

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, dredging is the act of removing silt and other material from the bottom of bodies of water.

NOAA goes further to explain that dredging is a routine necessity in waterways around the world because sedimentation gradually fills channels and harbors.

In the aggregate, this filling of channels and harbors can prevent the movement of vessels.

Dredging increases the depth of navigation channels, and thus plays a vital role in the nation's economy.

The Port of Houston is one of the largest in the world.

The Houston region is the country's top area for exports and the area surrounding the Port of Houston is home to the largest petrochemical manufacturing complex in the Western Hemisphere.

Due to its strategically advantageous location, the ingenuity of the 200 private companies that constitute the Greater Port of Houston, the Port of Houston is the number one port in foreignwaterborne tonnage.

And the most recent available statistics support the primacy of the Port of Houston.

The Greater Port of Houston complex is ranked sixth among U.S. container ports by size, and is the largest gulf coast container port—handling 69 percent of U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic—and is the largest Texas port, with 45 percent market share by tonnage, and 96 percent market share in containers.

To wit, more than 200 million short tons of international cargo were handled in 2018 alone.

As such, this redounds to the benefit of the economy.

Nationally, the greater port supports 3.2 million jobs, boasts more than \$801.9 billion in economic value and produces \$38.1 billion in tax revenue.

As a Senior Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, with a significant global port near my congressional district, I will work tirelessly towards enactment of this legislation.

That is why I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 2440.

RECOGNIZING PHYLLIS GREEN
FOR HER RETIREMENT AS SUPERINTENDENT OF ISLE ROYALE
NATIONAL PARK

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Phyllis Green for her retirement as Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park. Through her decades of leadership and commitment to our natural heritage, Phyllis has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

A U.P. native, Phyllis grew up surrounded by some of the most pristine natural landscapes our country has to offer. It should therefore not be surprising that she found her calling for conservation work at a young age. In high school, she led multiple clubs dedicated to environmental conservation before attending Michigan Technological University and

earning an undergraduate degree in forestry. Her 41-year professional career saw her serve in a variety of conservation and land management roles, including as supervisor of Ottawa National Forest.

As Superintendent of Isle Royale, Phyllis oversaw significant improvements to the operations and management of the park, including the implementation of a solar power system, invasive species control, and most recently, the reintroduction of the Gray Wolf to the island. This endeavor has required intensive ecological work and cooperation between the National Parks Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, USDA, and the State University of New York. Thanks in part to her leadership, the species introduction is well on its way to long-term success, with 17 wolves currently calling the island home.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Phyllis Green for her decades of service and her retirement as Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Phyllis all the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF HERBIE
FLORES

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Heriberto "Herbie" Flores, my constituent from western Massachusetts, who recently received the prestigious Pynchon Award. The Pynchon Award, which is named after the founder of Springfield, Massachusetts is given to those individuals who have made exceptional contributions to their community. This award is a testament to Herbie's hard work, dedication, and exemplary character.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Herbie grew up harvesting tobacco for a \$1.25 an hour. After leaving the island, Herbie proudly served our country with distinction in the United States Army during the war in Vietnam. Through this experience he learned firsthand of the plight and hardship of poverty and decided to dedicate his life to helping those less fortunate in our community.

Herbie is very well known for his many leadership roles and non-profit work in Springfield and throughout New England. He is the founder of the New England Farm Worker's Council, a nonprofit human services agency dedicated to improving the quality of life for low-income workers through education, job training, and living assistance. In addition, Herbie also served as the President of Brightwood Development Corporation which provides housing and development opportunities to Springfield's North End. Also, Herbie has served as the Chairman of Partners for Community, which works around New England to provide employment and other social services to populations with special needs.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I am proud of Herbie for receiving the Pynchon Award and for being an exemplary pillar of our community. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working alongside Herbie as Mayor and as a

Member of Congress and I am proud to call him a friend. I cannot think of anyone that brings a stronger personal commitment to those in our society that have been overlooked. To Herbie and his wife Grace Taylor, I want to wish them all the best in their future endeavors and say thank you on behalf of the United States of America.

GOLDEN UNITED

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Golden United for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

Golden United is a non-partisan, resident-driven effort to engage Golden area community members across all walks of life to find common ground and act with respect and dignity in strengthening the community. Golden United launched in 2017, gathering residents of different backgrounds and asking them to identify shared values and initial actions. Their mission continued through community forums, rallies, annual events, task forces, supporting other community events, and most recently, hosting a Candidate Forum for the upcoming election. This organization is an example of democracy in action "of the people, and for the people."

I congratulate Golden United for receiving this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan. I thank them for their contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following votes due to the passing of my father.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 585; YEA on Roll Call No. 586; NAY on Roll Call No. 587; NAY on Roll Call No. 588; NAY on Roll Call No. 589; NAY on Roll Call No. 590; YEA on Roll Call No. 591; YEA on Roll Call No. 592; YEA on Roll Call No. 593; YEA on Roll Call No. 594; YEA on Roll Call No. 595; YEA on Roll Call No. 596; NAY on Roll Call No. 597; YEA on Roll Call No. 598; YEA on Roll Call No. 599; YEA on Roll Call No. 600; YEA on Roll Call No. 601; and NAY on Roll Call No. 602.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMANDER
JUSTIN GOSS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Commander Justin D. Goss, United States Navy. After 20 years of dedicated service to our great nation, today marks his retirement from active duty.