

JOSEPH DeLUCA, RETIRING COMMANDER OF THE ITALIAN AMERICAN VETERANS OF LUZERNE COUNTY

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2013*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Joseph DeLuca, retiring Commander of the Italian American Veterans of Luzerne County, Post No. 1 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Mr. DeLuca was born in Cilento Eremiti, Campania, Italy in 1937. Prior to World War II, he and his family moved to the United States, settling in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Growing up in Hazleton, he attended Most Precious Blood School and graduated from Hazleton Senior High School in 1954.

In February 1961, Mr. DeLuca enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard where he trained as a radio communications message router at Fort Knox in Kentucky. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, he served in Company A 165th Military Police Battalion in Fort Polk, Louisiana. Later he joined the 54th Heavy Armored Division of Texas, earning the nickname "DeLuca the Bazooka" for his superior ability to handle weapons.

Outside his military service, Mr. DeLuca spent 35 years working in the garment industry, ultimately attaining the position of Concept Fashion Design Planner. Today, he still resides in Hazleton and is a proud father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, for his loyalty to both his Italian heritage and our great nation, I commend Mr. Joseph DeLuca upon his retirement as Commander of the Italian American Veterans of Luzerne County, Post No. 1 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

HONORING BENJAMIN JOHN COLLENS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin John Collens. Benjamin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Benjamin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin John Collens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2013*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, for decades, Americans have been calling on Congress to support the designation of a Red Rock Wilderness Area on the Colorado Plateau in Utah.

In 1984, the people of Utah began to conduct a volunteer driven wilderness inventory of America's Red Rock Country.

Soon thereafter—in 1989—former Utah Rep. Wayne Owens introduced America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

Then in 1996, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began their own survey of the Red Rock Wilderness Area.

During this time President Bill Clinton, using the Antiquities Act, proclaimed Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

The next year, Senator DICK DURBIN of Illinois first introduced a Red Rocks bill in the Senate.

In recent Congress Rep. Maurice Hinchey introduced a Red Rock bill in the House.

Today, Senator DURBIN and I are introducing companion bills to protect 9.5 million acres of federal land as wilderness in Utah's Red Rock Country.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will protect from development one of this country's most spectacular landscapes.

Deep red canyons, windswept mesas and naturally sculpted sandstone formations will define the Red Rock Wilderness Area.

Places like Labyrinth and Desolation Canyons; Cedar Mesa and the San Rafael Swell; and of course, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

All of the lands proposed for wilderness in our bill are already federal lands managed by the BLM.

All of these lands would be preserved for all time and for all Americans—existing as they are—sculpted and defined by the forces of nature and the hand of God . . .

Wilderness designations have a strong bipartisan history in Utah.

In fact, in 2006, my friend from Utah and current Chairman of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Land and Environmental Regulation sponsored legislation that created the Cedar Mountains Wilderness Area.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will preserve some of the last unbroken tracts of lands in Utah, all while continuing to uphold the land's multiple use mandate under the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act.

A wilderness designation will also allow for the protection of natural environments and watersheds, ecological diversity, native habitat, and a range of recreational opportunities such as hiking, backpacking, hunting and fishing.

Right now off-road vehicle use and encroaching oil and gas development pose major threats to an area that desperately deserves wilderness protection.

A gallon of gas will in the tank of an ORV will only take you so far, but a vote to designate America's Red Rock Wilderness Areas would perpetuate for all time.

I thank my colleagues in the House who have joined me in cosponsoring this legislation

today, and I thank Senator DURBIN and his colleagues for their support in the Senate.

I urge immediate consideration of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in the House.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD WEINER'S FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF MICHIGAN

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2013*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Richard Weiner, as he is honored by the Women's Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party for his decades of outstanding work on behalf of the State's residents.

Rick has built a long and distinguished career, which spans nearly forty years, as a civil servant to the people of Michigan. Rick began his work in the public arena with former U.S. Congressman William Brodhead, where he served as a district representative, working with residents and local groups to find solutions that strengthened communities across the Greater Detroit region. Rick's career also includes service to one of Michigan's great statesmen, Senator CARL LEVIN, for whom he served as Director of Michigan Operations, where he assisted Michigan residents across the entire State. After serving as a key advisor to former Governor Jim Blanchard during his transition into office, Rick went on to serve as Chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) for six years. During his most recently stint in the public sector, Rick served as Chief of Staff to Governor Jennifer Granholm from 2002 to 2005.

Every day he worked in public service, Rick brought with him the passion to craft policy that supported a fair and just Michigan, where all residents would have the ability to reach their full potential. Outside of his work in government, Rick continued to fight for his ideals by founding and building Wiener Associates, a firm specializing in public policy advocacy. In addition to this work, Rick also teaches Election Law and Legislation as an Adjunct Professor at Michigan State University's College of Law.

Throughout his career, Rick has been particularly focused on supporting the rights of women across Michigan. While serving as Chair of the MDP, he championed the Jefferson Jackson Day Women's Caucus Luncheon, an event that supports women's involvement in politics. In his daily work for so many elected officials, Rick fought to protect the rights of women to make vital decisions about their own lives. During his tenure in the MDP, Rick also took steps to increase support for electing more women to office across the State of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, involvement of bright and dedicated Americans in the political process, like Rick Weiner, is one of the great strengths of our Nation. For nearly four decades, Rick has taken a leading role to create a better future for residents in the State of Michigan and for his work, our future is brighter. I congratulate Rick on his recognition from the Women's Caucus of the MDP and look forward to our continued work in the ongoing task of securing