

Chief of Staff and the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force North before coming to the Monterey Bay and assuming command of DLIFLC. During his tenure at DLIFLC, COL Deppert was diligent in strengthening relationships between the Army and the community stakeholders that surround DLIFLC. COL Deppert has inspired those around him, including his wife and family, who have steadfastly supported his service in our nation's armed forces. COL Deppert and his family embody the principle of selfless service to a higher calling, and set an example for us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating COL Deppert on his well-earned retirement and thanking him for his many years of dedicated service to our country. My district is fortunate to have had the Deppert family working and residing in the Monterey Bay area, and I am delighted that they will remain on the Central Coast after COL Deppert's retirement.

KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL—NEXT  
GENERATION OF LIFESAVERS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this past year, the Houston area suffered a historic hurricane. My Congressional district was hammered by this flood. Hurricane Harvey left tremendous destruction in its wake. Kingwood High School was destroyed. But, the good folks at Humble Independent School District immediately went to work and the students returned to their newly renovated school this past spring. The people of Texas are a resilient bunch. The entire community pulled together, determined to put the school back together. There have been countless donations given by very generous folks in the Kingwood community. Now with the help of Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, Kingwood High School is one step closer to normalcy.

After learning that Kingwood High School had lost their CPR Training Kits due to flooding, Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital donated two CPR in Schools Training Kits. The donation was an extension of the Memorial Hermann Northeast sponsorship of the 2018 Greater Lake Houston Heart Walk.

The CPR in Schools Training Kit was created by the American Heart Association. About 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR can double a person's chance of survival, especially if performed immediately. It is the hope that the distribution of such kits to schools can help improve survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest through the coordination of proper CPR training. This curriculum is taught to both middle schools and high schools across the country. The American Heart Association is helping prepare more students, teachers, and families to save lives with the CPR in Schools Curriculum Training Kit. The kits are designed specifically for educational environments and can be facilitated by anyone. Each kit contains everything required to train 10 to 20 students in CPR in just under 30 minutes.

Kingwood High School nursing staff and the Student Council organizes the training. Seniors were given two opportunities to take CPR training before graduation. Thanks to Memorial

Herman, Kingwood High School was able to train over 380 seniors using the two CPR in Schools Kits.

Because of Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, those 380 seniors have been given this lifesaving skill that was not as easily available to them before. These training kits will be used for years to come, training the next generation of lifesavers.

And that's just the way it is.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR H.R.  
1026—NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL  
SCENIC TRAIL ROUTE ADJUST-  
MENT ACT

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful the House recently passed H.R.1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act under suspension of the rules by voice vote. My office received a number of letters in support of H.R. 1026 I am including in the RECORD.

Specifically, we received letters from the North Country Trail Association, the American Hiking Society, and the Partnership for the National Trails System.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to timely action in the U.S. Senate to ensure enactment of this bipartisan, commonsense measure before the end of the 115th Congress.

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE  
NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM,

*Madison, WI, June 1, 2018.*

Re H.R. 1026.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We urge your support for the passage of H.R. 1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act, which is scheduled for a floor vote in the House on June 5th.

We ask this on behalf of:

Local communities in northeastern Minnesota and Vermont directly affected by this bill, in order that they enjoy the many economic, recreational and quality of life benefits through this designation of a National Scenic Trail passing through their communities.

The North Country Trail community—now representing over 50,000 hikers, trail builders and trail maintainers—who have worked tirelessly for over 15 years to finally see this legislation passed.

The hundreds of thousands of American families who use the North Country National Scenic Trail to enjoy the many health, recreational, and family values benefits of hiking on a National Trail, and being connected with others who call America's northern heartlands home.

The millions of Americans who annually are refreshed, invigorated, educated, and inspired thru their journeys on our 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails throughout America.

This simple bill corrects an oversight perpetuated in the original 1980 authorization of the North Country National Scenic Trail, adjusts its authorized mileage to the more accurate number and saves money by replacing the far more costly original route in Minnesota that required traversing wetlands with world class trail that is mostly already constructed.

In honor of this 50th Anniversary Year of the National Trails System our community of trail makers and trail users requests your

support of H.R. 1026 to fully realize the public benefit envisioned by Congress for the North Country National Scenic Trail. We hope we can count on you.

Sincerely,

GARY WERNER,  
*Executive Director.*

AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY,

*Silver Spring, MD, June 5, 2018.*

Re American Hiking Society Urges Support of H.R. 1026.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act and work to realize the completion and connection of our National Trails System, American Hiking Society strongly supports the passage of H.R. 1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act. This bill seeks to fully realize the original vision for the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) by rerouting the trail between Jay Cooke State Park and Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota and extending the trail from its current end in Crown Point, New York, to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Vermont.

H.R. 1026 is enthusiastically supported by the national hiking community at large and especially by the trail's surrounding communities and townships. The legislation is also supported by the entire Minnesota congressional delegation. This trail provides a "close to home" park for millions of Americans and offers low-cost recreational opportunities for families, children, the elderly, and others. It's completion and connection to similar trails would greatly enhance these opportunities and fulfill Congress's vision for this trail when it first authorized it.

The economic impact of this trail and the improved economic activity it would generate if completed and connected with other highly trafficked trails would be significant. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, trails in America accounted for \$201 billion in annual spending in 2017 and were responsible for 1.7 million jobs. Much of this spending takes place in small communities along each of the trails, communities for which this income is substantial, meaningful, and will remain local. Many of the jobs trails create can't be exported offshore: guides and outfitters, hotel staff and restaurateurs, and numerous others directly benefit the community in which they reside.

In response to some concerns raised about an expansion of the federal footprint, AHS notes that, in a cost estimate prepared by the CBO, the CBO stated; "ongoing costs to develop, manage, and maintain the added property would be negligible." How often can Congress approve a project where the brunt of the hard work is taken on by volunteers? And where the volunteers themselves along with nonprofit partners fund raise to support those efforts?

These trails are more than just an economic engine. Since our nation's founding, the outdoors have been a distinctive part of our American heritage and trails such as the NCNST are integral to that. Whether it's a family out for a hike on a nearby trail or as the returning veteran walking off the war, Americans continue to seek places for outdoor recreation, a connection to nature, and healthy exercise. Thanks to Congress, just such a place exists in the NCNST. Now we ask Congress to finish what was begun fifty years ago, allow the volunteers to get to doing what they do so well, and at long last begin the completion of one of America's greatest National Scenic Trails.

Please contact Tyler Ray, Director of Policy and Advocacy with any questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

TYLER RAY,  
*Director of Policy and Advocacy.*

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION,  
*Lowell, MI, May 31, 2018.*

RE H.R. 1026.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We urge your support for the passage of H.R. 1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act, which is scheduled for a floor vote in the House on June 5th.

We ask this on behalf of:

Local communities in northeastern Minnesota and Vermont directly affected by this bill, in order that they enjoy the many economic, recreational and quality of life benefits through this designation of a National Scenic Trail passing through their communities.

The North Country Trail community—now representing over 50,000 hikers, trail builders and trail maintainers—who have worked tirelessly for over 15 years to finally see this legislation passed.

The hundreds of thousands of American families who use the North Country National Scenic Trail to enjoy the many health, recreational and family values benefits of hiking on a National Trail, and being connected with others who call America's northern heartlands home.

This simple bill corrects an oversight perpetuated in the original 1980 authorization of the North Country National Scenic Trail, adjusts its authorized mileage to the more accurate number and in fact saves money by replacing the far more costly original route in Minnesota that required traversing wetlands with world class trail that is mostly already constructed.

Using a proven approach based on a public/private partnership that leverages the public benefit with both sweat equity and private funding, our community needs your support of H.R. 1026 to fully realize the public benefit envisioned by Congress for the North Country National Scenic Trail. We hope we can count on you.

Sincerely,

ANDREA KETCHMARK,  
*Executive Director.*

FALLEN WARRIORS MEMORIAL  
GALLERY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on the wall in my offices in Washington and Texas, hang pictures, faces, of fallen Texas warriors. These pictures remind all those who visit that freedom comes with a price. One man in southeastern Texas is commemorating the memory of these brave men and women in a unique way.

Ken Pridgeon has a deep respect for the military. He served ten years in the Air Force as an electronics technician, until retiring from the military with a profound appreciation for the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform.

During his time in the service, he developed his talents as an artist, transforming Sepia tone family pictures into color photos during deployments for his brothers-in-arms. During a time when he was stationed in Florida, he was

even lucky enough to take an art class run by American legend Norman Rockwell.

His artistic abilities led to him taking a job as a billboard artist in the Houston area after his retirement from the Air Force. Suspended 65 feet above the road, Ken painted advertisements on roadside billboards for decades. It was perilous work, but Pridgeon became a master of his profession.

Ken's high esteem for America's servicemen never left him and eventually inspired him to pursue a new project that would combine this respect with his artistic side. Compelled to commemorate the sacrifice of fallen U.S. members of the military in Iraq and Afghanistan, he began to paint portraits of Texans who gave their lives in defense of our country in those conflicts.

What started as merely a side project turned into a full-time calling, as Ken began expanding his collection to servicemen outside of Texas. To date, he has painted 200 portraits of fallen American warriors. He donates a print of each portrait to the family of the portrayed, and he tries to consult them in creating each piece so that he can add personal touches to the painting. Ken often spends up to fourteen hours a day painting, beginning before the crack of dawn and ending well after sundown.

Ken began displaying these portraits in a gallery in Baytown, Texas, his hometown. Recently, he relocated his works to the newly opened Fallen Warriors Memorial gallery on Cutten Road in Houston. These portraits complement the nearby Fallen Warriors Memorial, and now visitors can come face to face with some of the fallen servicemen honored by the memorial in Ken's gallery.

Mr. Speaker, General George Patton once said, "While we mourn the loss of such men, we should thank God that such men ever lived." Ken Pridgeon's paintings provide a fitting tribute to our country's fallen warriors, a rare breed of Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR MATTHEW T. BRADY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the service of my personal hero, my brother, Command Sergeant Major Matthew Thomas Brady.

Over thirty-five years ago, Matt began his military career when he enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard. After completing his basic training at Fort Dix in New Jersey, Matt continued to expand his skill set with Combat Engineer Training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and Combat Medic Training at Fort Sam Houston in the great state of Texas.

While serving in the National Guard, Matt earned his Bachelor's Degree, and upon his graduation, he began his active-duty military service in the U.S. Army. Always willing to go where there was a need, Matt's service has taken him across the United States and around the world, from postings in Colorado and Alaska to South Korea and Germany. Matt has served with valor and distinction in multiple conflicts, including Operation Desert

Shield, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Matt's distinguished service has not gone unrecognized. He has earned countless awards and honors, including the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star with an oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, the Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal with two Bronze Stars, and many others.

Our mother, Nancy, inspired us to have faith, always be optimistic, and to give back. Matt turned this advice into a creed that he followed throughout his storied military career. From his time as a medic to his current role as Command Sergeant Major of the Regional Health Command—Atlantic, Matt has spent most of his career managing healthcare systems to care for our wounded warriors and treat our active duty service members.

After thirty-six years of military service, Matt will begin his hard-earned and well-deserved retirement on September 30, 2018. My brother represents the best of what this country has to offer. Matt; his wife, Christina; and their two children, Matthew and Caitlin, have given so much over the years, and I could not be prouder to pay tribute to my little brother—my hero—and honor his decades of selfless, dedicated service to our family and our country.

INTRODUCING THE STUDENTS  
HELPING YOUNG STUDENTS ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the Students Helping Young Students Act. This important and bipartisan legislation would provide an additional pathway to enable students to work their way through college, while at the same time enhancing the afterschool opportunities of their younger peers.

The Students Helping Young Students Act would incorporate work at afterschool programs into the Federal Work-Study program. Encouraging students enrolled in higher education to work with vulnerable younger students is a win-win, expanding opportunities for students at colleges and universities to participate in afterschool programs for at-risk youth. The bill creates new paths to achievement and opportunities for students at all levels, a commonsense way to improve our nation's education system.

The hours between 3 p.m.—7 p.m., when children are out of school but parents are not yet home from work, can be a critical time for children, families, and communities. Mentoring and afterschool programs can play a key role in filling this gap. Unfortunately, too few at-risk students have the opportunity to participate in these programs. While not a panacea, afterschool and mentoring programs have been associated with improved educational outcomes, reduced negative behaviors, increased school attendance, and improved social and emotional development.

At the same time, as college costs continue to rise, the Federal Work-Study program provides a key source of financing for students to