

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.

Commander Goss grew up in Fairfax, VA, and graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. He earned his commission from Officer Candidate School in 2000. As a Surface Warfare Officer, he served on USS *The Sullivans* (DDG-68), USS *Zephyr* (PC-8), USS *Stout* (DDG-55), and in Riverine Squadron ONE. He was also assigned as an exchange officer with the Royal Navy where he served aboard HMS *Marlborough* (F233) and HMS *York* (D98).

Following his lateral transfer into the Foreign Area Officer community, Goss was assigned as the Chief, Office of Security Cooperation, at the United States Embassy in Dakar, Senegal. Additionally, he served on staff positions at U.S. Africa Command and the Navy's Military Personnel, Plans, and Policy Directorate.

Commander Goss' final tour of duty was serving as the Deputy Director of the Navy's House of Representatives Liaison Office (LA-4) where he was instrumental in developing and fostering key relationships between Department of the Navy officials, members of Congress and their personal and professional staffs.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Commander Goss, his wife Suzanne and his children Thomas, Orla, Arthur, Wilfred, and Agnes for their incredible sacrifices, devotion, and service to our nation; words cannot express our gratitude. We wish them well as they embark on a new adventure together.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave Americans who served our country during the Vietnam Era. The courage, patriotism, and heroism that our servicemembers displayed when faced with the danger of serving in the Vietnam War speaks to the character and strength of these individuals and our nation.

I am honored to be a part of the Vietnam War Commemorative Committee. The brave men and women who served our nation during the Vietnam War set aside their ambitions, left their families, and risked their lives for our country. This project is a token of our gratitude for their selfless service and steadfast, unwavering devotion to our nation and the American people. The legacy of all those who served during the conflict remains an inspiration to our nation. To the families of our servicemembers who stood by faithfully as your loved ones departed to defend our freedoms overseas, I offer my sincere gratitude for your shared commitment to duty and service.

I will continue to work each day to serve all those who have served us so valiantly. Our veterans have made incredible sacrifices in honor of our nation. It is a debt we can never repay, and one we can never forget. It is essential that we provide all our veterans with the care and support they so richly deserve.

As the Representative for New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I will continue

to work on behalf of our courageous Vietnam veterans, servicemembers, and military families who have given so much for our country. May we honor and celebrate all our soldiers, and may God bless the United States of America.

MARJORIE SLOAN

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 Mayor Marjorie Sloan for her many years of service to the City of Golden.

Marjorie Sloan has dutifully served as the 37th Mayor for the City of Golden for eight years, and as the first female mayor elected by the citizens since Golden became a Home Rule City.

Before she was elected as mayor, Marjorie represented Golden's District One as a city councilor for four years. Marjorie, her husband Dendy, and their children have lived in Golden for decades. In addition to her roles on City Council, Marjorie also served as Planning Commission chair, Foothills Art Center board president, Golden Urban Renewal Authority board member, volunteer, parent, neighbor, and all-around general Golden Ambassador.

Mayor Marjorie Sloan's legacy of leadership, vision, and trailblazing on behalf of the city will not soon be forgotten. I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Mayor Sloan for her service and commitment to our community and her service to the people of Golden, Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THE 18TH PRESIDENT OF SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE, FATHER PAUL TAYLOR

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to congratulate Father Paul Taylor upon his inauguration as the 18th President of St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

Father Taylor graduated from St. Vincent College in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics. He went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree from Saint Vincent Seminary in 1993 and a Master of Arts degree in Mathematics from Duke University in 1993. Father Taylor attended Boston College for his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration, graduating in 1998 after presenting his dissertation "Boniface Wimmer and the Beginning of American Benedictine Education."

Father Taylor returned to St. Vincent College in 1987 in order to dedicate his life to Benedictine education. He made his simple profession of monastic vows in 1988 and his solemn profession of vows in 1991. Father Taylor was ordained as a priest on June 6, 1992 in Saint Vincent's Archabbey Basilica.

In 1996, Father Paul entered the Office of Admission and Financial Aid, eventually rising to the position of dean. It was in this role that he developed a strong commitment to helping students obtain financial aid. Under Father Taylor's leadership as Executive Vice President, St. Vincent College launched the Forward, Always Forward campaign. This \$100 million-dollar campaign seeks to strengthen the endowment, as well as expand financial aid opportunities and enrich academic programs. On July 1, 2019, Father Taylor became President of St. Vincent, and I know that under his leadership, the college will continue to excel in providing American students with an education that sets them up for future success.

Madam Speaker, throughout his career, Father Taylor has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to education, his Catholic faith, and St. Vincent College. Please join me in recognizing and congratulating the 18th President of Saint Vincent College, Father Paul Taylor.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEELANAU CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Leelanau Conservation District as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Through its dedication to responsible natural resources management, land conservation, and a healthy environment, the Leelanau Conservation District has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

As an avid outdoorsman, I recognize the importance protecting our wildlife and natural resources through effective conservation. In that endeavor, the Leelanau Conservation District has been invaluable to Northern Michigan. First organized in 1943, the District works to promote the wise use of our natural resources through information and technical assistance to those throughout Leelanau County. From promoting healthy forests and responsible hunting, to fighting invasive species and preventing soil erosion, their work has been critical for the people of Michigan's First District. Our region is home to some of the most pristine natural landscapes in the country. I'm grateful for the Leelanau Conservation District's efforts to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same natural beauty we so deeply treasure.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the Leelanau Conservation District for 75 years of service. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such a trusted organization working to promote environmental and ecological health. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Leelanau Conservation District all the best in its future endeavors.