

Born in Honduras, Mr. Portillo dedicated his life to defending and advising Central American immigrants. He founded the Francisco Morazan Honduran Organization in 1996. The organization advocates to improving conditions for Central American immigrants and extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Central Americans, Venezuelans, and Haitians living in the United States. Until his death, Mr. Portillo served as president of this organization and the Coalición de Organizaciones Latinas Unidas por una Reforma Migratoria.

Mr. Portillo received multiple awards for his work, including the 2018 Pride Hispanic Prize. His dedication to public service and immigration reform changed our South Florida community for the better. We will remember him with love and honor him by continuing his work for immigrant rights.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAWYER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Sawyer International Airport upon the occasion of its 20th Anniversary. Through its outstanding service and commitment to excellence, Sawyer has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

With the expansion of the U.S. Air Force following World War II, a small airstrip near Marquette, Michigan, was chosen as the site for a new base. After signing a 99-year lease on the land, the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base officially opened on May 8, 1959. For nearly 40 years, the base hosted thousands of airmen until its eventual closure in September 1995. In its place opened Sawyer International Airport, a public-use airport owned and operated by the County of Marquette. Its first incoming commercial flight landed on September 22, 1999.

Since that first flight, more than two million commercial airline passengers have been served by Sawyer, with more than a hundred thousand flyers going through the airport each year. Sawyer has also constantly worked to improve and expand over the last two decades—shaping the airport into the first-rate option for businesses and travelers that it is today. In addition to its passenger air service, Sawyer's campus is home to over five dozen businesses with more than 1,200 employees. It should be no surprise that Sawyer was named the 2019 Airport of the Year by the Michigan Department of Transportation, while Airport Manager Duane DuRay was named Airport Manager of the Year. Day after day, Sawyer International Airport demonstrates its commitment to connecting those in the U.P. with the rest of the world, while allowing those from around the globe to visit and experience the best that Michigan has to offer.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Sawyer International Airport for 20 years of success and service. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such an outstanding institution. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Sawyer all the best in its future endeavors.