

aquaculture production to about 1 million tons could create an additional 50,000 direct and indirect jobs, assuming 20 direct jobs per 1,000 tons of seafood produced, or five jobs per 1,000 tons in equipment, feeds, processing, marketing, and food service. These jobs could provide stable, year-round employment opportunities in coastal and fishing communities where opportunities are often limited and seasonally dependent.

Unfortunately, the U.S. ranks only 16th globally in aquaculture production. The problem? U.S. marine aquaculture is constrained by regulatory hurdles, including overlapping jurisdiction of federal, state, and local governments, and the absence of a clearly-defined permitting process. As a result, American investment, jobs, and technology are forced overseas while our dependence on imported seafood continues to rise—The U.S. now imports 91% of our seafood. Until Congress acts, the economic, environmental and societal benefits of aquaculture will remain inaccessible in the U.S.

To remedy these challenges, the AQUAA Act establishes a clear permitting process for U.S. marine aquaculture and prioritizes environmental and societal health by establishing National Standards for Sustainable Offshore Aquaculture. AQUAA leverages modern siting and monitoring technologies to mitigate impacts on other ocean-based industries and ecosystems. It also provides for strict federal enforcement and includes a process for robust public input which ensures that coastal communities and states are considered prior to permitting new operations. In short, AQUAA provides much-needed regulatory certainty for U.S. marine farmers while also preserving the environment, local economies and public health. AQUAA will lead to increased U.S. seafood production that benefits ALL Americans.

With quick action by the U.S. Congress, Americans may soon see marine aquaculture become a reality for the betterment of our businesses and of our citizens. Please contact us for more details on how AQUAA might benefit your constituents.

Sincerely,

STRONGER AMERICA THROUGH SEAFOOD.

Bill Taylor and Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish, Shelton, WA; Jessee Mitchell, Wenger, Sabetha, KS; Todd Madsen, Blue Ocen Mariculture, Kona, HI; Max Holtzman, Pontos Aqua Advisory, Washington, D.C.; Michael Cigliano, Santa Monica Seafood, Santa Monica, CA; Bill DiMento, High Liner Foods, Portsmouth, NH; Horace G. Dawson, Red Lobster Seafood Co., Orlando, FL; Mark Frisch, Sea Best, Inc., Jacksonville, FL; David Kelly, InnovaSea, Boston, MA; Chris Stock, Zeigler Bros., Inc., Gardners, PA; Kathryn Unger, Cargill, Wayzata, MN; Tony Dal Ponte, Pacific Seafood, Clackamas, OR; Sean O'Scannlain, Fortune International, Bensenville, IL; Brad Christie, Sysco, Houston, TX; Allen LeBalnc, Calysta, Menlo Park, CA; Omar Alfi, Pacifico Aquaculture, San Diego, CA.

GRETCHEN KUKA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gretchen Kuka for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Gretchen Kuka is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gretchen Kuka 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 Gretchen Kuka for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

FEED OUR VETS

HON. ANTHONY BRINDISI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the "Feed Our Vets" nonprofit organization located in New York Mills, NY and to recognize the volunteer staff for providing food assistance to our veterans who are experiencing financial challenges.

Veterans have played an essential role in defending our nation, and we must show our gratitude for their service and sacrifice by ensuring that they are not left behind on the battlefield of hunger once they return home.

I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring "Feed Our Vets" and their volunteers for providing this invaluable service to our veterans in Central New York.

TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA MALONE—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Victoria Malone of Montrose, California.

Victoria Malone is a devoted wife and mother with a lifelong passion for giving back to her community. She has been a part of the Montrose community since her teenage years, when she attended Crescenta Valley High School (CVHS) before going on to study at San Diego State University.

As the Executive Director of the Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce (MVCC), Ms. Malone has positively impacted many small businesses, and having owned and operated her own business in the area, she has made it her mission to provide vital support to the local businesses. Victoria has helped the chamber become financially sustainable, thus allowing the MVCC to provide numerous charitable donations back to the Montrose community, and she leads the chamber in organizing the annual Montrose Oktoberfest, a community event that has been produced for over four decades.

In addition to her work with the MVCC, Victoria devotes her time to volunteering for several local events and organizations. She has volunteered for the Montrose Shopping Park Association Small Business Saturday and the association's Arts and Crafts Festival as Street and Traffic Patrol, and for several years, for the Montrose Christmas Parade Association. Victoria and her husband, Michael Marshall volunteered at the Crescenta Valley Fireworks Association event, where they worked from set-up to clean-up, and also at the 2018 Prom Plus event for CVHS students. Ms. Malone and her family helped pay off the lunch meal debt for CVHS students and families who were struggling to cover that expense. In addition, for the last two decades, they have opened up their home to several rescue dogs who were in search of their forever homes.

One of the greatest examples of Victoria's generosity is the four weeks that she spent volunteering in Kathmandu, Nepal, where she assisted an orphanage that helped children and elder women. Victoria donated school supplies, clothing, and backpacks, provided art instruction to the children, and helped manage the kitchen and supplies. Using her background as a life coach, she donated her services to local Nepalese women at a Woman's Empowerment Workshop.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Victoria Malone.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESILIENT
ELECTIONS DURING QUARANTINES AND NATURAL DISASTERS ACT OF 2020

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") has already infected more than 100,000 people worldwide and killed more than 4,000 people. Meanwhile, millions of Americans are anxious about their health, safety, and job security. Earlier today, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a global pandemic and the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases acknowledged that COVID-19 is "going to get worse."

Without broad congressional action, COVID-19 has the potential to disrupt every aspect of American society, including the 2020 primary and general elections. The virus will likely impact voters who cannot leave their homes as well as those who are under mandatory or self-imposed quarantines at the recommendation of health experts. To make matters worse, the Election Assistance Commission has found that 58 percent of all poll workers in 2018 were over 60—the prime at-risk population for COVID-19.

The Resilient Elections During Quarantines and Natural Disasters Act of 2020 requires that states and localities create and publish a plan to operate their elections if large numbers of voters or poll workers have been subjected to a mandatory quarantine or a self-quarantine at the advice of government officials or health experts. In the event that a quarter of states declaring an emergency related to COVID-19,