

IN RECOGNITION OF SPRINGFIELD,  
MASSACHUSETTS PARKS DIRECTOR  
PATRICK SULLIVAN

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2020*

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Patrick Sullivan, Parks Director for the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, for being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Environmental Merit Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I would like to include in the RECORD two articles from the Springfield Republican that highlights his achievements. Pat's outstanding career deserves the highest praise for his continued efforts to implement environmentally cognizant initiatives that benefit both our environment and thousands of local residents.

[From the Springfield Republican]

SPRINGFIELD PARKS DIRECTOR PATRICK SULLIVAN RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

(By Peter Goonan)

City Parks and Buildings Director Patrick J. Sullivan did his best to share the credit with others as he was honored last week with a lifetime achievement environmental merit award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

I was just very honored and humbled when I got the call from the EPA that the mayor had nominated me for this award and they had chosen me, Sullivan said, during an interview with The Republican at his office at Forest Park. I always had an interest in the field of horticulture and the environment and as I progressed, I tried to make decisions that are basically going to be in the best interest of our environment and for our residents.

Sullivan said credit needs to go to Mayor Domenic J. Sarno for supporting Going Green initiatives, and to municipal employees for the focus on environmental protection and energy efficiency related to city parks, open space and buildings.

Beyond protecting parks, the city continues a major, multi-year effort to improve energy efficiency in city and school buildings, having resulted in a 30 percent decrease in energy use in city buildings since 2007, Sullivan said.

Sullivan said he is perhaps most proud of the organic lawn care program in the city, in which the city has reduced the use of synthetic fertilizers in city fields and parks, by replacing them with organic products. The synthetic fertilizers have chemicals that leach into the groundwater and ultimately enter the rivers and streams, he said.

Sullivan continues to work on developing plans for a public education program on the impacts of synthetic fertilizers, officials said.

The EPA summary said that Sarno, in nominating Sullivan described Patrick's steadfast work to build an environmentally friendly community.

Sullivan, a Springfield native and resident, has worked for 33 years for the city including as director of parks, buildings and recreation management.

During his career, Sullivan has spearheaded more than \$80 million in park construction projects, has helped improve ponds and lakes, and has overseen more than \$500 million in school renovation projects including roofs, windows, boilers and environ-

mental management systems, the summary said.

Sarno, in a prepared release, congratulated Sullivan on a well-earned and deserved lifetime achievement award. He called Sullivan his point person on Going Green initiatives in Springfield.

"Pat has always been my 'Green Person,'" Sarno said. His visionary and practical leadership has not only been good for our environment, but also the bottom line of our budget too.

Sullivan said that working within Forest Park is a dream job in itself. He recalled that when he began with the department, the current rose garden area was just a "sunk-en" ground that would fill with water. It was restored to its current beauty, he said.

Some of the buildings were deteriorated and in jeopardy years ago including the Barney Carriage House and old Forest Park Zoo building. The carriage house was fully renovated and the old zoo building is planned as a horticultural learning center.

Sullivan was one of nine people in New England, including three people in Massachusetts who received the EPA's 2020 Environmental Merit Award—Lifetime Achievement award for his dedication and support of the environment.

Others receiving the Lifetime Achievement award in Massachusetts were Margaret VanDeusen of Boston, and the late Barbara Cianfarini of Pittsfield.

The recipients were honored by teleconference, due to the coronavirus, with Sullivan and Sarno taking part. Those in on remote video call included U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Dennis Deziel, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Martin Suuberg.

[From the Springfield Republican]

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
RECOGNITION OF SPRINGFIELD PARKS DIRECTOR  
PATRICK J. SULLIVAN ON THE MARK

(By The Republican Editorials)

More cities and town throughout the U.S. are taking a proactive, measured and coordinated stance toward protecting the environment. As a result, Going Green initiatives have been cropping up to study how power is generated and analyzing energy management systems within municipal buildings and schools. The goal, of course, is to make up-grades and create improvements.

Larger cities, including Chicago, have notable goals. Mayor Lori Lightfoot has embarked on a sustainable energy program within the city to power all city-owned buildings with renewable energy by 2035. Springfield has also been aggressive in partnering with private companies and non-profit agencies to develop measures to cut down on energy usage. With its Climate Action and Resilience Plan, the city has conducted building-by-building surveys to identify areas where improvements to power generation, air quality and lighting that will not only cut down on carbon emissions but save the city millions of dollars.

As a point person in Springfield's Going Green initiatives, City Parks and Building Director Patrick J. Sullivan is instrumental in working with a variety of groups to lead studies and identify and create carbon emission reduction goals. It is notable and commendable that Sullivan was recently honored by the Environmental Protection Agency with a lifetime achievement merit award for his multi-year effort to improve energy efficiency. Sullivan, who has worked for the city for the past 33 years, was one of nine people in New England and three in Massachusetts who received the EPA's 2020 award. Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno said of

Sullivan, his visionary and practical leadership has not only been good for our environment, but also the bottom line of our budget, too.

As a result of a multi-year effort to improve energy efficiency, the city as experienced a 30% decrease in city buildings since 2007.

According to Sullivan, one his proudest achievements is the organic lawn care program in which the city has reduced the use of synthetic fertilizers in city fields, replacing them with organic products, thus protecting rivers and streams from toxic runoff.

Coordination at the local government level to form partnerships with the business community and other agencies to identify and study energy use and develop conservation measures is vital to help reduce carbon emissions. Large and small cities all have role to play. Having an experienced, dedicated person leading these efforts, such as Sullivan, can only get us closer to building an environmentally friendly community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF REV.  
LONNIE WESLEY OAKS

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2020*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Rev. W.L. Oaks, who passed away on August 7 in Oxford, Mississippi.

Born on September 26, 1922, in Lafayette County, Mississippi, Lonnie grew up on a farm before joining the Civilian Conservation Corps at Camp Wall Doxey. He married his childhood sweetheart Frances Paralee Foster in 1941, who he remained married to for 68 years until her death in 2009. From there, Lonnie joined the United States Army and served his country proudly during the second World War. While fighting the Axis Forces in Italy, Lonnie received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Upon his return from the war, Lonnie moved to Union County, Mississippi, where he began preaching at Glenfield Baptist Church. Soon after, he decided to continue his education at Clarke College and Blue Mountain College for pastoral training. He served many churches, including County Line Baptist Church, Carey Springs Baptist Church, and Golden Central Baptist Church, among others.

Most notably, Lonnie served at Golden Central Baptist Church when a devastating fire destroyed it. He lost a lifetime of memorabilia, which included his service medals. Although devastating, the fire did not devastate Lonnie's spirit, he rebuilt the church and continued to serve for many years, becoming known to his friends as Brother Oaks. Lonnie continued to preach across the nation until he was 97. If he were here today, he would tell you: it is well with my soul.

Left to cherish his memory are his children Patsy Diane Oak Williams, Linda Grubbs, and Lonnie Wesley Oaks, Jr.; brother, Dalton Oaks; his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, as well as many other friends and extended family members.

RECOGNIZING LITTLE ROCK VENTURE CENTER FOR BEING NAMED BEST ENTERPRISE PAYMENTS SOLUTION AND BEST FINTECH PARTNERSHIP

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2020*

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Venture Center of Little Rock who has recently been awarded the top prize in the Best Fintech Accelerator/Incubator category at the second annual Innovate Awards, an international competition.

The Venture Center, a nonprofit, bested four other finalists chosen by a group of industry professionals from around the globe. Along with the Venture Center winning the top prize, two alumni of the Venture Center's programs received top prizes: The Best Enterprise Payments Solution and Best Fintech Partnership awards.

The Venture Center has proven what happens when local people, organizations, and entrepreneurs collaborate, and they have made Little Rock an epicenter of fintech innovation. I echo Governor Asa Hutchinson, saying, "The Center's successes enhance Arkansas' reputation as a leader in financial technology and computer science."

I am extremely proud of what the Venture Center is doing in Little Rock and beyond and congratulate them on their earned recognition at this year's awards.

COMMUNITY HEROES TRIBUTE

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2020*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and recognize this year's Community Heroes for their life-time record of public service, social activism, and charity. 2020 will be remembered as one of the most unprecedented times in modern history. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested us and forever changed our lives. It has exposed our vulnerabilities but has also given rise to countless community heroes who, amid their own personal challenges, demonstrate courage and resilience.

I am honored to congratulate this year's extraordinary Lower East Side recipients of CODA's Community Hero Awards. Their service is immeasurable, and the residents of my district are enriched and strengthened by their contributions.

Camille Napoleon, Vice-President of the Baruch Houses Tenants Association and a dedicated lifetime resident of the New York's City's Loaisida community and Baruch Houses. When the state issued its stay at home order and the pandemic swept the city, Camille knew her neighbors and community would need help to survive this monumental event. Amidst a notable lack of timely response from the City at the height of the lockdown, Camille and her unstoppable crew of volunteers be-

came a lifeline for residents. Operating six days a week, "Team Camille" delivered thousands of emergency meals, food boxes, and essential protection supplies to quarantined and homebound seniors, unemployed families, and other vulnerable individuals throughout the Lower East Side's public housing developments. Camille's volunteerism and efforts far exceeded expectations. Today, she continues to serve her neighbors and exemplify her passion for the community.

Eric Diaz, Executive Director of Vision Urbana Inc, Food Pantry program. Vision Urbana is a community faith-based led organization dedicated to the underserved families of the Seward Park Extension and its neighboring communities. I recognize Eric Diaz for his leadership and service to the community. The pandemic not only disrupted lives but also the access to the food chain. Constituents in my district encountered empty shelves at local grocery stores and markets. Food insecurity grew to affect a record number of vulnerable residents. Eric swiftly worked to secure and increase resources for the program. Under his leadership, the food pantry program grew to double its distribution and expand its coverage area. It delivered prepared meals and boxed foods to hundreds of seniors and families in need. With his volunteers and partner organizations, Eric and Vision Urbana's pantry program reaffirmed its commitment to its mission and humanity.

Shaheeda Smith, who has devoted her life to empowering NYC residents to reclaim their wellness through her innovative approach to dance and movement therapy. Shaheeda, an advocate from Henry Street Settlement's Community Advisory Board, teamed up with Henry Street and Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES), a neighborhood housing and preservation organization, to create the People's Permit Process, a guide to help community members navigate the city's rules and regulations. When COVID-19 rocked the community with biased and violent arrests related to social-distancing regulations enforcement, this civil rights activist interceded. Armed with extensive knowledge in the constitutional right to assemble peacefully, Shaheeda emerged as a bold voice for these victims of unwarranted excessive police force. Journalists and activists have documented numerous excessive force cases related to protests or simply for not wearing a mask. I am proud to know that Shaheeda was proactive and recognized that these actions are unacceptable.

Frances Goldin, posthumously, was known as "the Crusader for the Lower East Side". Frances had an interesting life as a staunch lifetime advocate and defender of housing, social and civil rights. As early as 1959, she launched a successful campaign that defeated Robert Moses' urban renewal plan to replace affordable housing in the Lower Eastside with a freeway. She was a founding member of the Metropolitan Council on Housing and was a strong defender of the displaced families of Seward Park Urban Renewal area. Her activism was instrumental in ensuring affordable housing for seniors at the newly developed Essex Crossings. In 2019, the 100-unit senior development was named The Goldin in her honor. Frances was also a literary agent who gave a voice to countless aspiring progressive writers who probably never would have their

works printed without her support. Lastly, Frances was a proud advocate and champion for the LGBTQ community. She was iconic for attending New York City's Pride Parade. Before her passing, she was pictured in the papers at the parade on her wheelchair. Despite her unfortunate passing at the peak of the pandemic, her legacy lives on through her children and the many lives she touched over the years. At the time her passing the New York Times called her a "... protester, provocateur and voice for lost causes." Frances was that and more, she was a trail-blazer and a woman on a lifetime mission for justice. The Lower East Side community will forever remember Frances Goldin.

HONORING TERRANCE J. FULP,  
PH.D

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2020*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Terrance J. Fulp as he retires after more than three decades of federal service. We honor Dr. Fulp for his lifetime of public service to our country and to the tens of millions of Americans who rely on the Colorado River for water and call the West home.

For the last eight years, Dr. Fulp has served as the Lower Colorado Regional Director for the United States Bureau of Reclamation. As Regional Director, Dr. Fulp is responsible for implementing the Secretary of the Interior's water master functions for the last 350 miles of the Colorado River—from Lake Mead to Mexico—including operation of the iconic Hoover Dam. Dr. Fulp brought a level of professionalism and technical expertise to the basin that was only matched by his ability to work across state, basin and national boundaries in the water sector with multiple stakeholders. These stakeholders of States, Tribes, water agencies, non-governmental groups—in both the U.S. and Mexico—saw a partner in Terry—and oftentimes left the negotiating table as his friends. He leaves a legacy in the basin that future leaders can only aspire to reach.

Dr. Fulp's tenure has been highlighted by his successful efforts in the management of the Colorado River. They include the 2007 Guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, Minutes 319 and 323 to the Mexican Water Treaty of 1944, the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan across the seven Colorado River Basin States, and a Memorandum of Understanding on the Salton Sea. I am especially grateful for Dr. Fulp's leadership in ensuring the success of the Title XVI Water Reuse and Water Recycling Program. This program has allowed many Southern California water agencies to invest in infrastructure development that meets local water needs, creating nearly 500,000 acre-feet of water in 2018 alone.

Madam Speaker, Terry Fulp has been an invaluable resource to Members of Congress, our staff, and the constituents and water agencies we represent. I ask that our colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Fulp and wish him and his wife Nadine a rich and rewarding retirement as they head home to Colorado.