

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2091

To redesignate the Tyler Bend Visitor Center located on Tyler Bend Road in St. Joe, Arkansas, as the Dr. Neil Compton Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2021

Mr. HILL (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. CRAWFORD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To redesignate the Tyler Bend Visitor Center located on Tyler Bend Road in St. Joe, Arkansas, as the Dr. Neil Compton Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Dr. Neil Compton Con-
5 servation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Dr. Neil Compton, of Benton County, Ar-
2 kansas, was born on August 1, 1912, in Falling
3 Springs Flats.

4 (2) Dr. Neil Compton, from 1942 to 1946
5 served in the United States Naval Reserve with the
6 rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade, Medical Corps,
7 and retired in 1972 with the rank of Captain.

8 (3) Dr. Compton, the Founder of Ozark Soci-
9 ety, was credited with saving the Buffalo River from
10 being dammed in two places by the Army Corps of
11 Engineers.

12 (4) Dr. Compton received numerous awards for
13 his conservation work, including the coveted Amer-
14 ican Motors Conservation Award on May 20, 1964,
15 as well as the Distinguished Arkansas Conserva-
16 tionist award from the Sears Roebuck Foundation
17 and the National and Arkansas Wildlife Federation,
18 both of which were presented on November 17,
19 1966.

20 (5) In 1982, Dr. Compton wrote *The High*
21 *Ozarks: A Vision of Eden*, featuring photographs he
22 made during his favorite Ozark explorations. This
23 was followed in 1992 by *The Battle for the Buffalo*
24 *River: A Conservation Crisis in the Ozarks*, published
25 by the University of Arkansas Press, which was

1 nominated for the National Book Award, and *The*
2 *Buffalo River in Black and White* (Ozark Society
3 Books, 1997).

4 (6) Fifty years ago, Dr. Compton played an in-
5 tegral part in having the Buffalo National River
6 named the first national river in 1972 during the
7 91st Congress.

8 **SEC. 3. REDESIGNATION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Tyler Bend Visitor Center lo-
10 cated on Tyler Bend Road in St. Joe, Arkansas, shall be
11 known and redesignated as the “Dr. Neil Compton Visitor
12 Center”.

13 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
14 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
15 States to the visitor center referred to in subsection (a)
16 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Dr. Neil Compton
17 Visitor Center.

18 **SEC. 4. INFORMATIONAL DISPLAY.**

19 The Secretary of the Interior may display informa-
20 tion at the Dr. Neil Compton Visitor Center to educate
21 the public about the contributions of Dr. Neil Compton
22 to the history of the Buffalo National River.

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