

Alto. I am proud to represent the 28,000 residents of this city in the 14th Congressional District of California. The small community, which has a land area of only 2.5 square miles, was incorporated on July 1, 1983 and became the 20th city of San Mateo County. Voters elected the first city council of Barbara Mouton—the first mayor—Gertrude Wilks, Frank Omowale Satterwhite, Ruben Abrica—the current mayor—and James Blakely, Jr.

I remember the days when the creation of the city was quite uncertain. I was on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors at the time and supported incorporation. We had events in East Palo Alto to educate the public in advance of the vote. We had rallies and voter registration drives. The election's outcome is testament to the work of hundreds who went into their neighborhoods to explain why creating a city would help the residents of East Palo Alto to improve their lives.

East Palo Alto has made great progress in the three decades since its residents choose to create their own path to a better future. The town has many wonderful institutions such as its improving schools, social service agencies, churches, and an outstanding public medical clinic, the Ravenswood Family Health Center. Residents are very engaged in street improvement, school safety and beautification projects. The wisdom of residents, local officials, and law enforcement helped the city overcome a spike in crime in the 1980s and 90s.

What has not changed in the past 30 years is the fact that people are attracted to the area because of its centralized location, its proximity to San Francisco Bay, its desirable weather and its family-centered churches and schools.

For centuries, the original inhabitants were Ohlone Native Americans who lived along the coast from San Francisco to Monterey Bay. In 1849, when the town was founded as Ravenswood, Isaiah Woods tried to make it a major shipping town. In 1868 he sold his operation to Lester Cooley who built a brick factory. After the brick factory, the city became a farming community, largely based upon growing flowers. A large Japanese population dominated the flower growing market until the shameful World War II decision that forced 120,000 Japanese-Americans into internment camps.

After the war, many African-Americans moved to East Palo Alto and made it the largest African American community on the peninsula. In fact, during the civil rights movement in 1968, the city was almost renamed Nairobi. Today, the city has a multi-ethnic population that is over 60% Hispanic, about 15% African American, 7% Asian, 7% Caucasian and 11% Pacific Islander.

Since the late 1990s, East Palo Alto has experienced significant economic development. A quarter of the city's buildings have been replaced with new housing and retail space. This development is what the founders of the city hoped for—a chance to create jobs for residents within the community. In 2008, another step was taken as residents and local businesses established the East Palo Alto Community Farmers Market. The market is allied with the health center, providing wholesome food for residents at affordable prices. In 2009, the first full service supermarket opened in the Ravenswood 101 shopping center. Once again, the residents of East Palo Alto

demonstrated that theirs is a community that knows how to get things done.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the 30th anniversary of East Palo Alto as the city is celebrating this occasion with a parade, community festival and fireworks. This diverse Bay Area community welcomes all residents and neighbors with warmth and optimism—today and every day.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ATTACK AT THE OAK CREEK SIKH GURDWARA ON AUGUST 5, 2012

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues and I introduced a House Resolution condemning the attack that occurred at the Oak Creek Sikh Gurdwara on August 5, 2012, and honoring the memory of those who died in the attack. We remember all those affected by the senseless act of violence that occurred one year ago in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. We call to mind the heroic efforts of Lieutenant Brian Murphy and all the medical and law-enforcement officials who responded to the scene. We also recognize the public servants who helped our community heal during this trying time.

Since that fateful day, the people of Oak Creek have come together. They refuse to let violence shake their community. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families, and I'm committed to continuing to help the community overcome this tragedy.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of correspondence between myself and Agriculture Committee Chairman FRANK LUCAS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, August 1, 2013.

HON. FRANK LUCAS,
*Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS, I write today to highlight a program of significance to rural Alaska and many of our Alaska Native villages. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Rural Utilities Service, helps provide financing for the construction of water and waste water systems in remote Alaska villages that face unique, significant obstacles to providing residents with potable water and safe sanitation systems. These obstacles include Alaska's extreme climate and geography as well as the fact that most villages are not connected to the road system and are only accessible by air. The water systems assisted by the program are not a matter of convenience for these communities, but meet a critical public health need.

Currently, more than 30 villages in Alaska still use "honeybuckets" as their method of

waste collection. A honeybucket is a five gallon bucket used as a toilet by everyone in a household and emptied by the family on a daily basis. Honeybuckets are a reality for many communities in my state and pose serious health risks for residents, particularly children. Thankfully USDA, the State of Alaska, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium are working together through the program to create better sanitation facilities in rural Alaska and help make honeybuckets a relic of the past.

I would like to bring this issue to your attention and would greatly appreciate your assistance in Farm Bill conference negotiations with the Senate to help reauthorize this important program.

Thank You,

DON YOUNG,

Congressman for all Alaska.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,

Washington, DC, August 1, 2013.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN YOUNG, Thank you for your letter regarding the United States Department of Agriculture program that helps provide financing for water and waste water systems in remote Alaska villages. I appreciate you bringing this issue to my attention. Given the urgency that you describe in your letter, I would be happy to work with you during the Farm Bill conference regarding this public health need.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,

Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DESERT VISTA H.S. HEALTH OCCUPATIONS STUDENTS OF AMERICA CLUB

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Desert Vista High School's Health Occupations Students of America Club for their achievement in the HOSA-Future Health Professionals National Leadership conference.

Desert Vista students won first place in three events and two national service awards, and took home numerous other top ten finishes. Their record is astonishing for one school, and is a testament to their school's leadership and the students' effort. Katelyn Miyaski and Gen Fitzgerald won national championships in pharmacology and medical terminology, respectively, and the team of Jing Liang, Anshuman Bakshi, Sung Kwon Park, and Sanjeev Murty were national champions in biomedical debate. Alex Burton won the Barbara James Service Gold Award and the President's Volunteer Service Award.

The students, many of whom hope to pursue higher education in the medical, healthcare, and biotechnology industries, are to be commended and encouraged in their pursuit of science and service, as well as for their comprehensive knowledge in their fields of interest. Their dedication is reason for faith in our country's future, guided by such innovators and leaders. They represent their state and school well, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.