

recreational fishing generates \$48 billion in retail sales, \$115 billion in total economic activity, and 828,000 jobs. In 2016, Congress passed the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act. Because of that legislation, in 2018, the U.S. Commerce Department Bureau of Economic Analysis included outdoor recreation's impact, including fishing and boating, in our Nation's gross domestic product, GDP, for the first time.

Possibly the most important aspect of recreational fishing is that sportfishing manufacturers, anglers, and boaters pay for most of State fish and wildlife agencies' fisheries conservation and boating programs. Through special Federal excise and fishing license sales, anglers and boaters are providing more than \$1.2 billion each year in funds that are allocated to the States.

Much of this progress is due to the leadership of Mr. Nussman, who hails from Crownsville, MD. While ASA has been a trade association since 1933, it has really been in the past 25 years—a period that coincides with his tenure—that the organization has assumed more of a leadership role in the angling community.

With the support of ASA, the aforementioned excise taxes have been expanded to cover programs such as wetlands restoration, boating safety and infrastructure, and the establishment of the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation, RBFF. In fact, Mike Nussman led the effort to establish RBFF to turn around a decline in recreational fishing participation, which started to appear in the 1990s. The most recent data indicate an upward trend in recreational fishing, including among more diverse and urban communities.

Mr. Nussman's success should come as no surprise. He worked for the Senate Commerce Committee and then Chairman Fritz Hollings of South Carolina. Mr. Nussman was the lead professional staff member for the subcommittee that oversees fisheries policy, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Prior to that, Mr. Nussman worked for the South Carolina Sea Grant Program, earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in science, and an MBA from the University of South Carolina.

Mr. Nussman's tenure at the ASA also has improved the organization's business operations. The sportfishing industry's annual trade show is now the largest in the world. His leadership has made the organization financially strong, helping it weather economic downturns. He has also served on numerous boards of directors and advisory groups, from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership to the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources. He has served as a U.S. Commissioner on the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Trade associations serve a unique role by allowing companies in the same industry to come together to express their views on issues affecting the entire industry. They are an important segment of our U.S. private sector and provide a legal, accepted mechanism to allow small and large companies in an industry to have a common voice when working with the Congress, the Executive, the States, and local governments. When Mr. Nussman joined the ASA, he brought special expertise as a former Senate staffer to the recreational fishing industry and conservation communities. So upon the occasion of his retirement, I think it appropriate that he be recognized and congratulated today for a job well done. Anglers and sportfishing-related businesses in Maryland and across our Nation can be thankful that he has been at the ASA helm.

I wish him all the best as he begins the next chapter in his life which will include, presumably, even more time for fishing.●

TRIBUTE TO TONY PRATT

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise on behalf of the Delaware delegation to honor the exemplary service of Tony Pratt, administrator of the Shoreline and Waterway Management section within the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Tony has devoted his life's work to preserving our coastal communities and documenting its beauty through his talented photography.

Tony, sometimes known affectionately around Delaware as the Sand Man, is an expert on natural coastal infrastructure including beaches, dunes, and wetlands. He has ensured that Delaware has safe, clean, and broad beaches for its nearly 3 million visitors a year to enjoy. As a leader of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, he has an understanding of the complexities facing the coastal resources not just in Delaware, but around our great Nation. He is so well respected in his field that, in February 2017, he testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works on the value of beaches, dunes, wetlands, and other natural coastal infrastructure.

Tony has been a key figure in turning around Delaware's beaches from being in a state of chronic erosion in the 1990s, to today serving as a top tourist destination and providing protection during the strongest of storms. These storms have continuously battered the coastline and back bays; however, Delaware coastal communities have fared better than most due to beach renourishment projects and mitigation work in the back bays. Tony has led these efforts not only to try and prepare for the next superstorm, but learn from past storms in order to keep our roads, bridges, homes, businesses, and animal habitats safe from rising waters.

You would be hard pressed to find him behind a desk, especially during a storm. You are more likely to find him standing in the water, investigating the environment, and possibly even taking photos of the beautiful land and sea. He is there for Delaware any time of the day and night, on weekends and holidays. He is personally vested in his work and has somehow maintained that same level of passion for nearly four decades.

On behalf of Delaware Senator CHRIS COONS and our Congresswoman, LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, I wholeheartedly thank Tony Pratt for his service to Delaware. His model leadership and dedication has served to improve our coastal communities and Delawareans' quality of life. We offer Tony our sincere congratulations on a job well done and wish him well as he embarks on the next chapter of his career.

When people in the Navy accomplish extraordinary things in their lives, we say, "Bravo Zulu!" Today we are in your debt, and we are deeply grateful, as well, to your family for sharing with the people of Delaware and America for all these years a very good man.●

REMEMBERING RICHARD E. "DICK" HAINES

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I have the honor of remembering Mr. Richard E. "Dick" Haines as he is laid to rest at the Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery with full military honors on April 6, 2018.

Dick was born in Billings, MT, on September 28, 1936, and spent much of his life in service to our great State. Dick graduated from Montana State University in 1959 with a degree in mechanical engineering, while also completing the Army's ROTC program. After serving in the U.S. Army as an officer teaching marksmanship skills and shooting on Army rifle teams, Dick began his engineering career. In 1962, he was offered an engineering position with the U.S. Forest Service. During his career, he served on the Kootenai, Kaniksu, Clearwater, Deer Lodge, and Siskiyou Forests. His years of public service, however, did not stop there. From 1999 through 2004, Dick served in the Montana State House of Representatives, where he played a key role in the establishment of the Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery. In addition, he served a total of 8 years on the Missoula City Council and served for countless years with many other local organizations.

When Dick wasn't serving his constituents or volunteering, he enjoyed Montana's beautiful outdoor recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking and backpacking. His selfless public service and commitment to volunteering will never be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO LOYD RENNAKER

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing