

Adel is also a staunch and effective advocate for investing in our nation's aging and often deteriorating water infrastructure—investments that convey both environmental and economic benefits and help communities across our great nation create jobs, grow, and thrive. Adel believes that great communities must better understand the true value of water and deserve first-class, sustainable water infrastructure.

Under Adel's direction, the City of Los Angeles prepared an award-winning Water Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) for the year 2020 which relies on public input and participation and integrates water supply, water reuse, water conservation and stormwater management with wastewater facilities planning through a regional watershed approach. He has managed the City's collection system maintenance upgrade efforts resulting in over 83 percent reduction in sewer spills and over 70 percent reduction in sewer-related odors.

Adel's work on Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) reduction has cut FOG-related spills by 90 percent. More recently, he led the development and adoption of a Low Impact Development Ordinance for the City of Los Angeles that focuses on rainwater harvesting and runoff management for new developments and redevelopments. In addition, he was instrumental in the successful development and adoption of a 10-year financial plan including the necessary rates adjustment to support the renewal of the City's clean water systems.

Adel is currently leading the City of Los Angeles' Green Infrastructure program where stormwater is managed through regional and distributed solutions that provide multiple benefits while improving the quality of life in LA's neighborhoods. In addition, he is leading the development of the One Water Plan for Los Angeles for the year 2040 to manage water holistically while reducing consumption, increasing water reuse and reducing dependence on imported water, a critical need in the City's efforts to confront drought conditions.

Adel has more than 26 years of experience in the clean water industry and has published numerous technical papers and participated in various technical conferences and committees. In addition to his service to NACWA, The Bureau of Sanitation is a founding member of the U.S. Water Alliance, and Adel is a proud member of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, the American Public Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation.

Adel has received many awards at the local, state and national levels. These include the inaugural U.S. Water Prize, Heal the Bay's "Walk the Talk Award," L.A. Water Keeper's "Making Waves Award," and the American Academy of Environmental Engineers Grand Award for Planning. More important to Adel than these professional accomplishments is his family. Adel is a devoted husband and father, married to Lubna Farsakh with whom he is raising three beautiful children, Jana, Jad and Dareen.

Once again, I wish to congratulate Adel Hagekhalil on his election as President of NACWA. As he has done for the residents of the San Fernando Valley and the City of Los Angeles, I am sure he will lead the organization down a road marked by innovation, collaboration, progress and success. Best wishes on future endeavors.

BEN POWELL EARNS EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dulles High School's Ben Powell on earning the rank of Eagle Scout with Sugar Land Boy Scout Troop 1294.

Ben is among less than ten percent of all Boy Scouts to earn such a prestigious rank by dedicating countless hours towards organizing and working service projects with Troop 1294. For his final Eagle Scout Project, Ben lead 42 volunteers in a restoration effort throughout the historical Farmers' Improvement Society Cemetery. Together, they spent three hours resetting over 25 headstones that marked the graves of African American war veterans. Eagle Scouts exemplify the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. We are extremely proud of Ben's selfless dedication to our community and for demonstrating such strong leadership.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ben on becoming an Eagle Scout. You have a bright future ahead.

CONGRATULATING HILLARY CLINTON, 2015 RECIPIENT OF THE BARBARA JORDAN GOLD MEDALLION FOR LEADERSHIP

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 2015, the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, two of the great institutions of Texas Southern University, which is located in my congressional district and is one of the nation's great historically black colleges and universities, awarded the inaugural Barbara Jordan Gold Medallion for Public-Private Leadership.

The Barbara Jordan Gold Medallion for Public-Private Leadership is presented annually to a woman of demonstrated excellence in the public or private sector whose achievements are an example and inspiration to people everywhere, but especially to women and girls.

The Barbara Jordan Gold Medallion for Public-Private Leadership is presented annually to a woman of demonstrated excellence in the public or private sector whose achievements are an example and inspiration to people everywhere, but especially to women and girls.

It was my honor to present the Barbara Jordan Gold Medallion to the Honorable Hillary Clinton, the former First Lady of Arkansas and the United States, U.S. Senator, and Secretary of State.

As I stated at the award ceremony, it was fitting that the inaugural recipient of this award is a person whose life and achievements embody the passion and principles and values and commitment to service of Barbara Jordan.

When asked to name the woman living anywhere in the world whom they admire most, Americans have named Hillary Clinton in each of the last 13 years and 17 of the last 18.

As a leader on the national and international stage, Hillary Clinton represented our nation with distinction and grace, always reflecting our highest ideals and aspirations.

It was First Lady Hillary Clinton who traveled to Beijing to speak truth to power, declaring on behalf of women and girls everywhere that: "human rights are women's rights. And women's rights are human rights."

It was Hillary Clinton who gave voice to what many of us have always understood, when she said that to raise a happy, healthy and hopeful child, "it takes a family, it takes teachers, it takes clergy, it takes business people, it takes community leaders, it takes those who protect our health and safety, it takes all of us."

That, yes indeed, "it takes a village to raise a child."

But before Hillary Clinton was a household name, many of us in Texas remembered her as a brilliant young activist whose passion for justice and equality brought her to Texas in 1972 to help poor people and African Americans and Latinos register to exercise the right to vote they had been denied so long.

Passed in 1965 with the extraordinary leadership of President Lyndon Johnson, the greatest legislative genius of our lifetime, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was bringing dramatic change in many states across the South.

But in 1972, change was not coming fast enough or in many places in Texas.

In fact, Texas, which had never elected a woman to Congress or an African American to the Texas State Senate, was not covered by Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the language minorities living in South Texas that Hillary Clinton came to help were not protected at all.

But the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the voter registration work performed in 1972 by Hillary Clinton in Texas, along with hundreds of others, helped elect Barbara Jordan to Congress.

In 2006, during the floor debate on the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, I said:

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is no ordinary piece of legislation. For millions of Americans, and many of us in Congress, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things.

But a terrible blow was dealt to the Voting Rights Act on June 25, 2013, when the Supreme Court handed down the decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 537 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b), the provision of the law determining which jurisdictions would be subject to Section 5 "preclearance."

The reason the Court gave for its ruling was that "times have changed."

Times have changed, but what the Court did not fully appreciate is that the positive changes it cited were due almost entirely to the existence and vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

And that is why the Voting Rights Act is still needed today.

In the same way that the vaccine invented by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1953 eradicated the crippling effects but did not eliminate the cause of polio, the Voting Rights Act succeeded in stymying the practices that resulted in the wholesale disenfranchisement of African Americans and language minorities but did not eliminate them entirely.