

Protecting and securing public lands and space for outdoor recreation is crucial for the future success of the American economy and the environment.

Outdoor recreational activities contribute significantly to the physical, mental, and spiritual health and wellness of individuals.

Federal lands contribute significantly to the preservation of nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities.

Federal recreation resources generate vast amounts of economic enterprise from tourist activity, recreation visitors, and the increased property value and business attraction gained from natural amenities.

The preservation and growth of the Outdoor Recreation Industry depends on the informed decision of lawmakers, and the Outdoor REC Act of 2016 will be pivotal in providing this vital information.

For these reasons I support H.R. 4665 the "Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contribution Act of 2016."

IN HONOR OF MARTIN ELLIS

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Navy Veteran Martin Ellis for his achievements, contributions, and service in the United States Navy onboard the USS *Green*.

Martin Ellis resides in Cherry Hill, New Jersey where he remains committed to his community. His selfless and brave actions in World War II are reason enough to honor him, yet Mr. Ellis has demonstrated a lifetime of love for his nation. He is very passionate about The United States and his patriotic duty to this country. He takes his past service in the Navy very seriously, along with being a serious Phillies fan.

Those who decide to serve in our nation's Armed Forces are amongst the most heroic in our nation and serve as an example as leaders, in not only securing our safety but putting their life on the line for our freedom.

Mister Speaker, Martin Ellis, is a great American whose dedication to serving our country in the United States Navy is an inspiration to his community. I join with his family, friends, and all of New Jersey in honoring the selfless service of this extraordinary man.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ILLINOIS

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois on their 20th Anniversary.

In 1995, Tracy Baim of Lambda Publications and Kevin Boyer of Communications Management, Inc. saw a need for a local chamber of commerce dedicated to gay and lesbian owned businesses. Joined by three other business owners, they launched the Chicago Area

Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Their goal was to have 30 Members by the first organizational meeting in March 1996.

By the time that meeting was called to order, the Chamber had grown to include more than 80 businesses.

Today the Chamber serves a roster of over 300 Members, a number that increases almost daily. These members are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) business owners, as well as gay-supportive businesses. Together they employ over 2,000 people in the Chicago area, with gross revenues that exceed \$200 million. Its mission is to promote economic opportunities for the LGBT community in the state of Illinois by being an advocate and resource for all member businesses that encourage equality.

The LGBT Chamber is very proud of the progress it has made as an organization over the past 20 years, and this past year in particular. Its partnership with SCORE, launched in February 2016, is the first of its kind in the nation, which gives their members access to the collective wisdom and guidance of many business leaders. SCORE is the premier source of free, confidential business education and mentoring. Its ongoing collaboration with the Small Business Administration helps bring the resources of the SBA to the Chambers members. These partnerships, along with their vital and popular networking opportunities, LGBT Business Enterprise Certification, and other educational programs, serve to strengthen its member businesses.

Along with the 20th Anniversary Gala, the LGBT Chamber has major initiatives in progress that are designed to help LGBT businesses flourish. In this anniversary year, the biggest initiative is to create the LGBT Business Foundation of Illinois, a foundation that focuses on advocacy, promotion and education for small business owners and their employees to grow and prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois. I am honored to have such an exceptional organization in my district.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND IN RECOGNITION OF LATIN JAZZ MUSICIAN AND COMPOSER EDDIE PALMIERI

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month to join the community of El Barrio, The Village of Harlem, the City and State of New York, and the Nation in commemorating an outstanding Latin Jazz musician and composer, Mr. Eddie Palmieri. Eddie has spent his entire life arranging exquisite salsa and Latin jazz music while preserving the historic Afro-Caribbean contributions to the music world.

Eddie was born December 15, 1936 in New York, NY to Puerto Rican immigrants. It was in his childhood home where he was first exposed to Latin music. His grandmother was a singer, his uncles were guitarists and his brother, Charlie Palmieri, attended the Julliard

School for Music. When Eddie was only five years old, he started entering and winning talent competitions with Charlie. At an early age, he began to play the piano and at 13, he joined his uncle's orchestra, playing timbales. Eddie felt inspired to practice and perform publicly when he began watching his brother, Charlie, who was nine years older, play with talented musicians. He also started hearing the music Charlie played at home, where he was exposed to and influenced by the music of jazz greats such as Thelonius Monk, Bud Powell, Bill Evans and McCoy Tyner.

Eddie's professional career as a pianist began when he joined various bands in the early 1950s including Eddie Forrester, Johnny Segui's, and the popular Tito Rodriguez Orchestra. In 1961, Eddie formed his own band, La Perfecta, which featured an unconventional front line of trombones rather than the trumpets, customary in Latin orchestras. This innovative sound that mixed American jazz into Afro-Caribbean rhythms, surprised critics and fans alike. Even though Eddie disbanded La Perfecta in 1968 to pursue different musical endeavors, he would return to the band's music in the 2000s.

In the 1970s, Eddie perfected his arranging skills and released several impressive recordings that reflected his inventive musical technique. His unconventional style would once again surprise critics and fans with the 1970 release entitled "Harlem River Drive." This recording was the first to merge what was categorized as "Black" and "Latin" music into a free-form sound that encompassed elements of salsa, funk, soul and jazz. In 1975, Eddie won the first-ever Grammy for Best Latin Recording for "The Sun of Latin Music."

As a result of Eddie's penchant for producing music in the funk Latin style, Little Louie Vega invited him to record on Nuyorican Soul (1997), a release that became very popular in the house and underground music scenes. In 2000, the successful musician announced that he was leaving the world of music. But before his retirement, he released "Masterpiece" (2000) with Tito Puente. The album won two Grammys and Palmieri earned the "Outstanding Producer of the Year" award from the National Foundation of Popular Culture. Eddie was awarded the Chubb Fellowship by Yale University in 2002 for developing communities through music. That award is usually reserved for international heads of state.

In 2005, Eddie also reached another landmark achievement when he became the first Latino host of a radio show on National Public Radio. The radio show "Caliente" which explores the intimate connections between American and Latin jazz was broadcasted by more than 160 radio stations nationwide. Throughout Eddie's outstanding musical career, he has been lauded with many accolades including numerous Grammy Awards, a Eubie Blake Award in 1991, and a Harlem Renaissance Award in 2005. He has also been inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame, the Chicago Walk of Fame and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. Eddie has been recognized as an American icon by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., where two recordings of his performances are archived.

Eddie Palmieri won yet another Grammy in 2006 for his album "Listen Here!" and in 2007, he received his most recent Grammy award

for his collaborative effort with trumpeter Brian Lynch on the album "Simpatico". Eddie Palmieri's innovative musical fusion of salsa, funk, soul and jazz has captivated audiences for nearly half a century. He has remarkably used his Puerto-Rican heritage, Afro-Caribbean roots and American identification to help diversify the rhythms of Latin jazz. For his noble creativity to help introduce Latin and salsa music to American audiences everywhere, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Eddie Palmieri. A musical genius who paved the way to make Latin music an American hallmark while sustaining this genre's ties to its Caribbean legacy. An American Hero, Eddie Palmieri has devoted his life's work to improving the quality of life for the people of our beloved El Barrio and the Bronx, New York State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. During this year's Hispanic Heritage Month, in addition to paying tribute to my beloved friend Eddie Palmieri, and as a Korean War Veteran, as I conclude my 50 years of Public Service, including 46 years in the United States Congress, I also want to pay a very special salute to the Puerto Rican men and women who answered the call to serve during WWII, our beloved The 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "The Borinqueneers".

#### CONGRATULATING DAVID NORMAN ON HIS OUTSTANDING TEACHING OF TEXAS HISTORY AWARD

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Norman of Coppell Middle School West, in Coppell, Texas, on receiving the 2016 Linden Heck Howell Outstanding Teaching of Texas History Award.

Mr. Norman has been a strong member of the community for the past ten years, serving the entirety of his teaching career at Coppell West. His admiration for the school system and all those involved is uncanny, especially as his daughter and son both graduated from Coppell. Mr. Norman spends time volunteering at the Coppell YMCA, which earned him the Rookie Volunteer of the Year Award in 2015. He was also nominated for the Coppell YMCA Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for 2016.

Mr. Norman has said of his own accomplishments as an educator:

"When learners are able to see their value and influence in this world, for good or bad, I have succeeded academically. But there is an accomplishment that is nearer to my heart. I think one of the things missing in our society, and in our classrooms, is kindness."

Mr. Norman is an outstanding figure in an already impressive group of students, faculty, and school community. I hope his enthusiasm and exceptional teaching methods carry him for the rest of his tenure. The entire community is influenced by his genuine demeanor and I cannot thank David enough for his posi-

tive impact and hope he continues for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the hard work and support David contributes, as well as his being awarded the Outstanding Teaching of Texas History Award. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing David Norman of Coppell Middle School West.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,852,972,577,729.55. We've added \$9,226,095,528,816.47 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LEO GALLEGOS JR.

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Leo Gallegos Jr., who passed away on October 30, 2016 at age 75. Leo was a loving husband, father, grandparent, and friend, who dedicated his life to serving others. He was an American patriot and a humble man who was an inspiration to many. He was a leader in our minority communities, and was a political activist who made an instrumental impact on California's Democratic Party, especially in the Central Valley.

Born on August 5, 1941, in Caldwell, Idaho, Leo was the oldest of 10 children. He was the son of immigrant farmworkers who followed agricultural opportunities to Hanford, California. After graduating high school, Leo enlisted in the United States Army, serving in the 101st Airborne Division until the 1960's. After serving in Korea and retiring from the Armed Forces, he attended Fresno State, receiving a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Social Work.

His passion for politics and drive to help bring change for minority communities first emerged while he was at Fresno State. Through the late 1960's, he helped start Latino and American-Indian student organizations on campus. In 1975, Leo became Governor Jerry Brown's right hand man in the San Joaquin Valley during Brown's first eight years serving in Sacramento. While working in the governor's office, Leo worked tirelessly behind the scenes, advocating for minorities during a time when they were commonly overlooked for public office positions. Leo was interconnected with almost every ethnic group, pushing for a shift in politics that would embrace minorities. He never considered running for an office himself. Instead Leo preferred to work behind the

scenes, not wanting to be in the spotlight. He wanted to do his job to empower others, the best he could.

In the late 1970's, Leo became very politically active in Central California's Democratic circles. He worked diligently to broaden the traditional selection process for judges, state and national positions. He became a political consultant and influential fundraiser who helped minority appointees for judgeships and office positions. In 1983, Leo was appointed by former Congressman Tony Coelho as the national Hispanic coordinator for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Leo is survived by his mother, Esther Gallegos, and his wife Olivia, along with their daughter and son, Stephanie and Sean. He also leaves behind six brothers, two sisters, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Leo Gallegos Jr., whose passion, dedication, and selflessness behind the scenes made an instrumental impact on reshaping local politics. His life is a testament to the success minorities and immigrants can achieve, and his humbleness and great character is something to be remembered. I join Leo's family in honoring his life, his love for his community, tenacity, passion for making a difference, and service to his country. He will be greatly missed.

#### TITLE VIII NURSING WORKFORCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 14, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support to H.R. 2713, the "Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2015," which extends advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs.

Specifically, I am pleased that this legislation:

Includes clinical nurse leaders as advanced education nurses, thereby making clinical nurse leader education programs eligible for advanced education nursing grants. (Clinical nurse leaders are advanced generalist clinicians who apply research and coordinate care in order to improve outcomes for patients.);

Describes the clinical nurse specialist programs that are eligible for grants and federal aid;

Reauthorizes funding for nursing programs by extending loan repayments and programs through 2020.

H.R. 2713 will provide a general sum of money, as may be necessary, for the fiscal years 2016 through 2020, allowing Congress to appropriate funds as necessity arises.

Importantly, this bill also includes a focus on comprehensive geriatric education, helping to ensure that our parents and grandparents are treated by knowledgeable and well educated personnel.

Student debt has proven an increasing concern for nursing students as the price of programs grows steeper, while employment opportunities grow sparse.

Of recent nursing school graduates in 2012 and 2013, more than 1/3 of borrowing students in the field were unemployed upon graduation, despite a national increase in general recent graduate employment.