

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 Waggoner, 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