

To work with organizations committed to advancing the disabled community, Justin volunteered his time to Adapt, the National Organization on Disability, and the National Participant Network. He also co-founded Gainesville's Disability Resource Center and established the North Georgia Screamin' Eagles soccer team, a local soccer team for quadriplegic athletes.

Because of his tireless devotion to meeting the needs of the disabled, the Georgia Advisory Committee appointed Justin to the United States Civil Rights Commission, which focuses on addressing issues in civil rights policy. Additionally, he served as an officer for the Access Center for Independent Living and Access Hall County—two organizations that support disabled men and women by advocating for their independence in the community.

Throughout his life, Justin worked to broaden equal opportunities for the disabled in the workplace, and his optimism lifted the spirits of others in the community. Mr. Speaker, the Gainesville community will miss Justin, and my prayers are with family during this time.

CELEBRATING THE CHICANA(O)
AND LATINA(O) STUDIES DEPARTMENT (CLS) AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES UPON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Chicana(o) and Latina(o) Studies Department (CLS) at California State University, Los Angeles upon its 50th anniversary. Established in 1968, the program has expanded from four classes to 150 courses annually. Created during an era when communities of color stood up for equality and civil rights, this program sought to build a new, positive narrative of Mexican Americans in the U.S., while preparing students to pursue careers in various fields, including education, law, and the social sciences.

Since its founding, the CLS program's focus was interdisciplinary and broke with academia's traditional emphasis on specialization to instead focus its study of Mexican Americans through courses in history, culture, political science, psychology, and an emerging Chicano literature. While the scope and breadth of the CLS program has changed over the years, its impact on the minds of our youth has remained constant and is as relevant now as ever before.

To create an equitable society, we must acknowledge the systemic inequalities that immigrants and all communities of colors continue to face. Our educational institutions can serve as vehicles toward this end. That is why we must work together as policy makers, educators, community leaders, and students to lead our generation into a future that truly embodies the ideals our country has aspired to since its founding.

I ask all members to join with me in commending the CLS program and California State University, Los Angeles for their 50 years of educating Los Angeles' youth for a brighter future.

HONORING KEITH KELLEHER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Keith Kelleher, one of the greatest organizers I have ever seen, for his hard work and dedication as he retires on September 14, 2018. Keith's lifelong commitment to organizing for social and economic justice has improved thousands of lives and created fair work environments and policies that will continue to give workers good wages, health care, and safe work environments.

Keith Kelleher was the President of the Service Employees International Union Healthcare Illinois/Indiana/Missouri/Kansas since its creation in April 2008 until April 2017. He was a field organizer, Lead Organizer, and Head Organizer of Legacy Local 880 in Chicago, and Head Organizer of United Labor Unions Local 222 in Detroit prior to that.

In his 39 years of work as a labor and community organizer, Keith pioneered the organization of fast food, home care, child care and other low-wage workers—growing Legacy Local 880 from just seven members in 1983 to more than 70,000 members by 2008, and growing SEIU HCIMK from 83,000 members in 2008 to more than 92,000 members by 2014; and winning living wages and first-ever healthcare for tens of thousands of Illinois workers.

Keith was the Field Director of the national SEIU's "Homecare Task Force" from 1996–1998. He traveled, researched, and visited the homes of home care workers in more than ten states, beginning the work which led to the organizing of hundreds of thousands of home care workers across the country.

Today, more than 600,000 home care and child care workers in more than fifteen states across the country are united in SEIU, fighting for a better standard of living for themselves and their families, and joining with nursing home and hospital workers to become a national movement for quality care and quality jobs.

Keith Kelleher was a founder and leader in the national SEIU Homecare Council, which was composed of leaders of over 15 local unions. He was a board member and then Vice-President of the SEIU Illinois State Council, which grew from 70,000 to over 120,000 members during his years of service.

As an organizer, Keith Kelleher trained hundreds of rank and file leaders and organizers over his career. He helped found the Helen Miller Member Education and Training Center (METC) which has trained thousands of Homecare and Child Care workers, as well as helping to found the SEIU HCIMK Homecare and Child Care Health Trust, which brought first-time health care to more than 15,000 home and child care workers.

His conviction, integrity and foresight helped initiate several grassroots organizing initiatives, like the Grassroots Collaborative "Fight for \$15" and "United Working Families."

He was a founder and leader of the "Chicago Jobs and Living Wage Campaign" and the "Big Box Living Wage Campaign" from the 1990's to the 2000's, which led to increases in the Chicago and Illinois minimum wage and benefited hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Chicago and Illinois workers.

In the 1990's, as a State Representative in Springfield, I was honored to work with Keith on legislation to raise the wage of state-employed home care workers in a campaign dubbed "Give Me Five," a \$5 an hour minimum wage. I was indelibly inspired by the heroic women of Local 880 who, along with Keith, taught me to never give up!

Rising to the top of his union, Keith was elected as an SEIU International Executive Board Vice-President in June 2008, a position he held until 2017.

In recognition of his historic accomplishments as a visionary, organizer and labor movement leader, I rise today to offer my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to Keith Kelleher for all he has done to improve the jobs and living conditions of thousands and thousands of people and to provide hope to millions more.

I thank Keith, and best of luck to him in his retirement from SEIU. My hope is that I will continue to see him leading in the ongoing struggle.

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION
OF THE BEAVER ISLAND WATER
TRAIL

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the dedication of the Beaver Island Water Trail on northern Lake Michigan. Thanks to the tireless efforts of countless community leaders, businesses, and local organizations, this trail has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

The 42-mile paddling trail around the largest island in Lake Michigan is designed for experienced paddlers and outdoorsmen looking for an exciting excursion. As they make their way along the trail, paddlers can enjoy beautiful beaches and wetlands, lighthouses, shipwrecks, and some of the best night skies that Michigan has to offer. And Beaver Island's unique history and warm community make it an ideal destination for outdoors enthusiasts everywhere.

Northern Michigan is home to some of our nation's most cherished natural resources and landscapes, and trails like Beaver Island's help support healthy lifestyles, local economies, and an appreciation for our beautiful state. I look forward to getting to experience the trail with my kids and grandkids, and I am excited to spread the word on all that the island has to offer. A dedication ceremony for the trail was held on September 1st at the Beaver Island Community Center.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Preservation Association of Beaver Island, the Land Access Information Association, the state of Michigan, and all others who helped pitch in to make the Beaver Island Water Trail a reality. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such an important institution of recreational, historical, and environmental significance. On behalf of my constituents, I wish it all the best.