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Richard Childress Selected to Serve as NHF Day Chair

NASCAR legend's outdoor passion goes beyond the track

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (January 17, 2017) - When the name Richard Childress is mentioned most think NASCAR legend, but what many don't know is his undying passion for the outdoor sports. Childress is venturing into a new service during 2017. He has been selected to serve as the honorary chairman for National Hunting and Fishing Day. The annual celebration is set for Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017.

Childress currently serves as Chairman and CEO of Richard Childress Racing, a world-class high performance auto racing team based in Welcome, North Carolina. Childress drove for his one-car team during the 1970s, but turned the keys over to legendary driver Dale Earnhardt in 1981 where the duo won six championships together. Today, RCR has over 200 victories and 17 championships and will field eight full time NASCAR teams during the 2017 season.

Also in 2017, Childress will be celebrated throughout the stock car racing community as he is inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame. He will be officially introduced as the honorary chair on Wednesday, January 18 at SHOT Show in the Sands Lobby at 9:30 a.m.

"Richard Childress has a true passion for the outdoor sports and is an huge supporter of our many conservation programs across the nation. NHF Day is excited to have such a great leader serve NHF Day as the honorary Chair," said Misty Mitchell, Director of Conservation Programs for Wonders of Wildlife." He is constantly out there promoting good stewardship and conservation for a brighter future for future outdoorsman, which coincides what NHF Day is all about."

Childress joins an elite fraternity of entertainment and sports figures that have served as honorary chairs, including Bill Dance, Hank Williams Jr., Travis Tritt, Tracy Byrd, Jeff Foxworthy, Jay Novacek, Robert Ulrich, Wade Boggs, Ward Burton, Arnold Palmer, Terry Bradshaw, the USA Olympic Shooting Team, Tony Stewart and many others.

"What an honor to be selected to serve as honorary chair for National Hunting and Fishing Day," said Childress. "This is a very important day to reflect and participate in activities that celebrate conservation efforts by sportsmen around the country. There is only one way to create a better future for upcoming generations in the outdoor sports and that is conservation. Join me in celebrating this year."

Congress established National Hunting and Fishing Day to recognize hunters and anglers for their leadership in fish and wildlife conservation. Since launching in 1971, the day has been formally proclaimed by every U.S. President and countless governors and mayors.

Led by sportsman President Theodore Roosevelt, early conservationists urged sustainable use of fish and game, created hunting and fishing licenses, and lobbied for taxes on sporting equipment

to provide funds for state conservation agencies. These actions were the foundation of the North American wildlife conservation model, a science-based, user-pay system that would foster the most dramatic conservation successes of all time.

Each year sportsmen and women are funding more projects that enable more public access areas to be open. Through license sales and excise taxes on equipment, hunters and anglers pay for most fish and wildlife conservation programs. On average, hunters spend \$1,638 every year on the sport. Portions of these funds are allocated to support conservation.

National Hunting and Fishing Day is dedicated to celebrating those efforts. Bass Pro Shops has been very supportive and goes above and beyond its ability to voice their values as an organization for the sportsman.

The list of sponsors for National Hunting and Fishing Day 2017 includes Wonders of Wildlife, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Cabela's, Yamaha, Bass Pro Shops, Realtree, Smith and Wesson, Gunbroker, Ducks Unlimited, Keep America Fishing, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and Izaak Walton League.

For more information, visit www.nhfd.org.

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