

and timely manner from feasibility study through remedy selection in a 2013 Record of Decision and remedial design for full-scale dredging and capping with in-situ stabilization and installation of retention tanks to protect the dredged canal from recontamination from combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

The three superfund cleanup sites in New York City fall in my Congressional district and the Gowanus Canal is the furthest along and proceeding at a precedent-setting pace nationally. The Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group is the largest and most engaged in the Country.

The Team managed enforcement with a disparate group of roughly three dozen PRPs including National Grid, the successor to the operator of coal gasification plants responsible for a significant amount of coal tar related contamination in the Canal, and the City of New York, which owns the canal and is responsible for the sewer infrastructure in the watershed. The City opposed to both the listing of the Gowanus Canal and the CSO portion of the remedy. This made community outreach and enforcement more critical and the EPA team's work in this area has been exceptional.

To achieve the timely start of dredging, Project Manager Christos Tsiamis and Regional Counsel Brian Carr worked tirelessly, issuing unilateral administrative orders in January 2020 to six PRPs, and coordinating with multiple contractors, city agencies, and legal and technical teams to achieve the remedial mobilization.

Dredging canal sediments contaminated with coal tar in this densely populated urban area posed challenges that were overcome through outstanding engineering and oversight by the team. Dredging began in November 2020, and the first phase called Remediation Target Area 1 (RTA1) was completed by mid-2021.

Mr. Tsiamis, Mr. Carr, and Ms. Loney, met regularly with the CAG, local businesses, and other stakeholders. Thanks to their efforts, the main phase of dredging was swiftly completed, setting a high bar for completion of the next two phases of dredging (RTA2 and RTA3). Although enforcement issues remain with respect to the City, obtaining its commitment for this work was a major enforcement accomplishment, a result that the team worked tirelessly and effectively to achieve. For their outstanding work, I would like to recognize EPA Region 2's Gowanus remedial action team: Project Manager Christos Tsiamis, Assistant Regional Counsel Brian Carr, and Community Involvement Coordinator Natalie Loney.

HONORING PASTOR JOSÉ NIEVES  
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE  
MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Pastor José Nieves is a native of Bayamón, Puerto Rico. He graduated from Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri, and earned his master's degree in divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida.

He is ordained as a full elder in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

For over 10 years, he has been at the service of the Kissimmee area at Casa de Paz UMC and First Kissimmee UMC. Pastor José has been named Volunteer of the Year by the Osceola School District for his services to local schools, including the All Pro Dad and iMOM programs.

He continues to find new ways to strengthen the community. Pastor José is married to Libby and has three handsome boys: Ely, Lucas, and Daniel. During his time off, José enjoys everything basketball related, including coaching and rooting for the Orlando Magic. Go Magic.

HONORING GARY RAGGHIANI

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant career and accomplishments of Gary T. Ragghianti, the 2020 recipient of the Marin County Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

A Marin County resident since 1948, Gary has dedicated his professional career to public service and the law. He graduated from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1968 and began trying cases in the Marin County District Attorney's Office in 1969. In 1971, Gary joined the private firm of Conn, Breiner, Birkie & Ragghianti, which became Ragghianti Freitas in 2004. Over the course of his half-century-long career, he has served as the city attorney for San Rafael, Belvedere, Tiburon, and Corte Madera, and spent decades as counsel for other public entities in Marin County.

Gary has served on numerous boards throughout his prolific career, including as President of the San Rafael Public Library Foundation Board of Directors and Vice President of the Marin County History Museum Board of Directors. He is also a two-time member of the Board of Directors of Alternate Defenders, Inc., a nonprofit which provides free legal representation to indigent defendants in Marin County.

Over the course of his illustrious career, Gary has appeared twice before the United States Supreme Court. On the first occasion, he argued on behalf of the City of Tiburon at the age of 35. Then, 30 years later, he appeared again for a federal habeas corpus case, further cementing his reputation as a lawyer who can excel at the highest levels.

Gary's commitment to the legal profession and local government in the County of Marin has been, and will continue to be, productive and enduring. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Gary for his commitment to public service and the law, and extending heartfelt congratulations on his reception of the Marin County Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

IN CELEBRATION OF JUNE AS  
NATIONAL PRIDE MONTH

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, during this month of June, I would like to take the time to recognize Pride Month. Pride is a time to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and their contributions to our families, communities, and society at large. Pride is an opportunity for Americans to take pride in who we are without fear of discrimination and to stand in solidarity for equality and against hate. As we celebrate, it is imperative that we also recognize that, while our nation has made important progress with respect to LGBTQ+ rights, much work remains to be done.

I am proud to have helped advance statutory improvements to support LGBTQ+ rights during this Congress. We enacted the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act that combats hate crimes including crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, the law allocates money and resources to collect data on and to support victims of hate crimes. We also designated the Pulse Nightclub as a National Memorial in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the Pulse Nightclub shooting in 2019. Further, I'm proud that the People's House championed equality and opposed hate by passing the Equality Act that would afford LGBTQ+ Americans the critical protections under the Civil Rights Act as well as the Global Respect Act to deny visas to perpetrators of human rights abuses against LGBTQ individuals. The Equality Act is a landmark piece of legislation that eliminates discrimination in every major aspect of life, including education, housing, and federal funding programs that have historically excluded members of the LGBTQ+ community. The Senate should act quickly to pass these important bills to protect LGBTQ individuals in our country and internationally.

As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support with jurisdiction over child welfare, I am committed to protecting foster youth and foster parents from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. I worked with my late friend and colleague, John Lewis, to investigate the inappropriate waivers of nondiscrimination rules granted during the Trump Administration that promoted discrimination against foster youth and prospective foster parents. A critical step to protecting foster youth is enacting my legislation—the John Lewis Every Child Deserves a Family Act—that would prohibit any entity that receives federal child welfare funds from discriminating against children, youth, families of origin, kin, or prospective adoptive or foster parents based on religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. Unfortunately, LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in the foster care system. An estimated one in three foster youth identify as LGBTQ+, and they are more likely to experience poor treatment, discrimination, or violence while in care. This bill helps increase the number of supportive, loving, and permanent homes for foster youth.

I am troubled by the recent wave of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation that threatens the safety, health, and equal rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, policies that restrict access to healthcare

and permit discrimination by public/private institutions and businesses against members of the LGBTQ+ community in various ways. Leaders in my home state of Illinois are working to protect the rights of members of the LGBTQ+ community. Unfortunately, not every state offers protection to everyone. I will continue to support my state's efforts and to advance federal efforts to promote equality and protect the civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

I encourage those in my home City of Chicago, my state of Illinois, and across our country to embrace Pride Month, join in advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights, and embrace equality. And, if you're in Chicago, I encourage you to celebrate Pride via a number of wonderful events, including Pride Fest, the Chicago Pride Parade, the Pride in the Park music festival, Navy Pier Pride with wonderful family activities, or the Proud to Run 5k/10k or half marathon.

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HONORING LIEUTENANT ERIKA CASTELLUCCI AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE MONTH

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**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Lieutenant Erika Castellucci is a true Floridian having been raised in South Florida. She graduated from Florida State University and worked as a senior legal assistant for the capital appeals division of the Florida Attorney General's Office. After a few years, she found a passion to take a more proactive approach and put herself through the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. While in the academy, she was recruited to join the Kissimmee Police Department, where she has risen to the rank of lieutenant after 16 years of service.

Lieutenant Castellucci proudly identifies as a lesbian and has been a member of the LGBTQ community for as long as she can remember. As part of her community outreach, she collaborated with The Center in Kissimmee as soon as it opened. Lieutenant Castellucci has been used as a member of the Kissimmee Police Department to highlight the progressive stance the City of Kissimmee takes for all LGBTQ members. She also served on the board for GOAL CFL for 2 years.

During her 16 years at the Kissimmee Police Department, Lieutenant Castellucci has never ignored opportunities to help other LGBTQ members in need. Having her own coming out story from growing up helped drive her motivation to assist anyone struggling to make sure they knew the resources available to them and at times just be an ear to listen to their own struggles. One of her proudest moments was having the opportunity to march in the 2021 Orlando Pride parade hand in hand with her fiancée as people showered all law enforcement with support. In those moments, it shows that we are all human with our own stories to be proud of.

HONORING NEAL EWALD

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Neal Ewald as he retires from a long and productive career with Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRC). Mr. Ewald's 45-year career in the Northern California timber industry has been marked by efforts to improve timber management, environmental protections, and business practices.

Starting as a forester and logging engineer with Arcata Redwood Co. in 1978, Mr. Ewald went on to become the company's Resource Manager. He was then hired by Simpson Timber Co. as Resource Manager, and was later promoted to General Manager. In these roles, Mr. Ewald played a critical role in the acquisition of Arcata Redwood Co., as well as the development of Simpson's Habitat Conservation Plan for the protection of northern spotted owls. He was part of the team that restructured Simpson Timber Co. into GDRC, and was appointed vice president of California Timberlands in 2003.

During his time as vice president and General Manager of GDRC, the company adopted the ambitious Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan, which guided timber practices to conserve several protected aquatic species. From 2008 to 2018, Mr. Ewald worked diligently with Western Rivers Conservancy to transfer 48,000 acres of sacred land to the Yurok Tribe. Mr. Ewald oversaw the refurbishment of California Redwood Co.'s chip export dock, an investment in Twin Creeks Timber and purchase of 350,000 acres in five southern states, and GDRC's Marten Safe Harbor Agreement and Forest Habitat Conservation Plan.

Promoted to senior vice president in 2019, Mr. Ewald helped GDRC acquire 293,000 acres in Montana, and form the Montana Timberlands Division and its Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan. With a 90,000-acre expansion of Twin Creeks in 2021, GDRC now owns and manages 2.2 million acres in 10 states.

A consummate traveler, scuba diver, pilot, and family man, Mr. Ewald has served as a volunteer for numerous timber and agriculture advocacy organizations, and as a board member of Hospice of Humboldt, Humboldt State University, the Humboldt Area Foundation, and the Eureka Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, Neal Ewald's many contributions to the North Coast community as a leader for Green Diamond Resource Co. will leave a lasting impression for generations. Please join me in congratulating him on a prosperous career and an exciting and meaningful retirement.

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AMERICAN PORT ACCESS PRIVILEGES ACT OF 2022

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "American Port Access Privi-

leges Act of 2022," with my friend and colleague Congressman JIM COSTA (D-CA). The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the shortcomings in the international ocean shipping industry and the global supply chain. Congress must restore fairness at our ports for American exporters to help reduce the United States' longstanding trade imbalance with countries like mainland China. Our legislation seeks to do just that, building upon my bipartisan Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-146) signed by President Biden on June 16, 2022.

Foreign-flagged vessels' access to the American market and its consumers is a privilege, not a right. Even during a global pandemic, multinational companies looking to offload foreign-made products at West Coast ports must provide opportunities for American exports in return. California's agricultural exporters, manufacturers, and other businesses are willing to pay to ensure their products reach emerging markets in the Asia-Pacific. Dozens of agricultural exporters have contacted my office reporting that ocean carriers simply refused to accept cargo bookings for American exports, instead sending containers back empty to East Asia as quickly as possible. Congress must ensure reciprocity in trade and the ocean shipping industry, which is dominated by a handful of foreign-flagged ocean carriers. Some of these foreign ocean carriers are effectively state-controlled enterprises.

Our "American Port Access Privileges Act" would correct the structural disadvantages facing American exporters at our nation's ports by rewarding ocean carriers that serve both importers and exporters. First, the bill would codify the current preferences for military, Jones Act, and other U.S.-flagged vessels in place at many major American ports. Second, the bill would establish a secondary berthing preference for ocean-going commercial vessels servicing multiple ports in the United States or with significant cargo bookings of American exports.

This new preferential berthing will reward ocean carriers that serve both importers and American exporters by moving those vessels to the front of the queue for unloading and loading. It will similarly incentivize ocean carriers to make second-leg voyages to ports like the Port of Oakland, which is critical for California's agricultural exporters. Any port authority seeking federal funding from the Maritime Administration's port infrastructure development grant program would be required to accept these berthing preferences.

However, our bill ensures that the new preferential berthing and port access for export carrying-vessels would never interfere with U.S. Coast Guard orders for commercial vessels, port safety, or collective bargaining agreements for port workers. I recognize that the international shipping industry is variable and that cargo bookings often change last minute, requiring ocean carriers, port operators, and maritime workers to remain flexible. That is why our American Port Access Privileges Act would require that export-carrying vessels seeking preferential berthing report cargo bookings at least 7 days in advance to port operators.

Lastly, our bill would authorize the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics to collect data on berthing and cargo practices at U.S. ports. This will