

change the lives of the thousands of children who have sought help from your organization. You are all champions of social justice, and it is my honor to congratulate you all on twenty years of devoted service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MERCY
PEDALERS 1ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mercy Pedalers and its volunteers and supporters as they celebrate their 1st Anniversary. As the community gathers today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring them and their successful first year of service to the Sacramento region and beyond.

On September 1st Sister Libby Fernandez founded Mercy Pedalers after serving as the Executive Director of Sacramento Loaves & Fishes for eleven years. During her many years of service for the people in our community experiencing homelessness, she realized that compassion and personal connections were what made a difference in people's daily lives. Through her small but meaningful, individual actions, the inspiration for the organization was fostered.

Mercy Pedalers is comprised of local, kind-hearted individuals, who cycle through the streets of Sacramento, reaching out to men and women who are in crisis and living on the streets. They emphasize their outreach and actions based on the "Works of Mercy" and "Welcoming the Stranger." The work and care that the volunteers bring into the streets of our city cannot be overstated. As we struggle to address the causes and symptoms of homelessness, Mercy Pedalers bring a ministry approach to day to day outreach. The dignity and respect that Sister Libby and the Mercy Pedalers show homeless men and women is one that should be present in all of us.

Mr. Speaker, as the members and volunteers of Mercy Pedalers celebrate their first year of service to the Sacramento community, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their dedication to our neighbors through their charitable work.

TRIBUTE TO DENIZ FRANKE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deniz Franke for being named the 2018 Women Business Owner of the Year honoree by the award-winning central Iowa Publication, Business Record. Franke successfully built her own business, a wealth management company named Franke Miller Group.

For 19 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic, and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Deniz was born in Istanbul, Turkey. By the time she was eighteen years old she had an

entrepreneurial spirit which led her to develop, design, and produce her own fashion line. Deniz and her family moved to Memphis, Tennessee where she attended the University of Memphis earning two degrees in finance and marketing. She has become one of the top private wealth advisors in Iowa and has been recognized nationally by Forbes magazine as Best in State Wealth Advisors for 2018 and was part of Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors in 2018. Deniz also finds the time to give back to her community as a trustee for the Boys and Girls Club of Central Iowa, volunteers for Big Brothers and Sisters, the American Heart Association, and the Alzheimer's Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Deniz Franke in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Deniz Franke on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Ms. Franke a long and successful career.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ESTUARY
WEEK: SEPTEMBER 15 TO 22, 2018

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate National Estuary Week, a week dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of our nation's estuaries. This marks the 30th anniversary of National Estuary Week, and on Monday, September 17, I joined my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Estuary Caucus and Restore America's Estuaries in kicking off this celebration with the 2018 National Estuaries Week Hill Expo. This Expo was a great showcase of research and resources for coastal habitats. The Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were on hand to talk with staff and Members and explain how we can improve the health of our estuaries.

Former Congressman Jim Gerlach taught us "Estuaries are coastal bays, harbors, sounds and lagoons, places where rivers meet the sea." My own Eighth District of Florida is home to the Indian River Lagoon, one of the most diverse estuaries in North America and the world. I grew up around Cocoa Beach, raised my family along the Lagoon, and worked in local real estate for many years. I learned firsthand why it's so important for us to work together to care for our environment.

That is why, in early 2017, I founded the bipartisan Congressional Estuary Caucus with several of my colleagues to give the nation's estuaries a stronger voice and presence in Congress. Since that time, more than forty Members of Congress have joined the Estuary Caucus and become actively engaged in our efforts to support estuary restoration and conservation. The Caucus has already held eleven briefings on Capitol Hill about the critical role these delicate ecosystems play in our communities.

Stretching 156 miles along Florida's east coast, our Lagoon is a sanctuary for nearly

4,000 species of wildlife, an economic engine for our community, and an invaluable recreational and educational resource for residents and visitors. Since estuaries are places where freshwater mixes with saltwater, preserving the delicate balance is as critical as it can be difficult. Our quality of life, economy and tourism, property values and the survival of many indigenous species of plant and wildlife depend on our efforts. Scientists often call them "nurseries of the sea" because estuaries are the nesting and feeding habitats for many aquatic plants and animals. Experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimate that up to 80 percent of the fish and shellfish that we catch spend at least part of their lives in estuaries. That catch includes salmon, herring, and oysters, and our fishing industry is valued in the billions of dollars. Estuaries also contribute to healthy ocean environments by filtering out sediments and pollutants from rivers and streams before they flow into the oceans. Estuaries are also important recreational destinations. Millions of people each year boat, swim, watch birds and other wildlife, and fish in our nation's estuaries. Coastal recreation and tourism generate billions of dollars to our economy.

Many estuaries, including our lagoon, are experiencing challenges like harmful algae blooms, declines in sea grass, and invasive species. These threats require our immediate attention. Acidification also presents uncertainties within our precious estuaries. The problem of estuarine acidification is less well understood than acidification in the open ocean and could pose severe effects for the biodiversity of our estuaries like the Indian River Lagoon.

As we seek to restore and protect our estuaries, I believe we have to adopt the proverbial "all of the above" strategy. That means a coordinated effort involving federal, state and local cooperation with each level of government doing what it does best. Our state and local government will lead the efforts that improve our water quality and will provide leadership in assuring we adapt to sea level rise in the way we build and manage our land use. The federal government supports state and local leadership with restoration programs that include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I've joined my colleagues, Congressman BRIAN MAST and Congresswoman BONAMICI, in introducing legislation aimed at mitigating and solving our hypoxia and toxic algal bloom challenges. In Florida, we are working to raise the priority of projects that benefit the estuaries within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

To get a leg up on the challenges to our estuaries posed by acidification, I've introduced the National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act of 2018. This legislation creates a research program so that we can understand how better how acidification works in estuaries and how we might be able to combat it.

For the 2018 Fiscal Year, the Interior Appropriations bill includes \$16.8 million that will provide \$600,000 to each of the 28 estuaries, and also includes my plan to direct \$1.5 million for the National Estuary Program's competitive grants program for special projects and prevention and mitigation focused research. This is a win for our estuaries, communities, and economy.