

drinking water facilities. Half of the trust fund revenue will be distributed to local governments as grants and loans through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for wastewater treatment construction, while the other half will be distributed through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to finance projects to meet federal drinking water standards. The Water Infrastructure Trust Fund will be capitalized by a voluntary labeling and fee system, to which businesses that rely on a clean water source can opt-in. Participating businesses would include a small label on their products indicating their commitment to protecting America's clean water, contributing \$0.03 to each federal drinking water unit. Businesses and products that could take advantage of the labeling system include: water-based beverages, products disposed of in wastewater, and pharmaceuticals.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to reduce pollution, protect public health, and provide the funding communities need to ensure clean tap water.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, on May 8, 2019, I was present and voted for two bills on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. I voted in favor of H.R. 1520, the Purple Book Continuity Act. However, my vote did not register on Roll Call 188. I voted to advance the legislation out of the Energy and Commerce Committee and supported its passage on the House floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE J.W. DARDEN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 1969

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 graduating class of J.W. Darden High School in Opelika, Alabama.

The purple and gold Panther alumni are celebrating their 50 years since graduation. The graduating class had 107 students and date of graduation was May 1969. Class officers included: President—Charles Harper, Vice President—Harvey Jackson, Secretary—Evelyn Melton and Treasurer—Frances Forman. Mr. Wilbert D. Payne, Jr. serves as local Chairperson of the 1969 graduating class.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 1969 graduating class of J.W. Darden High School and congratulate them on this 50-year milestone.

RECOGNIZING JON FINE ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 18 YEARS AT UNITED WAY OF KING COUNTY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Jon Fine, the CEO and President of United Way of King County, on his retirement.

Jon Fine has served as the CEO and President of United Way of King County for the past 18 years. He has been credited with making King County one of the leading branches of United Way. Before joining United Way, Mr. Fine had a distinguished career in finance, which aided his ability to restructure United Way of King County's giving program.

Under his leadership, United Way of King County's programs have thrived. Mr. Fine led the growth of the homelessness prevention program to include over 2,200 units of permanent supportive housing. In addition, Mr. Fine's commitment to ensuring all youth have access to education helped to scale the United Way's parent-child home program from serving 160 families to over 1,300 families—with the goal of providing better educational outcomes for low-income children. Mr. Fine also spearheaded the creation of the Gates Challenge Endowment, which is one of the largest fundraising campaigns of any United Way chapter.

Throughout his tenure, Jon Fine fostered innovative partnerships with businesses and other organizations that strengthened United Way of King County. Mr. Fine always encouraged program staff to think big. He challenged them to reach more people, start more services, and expand fundraising. Mr. Fine's commitment to service, innovative thinking, and vibrant nature are sure to remain with the United Way of King County going forward.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Jon Fine on his retirement from his longtime service to the communities of King County.

THE BAJRAKTARIS—50 YEARS IN AMERICA—A STORY OF STRUGGLE, PERSEVERANCE, AND TRIUMPH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor an extraordinary Albanian-American family and my constituents, the Bajraktaris, and their journey of struggles and triumphs. Long before they came to the United States, this family earned its place in history books with acts of great bravery and generosity. The Bajraktaris originally hail from their hometown of Vranoc, located on the outside of Peja, a city in Kosova. Throughout history, they were locally recognized leaders who led more than 40 villages in the struggle for the freedom of Kosova.

Empires came and went, but the Bajraktaris remained. Their famous family towers and

homes were burned down at least five times by various groups such as the Ottomans, the Serbs, the Montenegrins, the Fascists, the Nazis and then by the Communists. Each time they stood up to the invaders, chased them out, and rebuilt their communities. They were proud of their freedom, their Albanian heritage and tradition, and they were proud defenders of their homeland.

This is the context in which, Harry Bajraktari, a well-known Albanian-American leader, was born and grew up. Throughout his life, Harry was inspired by the stories of struggle for the survival of the Albanian nation and the perseverance of his ancestors.

In 1969, the life of his family reached a turning point. Facing political oppression by the Yugoslav government and economic hardship, his parents, Metë and Ziza Bajraktari, decided to journey to the United States of America, together with their four children, including Harry, and his siblings, Nurija, Litafete and Hateme.

They traveled by train to Italy, where they applied for political asylum in the United States. After nine months away from home, their application was approved, and on February 24, 1970, the Bajraktari family arrived in New York. They had no money and spoke no English. Through their new community, they found help from other families and friends who had previously immigrated to the United States. At the beginning, they lived at the home of Musli and Hysen Mulosmani and their family, who hosted them with generosity in The Bronx, NY.

Over the last 50 years, I can personally attest that the Bajraktari family have achieved the American Dream. They have been hard-working and dedicated, and they have made the most of the opportunities that their new homeland has had to offer. Still, like many immigrants, life was not easy. Metë Bajraktari worked as a maintenance worker during the day and his wife Ziza as a janitor during the night. Through sacrifice and determination, Metë and Ziza strived to give their children a chance for a better life.

Their sacrifices soon paid off. At the early age of 20, my good friend, Harry Bajraktari, exhibited extraordinary entrepreneurial skills and spirit, when he began to purchase real estate in The Bronx. Alongside his uncle, Rrustem Gecaj, they founded Bajraktari Realty and, in the following decades, expanded their business ventures throughout New York and Kosova.

Harry's entrepreneurial achievements had a major impact that extended well beyond the reach of the Bajraktari family. His accomplishments contributed to the revival in the Bronx and, in turn, made it possible for him to help an abundance of people in need. Bajraktari Realty's success created jobs and stimulated growth for other businesses around his properties, ranging from real estate, restaurants, and more. Once again, the Bajraktari family legacy brought real change to the lives of people in their community.

Though the family was experiencing success in their new home, they never forgot the people and the country they left behind. Their birthplace, Kosova, descended into dark times under the oppression of the Serbian strongman, Slobodan Milosevic. At the same time, and for over 50 years, Albania was under the iron fist of communist dictator, Enver Hoxha. The Bajraktari family answered the call to help their homeland and began to mobilize the people of Kosova and Albania.