



Russell Black  
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04333

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine

**Testimony of Senator Russell Black  
In Support of L.D. 2028, Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in West Forks Plantation and The  
Forks Plantation the Gordon Clifton Berry, Sr. Bridge  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation  
January 8, 2026**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation: my name is Russell Black, and I represent the people of Senate District 5. I am before you today in support of L.D. 2028, “Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in West Forks Plantation and The Forks Plantation the Gordon Clifton Berry, Sr. Bridge.”

I am very happy to be a co-sponsor on this legislation alongside Representative Caruso to recognize the life of Gordon Clifton Berry, Sr., a man whose entire life was dedicated to this region and the people who live there.

In small, rural communities like West Forks, there are people who quietly become part of the backbone of the town. Gordon Berry was one of those people. He spent his life working, volunteering, and showing up for others without seeking recognition. For decades, he ran the family store, which served not just as a business, but as a gathering place and a lifeline for both locals and visitors. He was also a member of the West Forks Volunteer Fire Department for more than forty years, responding to emergencies and serving his neighbors whenever he was needed.

Gordon’s commitment to his community went beyond his job and his uniform. He founded the local deer feed program nearly thirty years ago, and he remained deeply involved in the outdoor and sporting life of the region. He represented the values that define this part of Maine: hard work, self-reliance, generosity, and a deep connection to place.

This resolve seeks to name a bridge in West Forks Plantation and The Forks Plantation in Gordon Berry’s honor. A bridge is an appropriate and meaningful tribute. It is something that quietly serves the public every day. It supports work, travel, emergency response, and community life. That kind of steady, dependable presence reflects the way Gordon lived.

Renaming this bridge as the Gordon Clifton Berry, Sr. Bridge would permanently recognize a man who devoted his life to the wellbeing of his community and would ensure that his legacy remains part of the region he never stopped serving.

Thank you for your time and consideration.