

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.