

Richard Gale is a pillar of the Bozeman community. He was awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 for his strong commitment to volunteerism.

Mr. Gale is an active member of the Bozeman American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, and eight other organizations. His civic service includes positions on the Bozeman Police Commission and the Gallatin County 9-1-1 Advisory Committee. The Bozeman Elks honored him as the 2017 Veteran of the Year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Richard Gale for his dedication and service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on November 30, 2017, I was not present for votes because I was unavoidably detained due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted: Nay on Roll Call No. 642; Yea on Roll Call No. 643, passage of H.R. 3905, Minnesota's Economic Rights in Superior National Forest Act; Yea on Roll Call No. 644; Yea on Roll Call No. 645; Nay on Roll Call No. 646; Nay on Roll Call No. 647; Yea on Roll Call No. 648; and Yea on Roll Call No. 649.

TRIBUTE TO SHRIYA MAGATAPALLI

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Shriya Magatapalli. Shriya and her fellow teammates created the winning app, City Recycle Day, as part of the 2017 Congressional App Challenge. Their team is combined of students who attend Waukee High School and Prairie View Middle School in Waukee, Iowa.

The Congressional App Challenge encourages students to learn how to code through annual district-wide competitions hosted by Members of Congress from their home district. The team's app is entitled "City Recycle Day". It is designed to alert members of a community as to the date of their next trash/recycle pickup day. It also alerts users of special pickups and delays.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Shriya and her teammates for creating the winning app, and I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Shriya and her teammates on this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING FRANK STOLTZ FOR THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frank Stoltz of Miles City for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Stoltz joined the United States Army Air Corps in 1943 and fought overseas during World War II. He was awarded numerous medals including the Purple Heart and the Prisoner of War Medal. His service to his community, however, did not stop after his discharge in 1945.

Upon his return to Miles City, Mr. Stoltz started his own auto body repair shop and became active in supporting Montana communities through local and statewide business organizations. He also participated in the VFW and ExPOW organizations.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Frank Stoltz for his dedication and service.

BROWNFIELDS ENHANCEMENT, ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT, AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter:

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
MAYORS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES, NATIONAL LEAGUE
OF CITIES, AND NATIONAL ASSOCIA-
TION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS,

March 28, 2017.

Hon. GREG WALDEN,
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. FRANK J. PALLONE, JR.,
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Com-
mittee, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

Hon. PETER DeFAZIO,
Ranking Member, Transportation and Infra-
structure Committee, House of Representa-
tives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WALDEN, RANKING MEMBER PALLONE, CHAIRMAN SHUSTER AND RANKING MEMBER DeFAZIO: On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities, counties and regions, we strongly encourage you to reauthorize and improve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields program, which is key for both economic development and job creation in local communities across the country.

Since its creation, the EPA Brownfields program has provided crucial assistance to local governments for reclaiming hazardous, polluted and underutilized properties. To date, there have been over 26,000 brownfields assessments and 1,200 brownfields cleanups

nationally, which has led to over 123,000 jobs. Each of the \$22 billion federal dollars that has been invested since the program was established in 2002 has leveraged approximately \$16 in other investments, close to \$400 billion in total.

While many communities have benefited from brownfields redevelopment efforts under this program, the U.S. Government Accountability Office estimates there are between 400,000 and 600,000 remaining brownfields sites throughout the United States. To build upon these past successes and assist in the cleanup, reuse and redevelopment of remaining sites, some key improvements to the program are needed.

INCREASE OR MAINTAIN AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS

While we understand the fiscal challenges and constraints faced by the U.S. Congress, we strongly encourage you to authorize and fully fund the Brownfields program to at least previously authorized levels. The Brownfields program has a proven track record of leveraging additional investments, creating new jobs, and redeveloping new properties, while creating additional tax revenues.

At current appropriation levels, EPA has had to turn away many highly qualified applicants due to a lack of funding. EPA estimates that for the past 5 years, over 1,700 requests for viable projects were not awarded money because of limited funding. EPA estimates that if they were able to provide funding to those turned away applicants, an additional 50,000 jobs would have been created along with \$12 billion of leveraged funding.

Additionally, President Trump has made reinvesting in America and putting people back to work as key priorities for his administration. In order to make this happen and to do so quickly, Congress should utilize existing programs, and we believe that the Brownfields program would be a strong candidate for any type of reinvestment initiative. That is why we urge Congress to increase or at least maintain the current authorization levels for EPA's brownfields program.

INCREASE OVERALL GRANT FUNDING TO ALLOW COMMUNITIES TO CLEANUP MORE DIFFICULT SITES

Although many brownfield sites have been redeveloped, what remains are brownfield sites that are more difficult to redevelop due to their level of contamination or marketplace conditions. Communities would like the EPA program to be expanded to address the clean up challenges at these more complex sites.

We suggest the following:

Increase Cleanup Grant Amounts—Congress should recognize the complexity of the cleanup process for larger or more complicated sites by increasing the funding limit for cleanup of a single site to \$1 million. Under special circumstances, EPA could waive the limit, up to \$2 million per site.

Establish Multi-Purpose Brownfields Grants—Congress should allow local governments to have the option to apply for multi-purpose grants that can be used for the full range of brownfields-funded activities (assessment, cleanup, reuse planning, etc.) on a community-wide basis. Applicants should be required to demonstrate a plan and the capacity for using this multi-purpose funding within a set timeline in order to qualify for such funding.

Allow Funding for Reasonable Administrative Costs for Local Brownfields Programs—Congress should allow brownfields grant recipients to use a small portion (10 percent) of their grant to cover reasonable administrative costs such as rent, utilities and other costs necessary to carry out a brownfields project.