

we can have a final bill that respects Americans' constitutional rights.

# HONORING ALBERT STRAUS

## HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Albert Straus, the founder and CEO of Straus Family Creamery. Under Albert Straus' leadership the Straus Family Creamery became the first creamery in the country to become one hundred percent certified organic. Twenty-five years later, the business is not only thriving, but has created a model for sustainable family dairy farming that has been replicated to great success.

The oldest of four children, Albert Straus grew up on his family's dairy farm in northern California. The son of William and Ellen Straus, his father founded the dairy in 1941, after fleeing to the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany. Albert left his family's dairy to go to college, but returned in 1977, after earning a bachelor's degree in Dairy Science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Albert took over management of the dairy alongside his father, but realized that changes would need to be made if family-run dairy farms were going to survive the growth of larger industrial competitors.

Over the course of the nearly two decades that followed, Albert Straus implemented innovative solutions at his family dairy that improved both the stewardship of the land and the farm's economic vitality. These solutions included the cessation of herbicides and chemical fertilizers, the use of planting methods that reduced soil erosion, and the use of food waste for cow feed, among many others. Finally, in 1994, Straus opened the first certified organic dairy and creamery west of the Mississippi River and the first 100 percent certified organic creamery in the U.S.

Today, the Straus Family Creamery has had great success, both economically, and in its mission to create a farming community that is committed to stewardship of the land. Albert Straus has been a model and mentor for many other family dairy farms. Now nearly ninety percent of all dairy farms in the region are certified organic, and as a result, family farms are continuing to thrive. Still a leader in innovation, the Straus Family Dairy Farm uses a methane digester to turn the 4,000 gallons of manure that it produces daily into compost and renewable energy. This energy not only powers the 500-acre farm, but also Albert Straus' harvester truck.

Madam Speaker, Albert Straus' leadership and vision has proven that environmentally-sustainable farming can both turn a profit and support a larger community of family farms and distributors. And at a time when the public has grown increasingly more concerned by the means and consolidation of food production, his example is that much more significant. Therefore, please join me in recognizing Albert Straus and the success of the Straus Family Creamery, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

JENNA HAYS

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jenna Hays for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

The Youth Award focuses on teenagers who have overcome personal adversity and created positive changes in their lives and their community. The program provides businesses, the community and civic leaders an opportunity to support young people in their communities and recognize their accomplishments. Jenna is the perfect recipient for this award because despite adversities and challenges, she has become an inspiration and role model for her peers.

The dedication and leadership demonstrated by Jenna is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jenna Hays for this well-deserved recognition. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

## RECOGNIZING THE 2019 OCCOQUAN-WOODBRIDGE-LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the incoming 2019 officers of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. OWLVFD is located in Prince William County, Virginia, 25 miles from our Nation's Capital. The OWLVFD goes on an average of 20,000 runs per year, aiding 80,000 residents in a 27 square mile area.

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1938, the OWLVFD is comprised of committed community members who volunteer their time, energy, and financial resources to ensure the safety of the families and property in and around Woodbridge. During its 80 year history, the Department has continued to expand and there are now three stations staffed by approximately 250 volunteers who serve and protect an ever-growing local population. From their bravery in action to their presence with the youth in the community, OWLVFD is readily available for the families of Woodbridge.

It is with great honor that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department Officers:

Department President—Dave Williams.

Department Chief—James McAllister.

Executive Vice President—George Smith.

Membership Secretary—Scott Shaw.

Board of Directors—Michelle Bauer, Kevin Lewis, Melissa Payne, Rebecca Barnes, Zach Wessolleck, Jonathan Baldwin, Michael Clark, Anna Smith.

Election Officer—Sabrina Brandon Ricks.

Treasurer—Debbie Haight.

Sergeant-At-Arms—Rick Moore.

Assistant Chiefs—Kurt Bolland, Ernest DeSantis, Steve Godin, Wayne Haight, Rick Michaels.

Rescue Chief—Ed Craig.

Fire Captains—Ben New, Justin Witt.

Rescue Captain—Stephanie Powers.

While a new executive board has been elected and new officers sworn in, the mission of OWLVFD remains the same. The volunteers of the OWLVFD continue to put themselves in harm's way for the benefit of the residents of the area and have educated and mentored the youth in Woodbridge, not only teaching fire safety education, but also strengthening community relations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the men and women of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department for their service to our country and steadfast commitment to their community and in congratulating the newly-elected officers and board members. I thank them for their dedication and to all, I say: "Stay safe."

## HONORING THE LIFE OF FREEHOLDER PEARL BEATTY

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of former Essex County Freeholder Pearl Beatty. Freeholder Beatty passed away on April 2, 2019, leaving behind a trail of success as a community servant.

Freeholder Beatty's interest in politics began in her early twenties, when she worked a voter registration table for the NAACP. It continued through 1960, when she sang at a rally for presidential candidate John F. Kennedy. Freeholder Beatty went on to work for the Kennedy campaign in New Jersey, helping put Kennedy over the top in the state. Three years later, Freeholder Beatty attended the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. She helped Newark residents picket Woolworth's for racial equality. And Freeholder Beatty was a key player in getting Newark's first Black mayor, Kenneth Gibson, elected in 1970.

Over the years, Freeholder Beatty was a constant presence in Essex County politics and communities. She was scheduler for Jimmy Carter's 1976 New Jersey campaign, then ran for Essex County Freeholder in 1977. She served three terms as District 2 Freeholder, always fighting for her constituents. Freeholder Beatty worked tirelessly to get people of color registered to vote.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life of Essex County Freeholder Pearl Beatty.