

JOSEPH DeLUCA, RETIRING COMMANDER OF THE ITALIAN AMERICAN VETERANS OF LUZERNE COUNTY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Joseph DeLuca, retiring Commander of the Italian American Veterans of Luzerne County, Post No. 1 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Mr. DeLuca was born in Cilento Eremiti, Campania, Italy in 1937. Prior to World War II, he and his family moved to the United States, settling in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Growing up in Hazleton, he attended Most Precious Blood School and graduated from Hazleton Senior High School in 1954.

In February 1961, Mr. DeLuca enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard where he trained as a radio communications message router at Fort Knox in Kentucky. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, he served in Company A 165th Military Police Battalion in Fort Polk, Louisiana. Later he joined the 54th Heavy Armored Division of Texas, earning the nickname "DeLuca the Bazooka" for his superior ability to handle weapons.

Outside his military service, Mr. DeLuca spent 35 years working in the garment industry, ultimately attaining the position of Concept Fashion Design Planner. Today, he still resides in Hazleton and is a proud father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, for his loyalty to both his Italian heritage and our great nation, I commend Mr. Joseph DeLuca upon his retirement as Commander of the Italian American Veterans of Luzerne County, Post No. 1 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

HONORING BENJAMIN JOHN COLLENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin John Collens. Benjamin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Benjamin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin John Collens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, for decades, Americans have been calling on Congress to support the designation of a Red Rock Wilderness Area on the Colorado Plateau in Utah.

In 1984, the people of Utah began to conduct a volunteer driven wilderness inventory of America's Red Rock Country.

Soon thereafter—in 1989—former Utah Rep. Wayne Owens introduced America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

Then in 1996, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began their own survey of the Red Rock Wilderness Area.

During this time President Bill Clinton, using the Antiquities Act, proclaimed Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

The next year, Senator DICK DURBIN of Illinois first introduced a Red Rocks bill in the Senate.

In recent Congress Rep. Maurice Hinchey introduced a Red Rock bill in the House.

Today, Senator DURBIN and I are introducing companion bills to protect 9.5 million acres of federal land as wilderness in Utah's Red Rock Country.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will protect from development one of this country's most spectacular landscapes.

Deep red canyons, windswept mesas and naturally sculpted sandstone formations will define the Red Rock Wilderness Area.

Places like Labyrinth and Desolation Canyons; Cedar Mesa and the San Rafael Swell; and of course, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

All of the lands proposed for wilderness in our bill are already federal lands managed by the BLM.

All of these lands would be preserved for all time and for all Americans—existing as they are—sculpted and defined by the forces of nature and the hand of God . . .

Wilderness designations have a strong bipartisan history in Utah.

In fact, in 2006, my friend from Utah and current Chairman of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Land and Environmental Regulation sponsored legislation that created the Cedar Mountains Wilderness Area.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will preserve some of the last unbroken tracts of lands in Utah, all while continuing to uphold the land's multiple use mandate under the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act.

A wilderness designation will also allow for the protection of natural environments and watersheds, ecological diversity, native habitat, and a range of recreational opportunities such as hiking, backpacking, hunting and fishing.

Right now off-road vehicle use and encroaching oil and gas development pose major threats to an area that desperately deserves wilderness protection.

A gallon of gas will in the tank of an ORV will only take you so far, but a vote to designate America's Red Rock Wilderness Areas would perpetuate for all time.

I thank my colleagues in the House who have joined me in cosponsoring this legislation

today, and I thank Senator DURBIN and his colleagues for their support in the Senate.

I urge immediate consideration of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in the House.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD WEINER'S FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Richard Weiner, as he is honored by the Women's Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party for his decades of outstanding work on behalf of the State's residents.

Rick has built a long and distinguished career, which spans nearly forty years, as a civil servant to the people of Michigan. Rick began his work in the public arena with former U.S. Congressman William Brodhead, where he served as a district representative, working with residents and local groups to find solutions that strengthened communities across the Greater Detroit region. Rick's career also includes service to one of Michigan's great statesmen, Senator CARL LEVIN, for whom he served as Director of Michigan Operations, where he assisted Michigan residents across the entire State. After serving as a key advisor to former Governor Jim Blanchard during his transition into office, Rick went on to serve as Chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) for six years. During his most recently stint in the public sector, Rick served as Chief of Staff to Governor Jennifer Granholm from 2002 to 2005.

Every day he worked in public service, Rick brought with him the passion to craft policy that supported a fair and just Michigan, where all residents would have the ability to reach their full potential. Outside of his work in government, Rick continued to fight for his ideals by founding and building Wiener Associates, a firm specializing in public policy advocacy. In addition to this work, Rick also teaches Election Law and Legislation as an Adjunct Professor at Michigan State University's College of Law.

Throughout his career, Rick has been particularly focused on supporting the rights of women across Michigan. While serving as Chair of the MDP, he championed the Jefferson Jackson Day Women's Caucus Luncheon, an event that supports women's involvement in politics. In his daily work for so many elected officials, Rick fought to protect the rights of women to make vital decisions about their own lives. During his tenure in the MDP, Rick also took steps to increase support for electing more women to office across the State of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, involvement of bright and dedicated Americans in the political process, like Rick Weiner, is one of the great strengths of our Nation. For nearly four decades, Rick has taken a leading role to create a better future for residents in the State of Michigan and for his work, our future is brighter. I congratulate Rick on his recognition from the Women's Caucus of the MDP and look forward to our continued work in the ongoing task of securing

a more prosperous future for our State of Michigan and our Nation.

JOHN W. JACKSON (BUD FOWLER)

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents in New York's 19th Congressional District to commemorate the life and work of John W. Jackson or, as he became known, Bud Fowler.

Bud was born in Fort Plain, NY in 1858 and grew up in the famous baseball community of Cooperstown, NY. As an African American in a segregated America, his race often prohibited him from participating in the same leagues as his white counterparts. Despite this challenge, he made a name for himself as the first African American baseball player to participate in organized leagues.

Beginning as a pitcher, Bud soon excelled in all positions of the game, most notably at second base, which he preferred. He played in several leagues in the second half of the 19th Century and the beginning of the twentieth. This included playing, coaching, or organizing for Binghamton in the International League, Keokuk in the Western League, Lansing in the Michigan State League, and various black ball clubs, including the Page Fence Giants, Cuban Giants, the Smoky City Giants, and the All-American Black Tourists.

Bud is recognized as having the longest professional baseball career for an African American prior to Jackie Robinson. He is an incredible role model for all Americans, displaying what can be accomplished beyond all hurdles faced in life. I am proud that I will have the opportunity to attend Cooperstown's upcoming recognition ceremony of this great American on Sunday, April 21, 2013, when a street leading up to Doubleday Field will be renamed "Fowler Way."

HANOVER NURSERY 55TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. John Basar and the Hanover Nursery in Hanover Township, Pennsylvania, which will celebrate its 55th anniversary this year.

In 1958, John Basar, a Hanover Township native, started taking on small landscaping jobs throughout the area while also attending classes at Kings College. Initially the operation was small—just Mr. Basar, his 1948 Plymouth Coupe, a trailer, and the part-time help of his brother and a friend. By 1960, Mr. Basar had purchased a pick-up truck and hired two full-time employees but it wasn't until 1961 that he decided his business needed a name. He chose "Hanover Nursery" as a way to honor his hometown. In 1963, Mr. Basar began to secure his first commercial landscaping contracts. A topsoil pit was purchased by the business in 1970, an asset which became invaluable to the people of Wyoming Valley

when they fell victim to the Agnes flood in 1972. Mr. Basar and the Hanover Nursery were an important part of the storm recovery following this disaster, helping to restore yards for families and eventually re-landscaping portions of the neighboring city of Wilkes-Barre.

From the mid 1970s to the present day, Mr. Basar and the Hanover Nursery have been responsible for many prominent developments throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. The nursery's work can be seen at several commercial projects including the Crossing Premium Outlets in Tannersville, the community of Sunset Drive in Hanover Township, the Wyoming Valley levy raising project and the newly reconditioned River Commons area in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

Outside the Hanover Nursery, Mr. Basar has been a vital figure in the Hanover Township community. In 2014, he will celebrate 50 years as a member of the local Lions Club where he plays a primary role in the organization's Christmas celebration, planting new trees and decorating them with lights each Holiday season. He has also been a generous patron of the Hanover Township little league.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 55 years Mr. John Basar and the Hanover Nursery have helped beautify Hanover Township and the surrounding areas. They played an active role in growing our community. Therefore, I commend Mr. Basar and all the Hanover Nursery employees who have been integral in the development and beautification of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

HONORING JOSEPH DANIEL BODENHEIMER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Daniel Bodenheimer. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 303, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Joseph has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Daniel Bodenheimer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE SHIFFER FAMILY ON THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHAMPAIGN FAMILY YMCA

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the generosity and

support of the family of Leah and the late Jerry Shiffer to the Champaign County, Ohio, YMCA chapter.

In July 2007, Leah Shiffer and her children donated an 88-acre parcel in North Lewisburg to the Champaign Family YMCA. In so doing, they honored Jerry Shiffer's lifelong appreciation for outdoor recreation—an appreciation he shared with his whole family.

The Champaign Family YMCA recognized the Shiffer Family's benevolence at a 2008 dedication event. The Y has used this land for its summer day camp program, giving hundreds of young people the opportunity to learn about nature and the environment.

On Sunday, the Champaign Family YMCA will formally acknowledge Jerry Shiffer and his family by naming this camp in their honor. Sunday's event will include a tree-climbing demonstration, a nature hunt, archery, and other family activities led by the Y and the Boy Scouts of America.

I appreciate the opportunity to join the Champaign County Y and the people of Champaign County in recognizing the ongoing commitment and gracious gift of the Shiffer Family. I know that the family is pleased that Jerry's vision for a recreational camp for area youth will continue to be fulfilled.

WAGNER-PEYSER

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill to allow for the expansion of the federal Employment Service network to my district, the Northern Mariana Islands to be eligible for Employment Service Programs by amending the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933, as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

The Employment Service Programs provide funds to establish a nationwide system of public employment offices and One-Stop Career Centers across the United States. These centers have successfully connected millions of job seekers with employers throughout the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. The legislation I am introducing today, in remedying the statutory absence of the Northern Mariana Islands from the definition of "State," will allow for the expansion of the federal Employment Service network to the NMI, thereby contributing to both the local and National economy by supporting the development of an experienced, motivated, and most importantly, employed American workforce.

Should the Commonwealth government choose to apply for this grant, the funds could be used to stand up One-Stop Centers in the NMI that would help those searching for work find jobs and help local employers find qualified workers. These Centers provide services that have a proven record of success in hundreds of locales throughout the United States.

Our national economy is still pulling itself out of the deepest recession since the 1930s. The economy in the NMI is in even worse condition, however, with declines in GDP every year from 2004 to 2009. This bill provides for the possible extension of a federal