center's impressive accomplishments and innovations in the field of mental health treatment.

ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP WITH PAKISTAN ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1707, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to promote an enhanced strategic partnership with Pakistan and its people. S. 1707 establishes a new, more positive framework for U.S.-Pakistan relations. This bill is a bipartisan, bicameral compromise and is crucial to the success of a wide range of U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, while ensuring accountability and accountability for the assistance we give. I was an original cosponsor of H.R. 1886, an earlier version of this legislation. H.R. 1886, was passed by this body with bipartisan support on June 12th, and I remain unwavering in my support for this assistance package to Pakistan.

Like its predecessor, S. 1707 establishes a set of principles that should govern the U.S.-Pakistan relationship, including the actions that the two countries should take to maintain a robust, relevant and lasting relationship. The bill is comprised of three titles.

The first title provides Democratic, Economic and Development Assistance for Pakistan; the second Title provides Security Assistance for Pakistan; and the third Title requires the President to develop a regional security strategy; provides for enhanced monitoring, evaluation, and auditing of U.S. assistance; requires a Presidential report on Pakistan, including an evaluation on Pakistan's progress in counterterrorism and an assessment of whether assistance provided to Pakistan is in any way facilitating the expansion of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program; and requires that all assistance to Pakistan be provided through a civilian government in Pakistan established by free and fair elections.

Pakistan is a critical ally of the United States. For too long, however, our relationship with Pakistan has been one of fits and starts, depending on events in the region and who happens to be in power in Pakistan. It is time for us the United States to forge a truly strategic partnership with Pakistan, one that goes beyond our mutual interest today in counterinsurgency and counterterrorism and speaks to the everyday needs of the average Pakistani.

S. 1707 accomplishes these objectives. The legislation would significantly expand economic, social and democracy assistance to help lay the foundation for a stronger, more stable Pakistan. As requested by President Obama, this legislation triples the authorization for U.S. economic, social, and democratic development assistance to Pakistan to \$1.5 billion a year. This assistance promotes democratic institutions in the short term. In the short term, it provides immediate funding for democratic institutions such as Pakistan's parliament and judicial institutions. For the long term, this legislation enables Pakistan's next generation by funding educational and vocational opportunities for women and girls and religious minorities.

As much as we must focus on the internal conflicts in Pakistan, we must not forget the

external issues affecting the region as a whole and the need for stabilization.

Over the years, U.S. assistance to Pakistan has fluctuated with political events, sending mixed messages and leading most Pakistanis to question both our intentions and our staying power. Today, many Pakistanis believe the United States will cut and run when it serves our purpose, a belief which undermines our longterm efforts to defeat extremists, foster democratic change, and support transparent and accountable institutions that promote security and stability in Pakistan.

However, the status quo is not working: many in the United States believe we are paying too much and getting too little—and most Pakistanis believe exactly the opposite. Without changing this baseline, there is little likelihood of drying up popular tolerance for anti-U.S. terrorist groups or persuading Pakistani leaders to devote the political capital necessary to deny such groups sanctuary and covert material support.

The bill helps bridge a sustainable U.S.-Pakistan partnership through an increased focus on public diplomacy and engagement. S. 1707 authorizes a new exchange program for Pakistani civil servants and military officers in order to foster greater respect for and understanding of the principle of civilian rule in Pakistan's military. By building bridges to Pakistan and its people, the legislation is intended to provide a new, more positive framework for U.S.-Pakistan relations. Finally, the bill authorizes an extensive increase in military assistance to help Pakistan wage an effective counterinsurgency campaign against those forces that threaten Pakistan's national security.

This legislation establishes a new, more positive framework for U.S.-Pakistan relations. The legislation establishes a set of principles that should govern the U.S.-Pakistan relationship, including the actions that the two countries should take to maintain a robust, relevant and lasting relationship.

Although, I believe that this bill is crucial and will be effective, it is only one piece of a greater strategy. This bill did not, as I have proposed, create a militant rehabilitation program to specifically prevent youth from turning to militancy from the onset. Financial support and job opportunities would be provided to graduates of the rehabilitation programs as incentives for steering insurgents away from militancy. This amendment would have greatly fostered counterterrorism efforts, and I hope that some of the many outstanding groups working in Pakistan will take the initiative in implementing this proposal.

I have been to Pakistan many times. My belief in this country and its relationship with the United States drove me to co-chair the Pakistan Caucus.

Benazir Bhutto, shortly before her death said that “The next few months are critical to Pakistan's future direction as a democratic state committed to promoting peace, fighting terrorism and working for social justice. Democracy is necessary to peace and to undermining the forces of terrorism.” I had the pleasure of knowing the late Benazir Bhutto and losing her was truly a tragedy felt beyond Pakistan. She made this statement over two years ago, yet is relevant today more than ever.

On May 19, 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced \$110 million in emergency