

Brother Ronald's family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating him on his outstanding accomplishments during his long and highly successful career. I wish him a healthy and happy retirement and the very best in all his future endeavors.

COMMEMORATION OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/ESTUARY AS A WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Leader PELOSI and Representatives ESHOO, GARAMENDI, HONDA, HUFFMAN, LEE, MCNERNEY, GEORGE MILLER, SPEIER, and SWALWELL to commemorate the designation of the San Francisco Bay/Estuary as a Wetland of International Importance on February 2, 2013 by the Convention on Wetlands, also known as the "Ramsar Convention".

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty adopted in 1971 and signed by the United States in 1987. This treaty provides a voluntary framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, their resources, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance benefit from increased conservation status and recognition, and are part of an international conservation network that encompasses flyways and other migratory routes.

The San Francisco Bay/Estuary is the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast of the United States, encompassing approximately 1,600 square miles and is critically ecologically important, accounting for 77 percent of California's remaining perennial estuarine wetlands. It also provides for a host of social and economic values through ports and industry, agriculture, fisheries, archeological and cultural sites, recreation, and research. Unfortunately, the San Francisco Bay/Estuary today faces numerous threats and challenges from invasive species, development, pollution, sediment shortfalls, disease, disturbance to wildlife, and climate change.

The San Francisco Bay/Estuary has broad support for its conservation and restoration from a large number of federal, state, public, private organizations, and citizens who act to conserve its values. Their conservation efforts continue to pioneer strategies that are modeled, adapted, and adopted by others across the nation and beyond.

The San Francisco Bay/Estuary met or exceeded all nine Ramsar criteria on multiple counts, which refer to biodiversity measures and the presence of rare or unique wetland types, and has undoubtedly earned the global distinction of a dedicated Ramsar Wetland of International Importance:

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in commemorating the designation of the San Francisco Bay/Estuary as an official Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, pay tribute to the dedicated stewards and activists who have worked to preserve this unique ecosystem, and support critical efforts

to ensure the health and protection of the San Francisco Bay/Estuary.

DAVID MYERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud David Myers for being honored by the Jefferson Center for Mental Health for his outstanding service to our community.

David is President and CEO of Metro Community Provider Network. MCPN is a non-profit healthcare organization providing medical, dental, mental health, substance abuse, pharmacy and community based services to the underserved, uninsured and working families who cannot afford these services. Under David's leadership in fiscal year 2012, MCPN provided healthcare services to nearly 39,000 individuals.

David's dedication to healthcare for all is evident by his pivotal role in health insurance reform. He was one of the on the ground drivers, paving the roads ahead for the health care community. David navigates the complex issues surrounding healthcare with his dedication to partnerships and collaborations. The patients at Metro Community Provider Network are recipients of the fruits of his labor of love every day.

I am honored to congratulate David Myers on receiving this recognition from the Jefferson Center for Mental Health. I have no doubt David will exhibit the same dedication, passion and vision to all his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO GABRIELLE BAMBERSKI—TEAMSTERS LOCAL 830 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute today for Gabrielle Bamberski, a 2013 award recipient of the Teamsters Local 830 Scholarship Fund. Over the past 37 years, this important fund has awarded scholarships totaling over \$2.7 million dollars to talented young adults throughout our community. Because of the hard work of the members of Teamsters Local 830 and the employers of these members, students like Gabrielle are able to make higher education possible.

Gabrielle's father, Joseph Bamberski, works in the Delivery Department of Canada Dry. I greatly admire Gabrielle's hard work at Archbishop Ryan High School and her aspirations to study forensic psychology. With her work ethic, I am sure Gabrielle will be successful in whatever career she chooses.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring Gabrielle Bamberski and her commitment to her community and studies that enabled her to become a 2013 award recipient of the Teamsters Local 830 Scholarship Fund.

HONORING LAUREL SAYER, OF IDAHO, FOR HER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Laurel Sayer, a member of my staff and one of the finest public servants I have ever met. While I am happy for Laurel that her long career as a Congressional staffer has culminated with her well-earned retirement from this body, I am equally concerned by the hole her absence will leave in my office and the challenge my remaining staff faces in filling the void.

Laurel began her service in my office not long after my election to Congress in 1998. She had served with then-Congressman Mike Crapo for several years and I consider my successful effort to lure her away from his office one of my earliest, and finest, achievements.

For the last 14 years, Laurel has been the anchor of my staff in eastern Idaho where she led my outreach efforts regarding natural resources, arts, and conservation issues. She was also my lead staffer on issues related to the Idaho National Laboratory and its talented workforce. Her compassion, insight, knowledge, and reliability were often critical to my constituents dealing with the peaks and valleys of the federal government's support for nuclear energy and the work of the laboratory.

In a district that spans almost two dozen counties and roughly half of the State of Idaho, you spend a lot of time driving back roads, visiting small communities, talking politics in farmer's fields, and marveling at the stunning geography of the American West. Laurel has always been the best traveling companion a Congressman could ask for on those long trips across the state.

We've been backpacking and fishing in the Boulder-White Coulds. We've worked together to open a wheel-chair accessible trail in central Idaho and to assist Custer County in their economic development needs.

Laurel is a great advocate for the arts, and will remain so in her life after Congress. A few years ago we visited Idaho's rural communities with National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Rocco Landesman and watched Idaho's Shakespeare Festival share its talents with schoolchildren. Laurel and I have spent many hours in book stores large and small and have been in perpetual pursuit of the best chicken fried steak in Idaho. And we think we found it in Salmon, Idaho.

Laurel and I have shared a lot of laughs, many successes, a few failures, and a tremendous friendship over the past 14 years. Laurel has been loyal, fair, honest, and dependable. She has provided wise counsel, constructive criticism, and the not-so-subtle nudges those of us who work in this body need from time-to-time. She has been a fierce advocate for my priorities but the source of measured advice when things didn't go our way. In short, she has been a valued adviser, supporter, and friend for as long as I have been in Congress. What more could any of us ask of our staff?

Laurel's presence in the office and in the communities of eastern Idaho will be deeply