

LESLIE H. GALLAGHER, JR.

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired U.S. Air Force Technical Sgt. Leslie H. Gallagher, Jr. of the Borough of Pine Hill, Camden County, in New Jersey's First Congressional District, for his service to our nation and our community.

Mr. Gallagher graduated from Overbrook Regional High School in 1976 and enlisted in the United States Air Force that same year. He would continue to serve in the Air Force until his retirement in 1997. During his years of service in the Air Force, Mr. Gallagher would hold many roles, including assignments in law enforcement, the financial office, and as load master for large military transport aircrafts.

During his career, Mr. Gallagher served as a non-commissioned officer-in-charge of military pay operations at four different military bases, and as travel operations and deputy finance officer, where his work was instrumental in support of Operation Desert Storm.

While stationed in Delaware and Oklahoma, Mr. Gallagher taught high school physical education to students and served as a high school basketball and track coach.

After twenty one years of service to the Air Force, Mr. Gallagher would return to Pine Hill where he served as Vice Commander and ultimately as Adjutant of Pine Hill Post 286 of the American Legion. His commitment to his community continued in his roles as chairman of the Environmental Commission of Pine Hill, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, and secretary of the Planning and Zoning Board.

Mr. Gallagher's ongoing commitment to education is evidenced by his leadership positions on the Pine Hill Board of Education, as Pine Hill's representative to the Camden County School Boards Association, as a delegate to the New Jersey State Board of Education, and as a Sunday school teacher at his church.

After his retirement from Local 322 as an HVAC technician, Mr. Gallagher's public service would continue through his employment with the Borough of Pine Hill, where he has become an invaluable resource to the community.

Mr. Speaker, Technical Sergeant Leslie H. Gallagher, Jr. is a great American who exemplifies the true meaning of leader, community servant, and patriot. I ask you to join with me and the constituents of Southern New Jersey in honoring this exceptional man.

**INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY TO ACCEPT A STATUE DEPICTING PIERRE L'ENFANT FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PERMANENT DISPLAY OF THE STATUE IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill to direct the Joint Committee on

the Library to accept a statue depicting Pierre L'Enfant from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in the United States Capitol.

Pierre L'Enfant was born in France in 1754. He was an engineer and an architect, and he traveled to the United States to serve with the United States in the Revolutionary War. In March 1791, L'Enfant was hired to develop the design for the District of Columbia. L'Enfant's design for the city was so remarkable that it remains and is cherished today in the nation's capital and throughout this country. L'Enfant's design envisioned a federal and residential city with diagonal streets propelling from Congress and the President's home, beautiful boulevards on local streets and neighborhoods, and open spaces for monuments, memorials and historical structures, all of which largely remain intact, protected as a historical treasure.

In 2006, the residents of the District of Columbia chose L'Enfant as one of the top ten Americans that have given distinguished service to the District, and the selection committee created by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities chose L'Enfant as the second statue from the District of Columbia to be placed in the United States Capitol. The District's first choice for a statue was Frederick Douglass, and I am pleased that the Douglass statue now sits in Emancipation Hall. Because the United States Capitol does not currently appropriately recognize the contributions of Pierre L'Enfant, and because D.C. residents and stakeholders chose L'Enfant as a distinguished Washingtonian, this bill would require the Joint Committee on the Library to place the Pierre L'Enfant statue in the United States Capitol.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**ROMEO GONZALES****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Romeo Gonzales for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Romeo Gonzales is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Romeo Gonzales is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Romeo Gonzales for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

NATTALIE NORCROSS

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my granddaughter, Ms. Nattalie Norcross, on the occasion of her graduation from Cherry Hill High School West.

Nattalie was born on September 7, 1999, and raised in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Nattalie received her high school diploma at the Cherry Hill High School West Commencement Ceremony on June 15, 2017, which was held at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Nattalie has been actively involved in the South Jersey community. She has volunteered her time at the Camden Children's Garden in the City of Camden, Grace Episcopal Church in Haddonfield and at various nursing homes and senior centers across Southern Jersey.

Nattalie is also proud to be a Girl Scout. The Girl Scouts of the United States of America is a premier youth organization that promotes compassion, courage, confidence, and leadership, all qualities that Nattalie possesses in great abundance.

In the fall, Nattalie will matriculate to Rowan University in Glassboro, where she plans to pursue degrees in English and Education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Ms. Nattalie Norcross on the occasion of her high school graduation, and wishing her the best of luck as she begins a new chapter in her academic career.

**THE RETIREMENT OF LAKEWOOD CITY MANAGER HOWARD CHAMBERS****HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, Howard L. Chambers, who has served as the city manager of the City of Lakewood for more than four decades, has announced that he will be retiring from his role at the administrative helm of the city. Howard has served longer as city manager of the same city longer than any other city manager in California—this in a profession where the average length of service in California cities is about seven years.

A true "native son," Howard is a lifelong member of the Lakewood community, growing up near Mayfair Park, going to neighborhood schools, even working at the local YMCA.

After earning his degree at Cal State Long Beach, Howard interned at the City of Lakewood for two years, handling youth services. He then went to work with the City of Rosemead as an assistant city manager. Howard returned to Lakewood in 1972 in the role of an executive assistant to the city manager. In 1976, the same year he earned a Master of Arts degree in Planning and Administration from Pepperdine University, Howard was named acting city administrator and shortly thereafter hired to permanently fill the position. The city council later officially re-titled the position as city manager.

Always looking to push his skill level further, he earned a Master of Public Administration

degree from the University of Southern California in 1981 and was a Fellow of the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in 1988. In 2005, he completed a rigorous evaluation process and became a Credentialed Manager under the auspices of the International City/County Management Association.

Howard eventually served 34 years as Lakewood City Manager, retiring in 2011. However, within a year, the city council asked him to return to the role. He returned in 2012 and remained until his retirement this year. In total, his 41 years as city manager represent nearly two-thirds of the 63-year-old city's entire existence. It is safe to say that the vast majority of the city's 80,000 residents have known no one but Howard as city manager.

During his tenure as Lakewood city manager, Howard managed the city's largest public works project in its first 50 years: the \$16 million improvement of the Lakewood Civic Center and construction of The Centre at Sycamore Plaza. He later oversaw the \$21-million expansion and modernization of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, the largest single project in the city's history. The sheriff's station expansion project was completed without a new tax, tax increase, or special assessment.

None of this has gone unnoticed and on his watch, Lakewood has deservedly earned many awards for the quality of its services, its commitment to responsive government, and its innovations.

Over his record-setting 40 years behind the city manager's desk, Howard has become a respected leader among area city managers, always willing to take the time to share his professional experience with his colleagues on issues affecting Southern California, its residents, and its infrastructure.

Howard has also worked tirelessly and effectively on ad hoc committees and coalitions to address federal, state, and local issues, and has never shied away from a principled battle. As a long-term member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Chairman of the Southeast Los Angeles County Municipal Management Group, the California Contract Cities Association, and a member of the League of California Cities' City Managers Division, Howard has worked with elected and appointed city officials, legislators, regulators, the business community, residents, and others to achieve solutions to the critical issues affecting local governments.

In addition to his public service, Howard has made community service a priority. His involvement includes the Lakewood Rotary Club, the Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA, Lakewood Special Olympics, the American Heart Association, Su Casa Ending Domestic Violence, Lakewood Regional Hospital, Kris Kringle Charity Golf Tournament, and Project Shepherd.

For his sustained excellence, he has been recognized throughout his career by a variety of organizations including ICMA, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, California Jaycees, YMCA, Lakewood City Council, Lakewood City Employees Association, and Su Casa Ending Domestic Violence.

Howard is considered a legend in the city management profession and is known for his ability to build working relationships with city staffers, civic leaders, and state legislators. He

also is a role model for his peers. Known for his "teachable moments," he has become a mentor and teacher to an entire generation of new city managers. He has been and will continue to be passionate about local government, and his involvement in community activities and achievements in public service have resulted in significant benefits to Lakewood and surrounding communities.

I have truly appreciated the time I have spent working with Howard. He has a great sense of humor and even when we have disagreed, he is respectful and thoughtful. I will miss Howard's leadership and his guidance.

MARKUS HAMRE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Markus Hamre for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Markus Hamre is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Markus Hamre is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Markus Hamre for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENTO CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Public Policy Institute of California's (PPIC) Sacramento Center. As 2017 marks the 10th anniversary of this vital center for political thought, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring PPIC for its leadership and commitment in the community to providing nonpartisan, well-formulated opinions and data for the benefit of California's policymakers.

The Public Policy Institute of California was founded in San Francisco in 1994 by a trio of California visionaries seeking to provide our state with a world-class political think tank. Since then, PPIC has lived up to its mission of "informing and improving public policy through independent, objective, non-partisan research." By 2007, PPIC had opened a second office in Sacramento, enabling its team of experts to operate in the heart of California's state government.

PPIC boasts a staff of 75 people, including experts in economics, demography, political

science, sociology, and environmental resources. It focuses on a wide range of concerns and opportunities facing our state, including higher education, water issues, and government investment strategies. Additionally, PPIC conducts surveys of voters and constituents to provide lawmakers with election statistics, approval ratings, and public opinion. Utilizing its unparalleled access to survey data and predictive analytics, PPIC seeks to understand the forces that drive societal change in the long term, which helps inform the political short term.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Public Policy Institute of California's Sacramento Center as it celebrates the 10th anniversary of its founding. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring PPIC's dedication to providing California's government with information and illumination.

COMMEMORATING THE BEGINNING OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE FOR THE ISMAILI MUSLIM COMMUNITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the beginning of the Diamond Jubilee for the North Texas Ismaili Muslim community, and the broader Ismaili Muslim community across the world.

On July 11, 1957, The Aga Khan became the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Imami Nizari Ismaili Muslims. In these past six decades, the Aga Khan has guided the world's 15 million Ismaili Muslims in both their spiritual and material lives, providing religious interpretation, ensuring their safety, and improving the quality of life for the community.

While serving as the leader of the Ismaili Muslims, the Aga Khan has also played a major role in the philanthropic arena. The Aga Khan Foundation, established by the Aga Khan in 1967, works on projects such as disaster relief and historical restoration of cities and artifacts through the various programs in the Aga Khan Development Network. The AKDN along with its partners across the globe provides quality education and healthcare, along with promoting social and economic development to some of the world's most impoverished and isolated communities.

The Ismaili Muslim community has contributed greatly to the cultural diversification and economic development in North Texas. Their volunteers have served the North Texas community by participating in local cleanups efforts after severe weather. The volunteers have also worked alongside other faith based groups and local nonprofits to provide meals to those who are less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, the Diamond Jubilee presents an opportunity to the Ismaili Muslim community to reaffirm their faith and serve the communities in which they live through various programs established by the Aga Khan. I congratulate the Aga Khan and the Ismaili Muslim community on this momentous milestone.