

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a bipartisan, popular, 50-year program that uses royalties from federal oil and gas leases for land acquisition and parks across the country.

The LWCF program supports more than 6 million U.S. jobs connected with outdoor recreation at no cost to taxpayers.

Without action by Congress, LWCF will expire on September 30, authorization for the Ex-Im Bank expired June 30, 2015, and has been hurting U.S. exporters and workers daily ever since.

I also strongly disapprove of the rescission of \$1.7 billion from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the across the board reduction in funding levels for most programs and activities from their FY 2015 levels by 0.21%.

Nevertheless, the agreement allows Congress to keep the federal government open to serve the American people and gives the Congress and the Administration ten weeks to reach agreement on a fair and balanced budget that provides the funds for the investments in human capital and physical infrastructure needed to maintain American competitiveness in the global economy of the 21st century.

And one of the most important things we can do is end the draconian sequestration that has been in effect since 2011.

Mr. Speaker, to illustrate how strongly I feel about the need to end sequestration, let me chronicle the severity of the suffering and pain inflicted by sequestration on the most vulnerable residents of Texas and the constituents that I serve.

Head Start and Early Head Start services were eliminated or severely impacted with approximately 4,800 children being impacted throughout the state of Texas.

Families in my district who rely on Federal Government programs like Head Start are hurting.

The pain did not start with the 2013 shutdown, but with sequestration which hit Head Start programs for 3 to 4 year olds in the Houston area hard: \$5,341 million cut; 109 Employees cut; 699 Slots for children cut.

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs were further stressed by the federal government shutdown.

My support of Head Start and Early Head Start is based on what I have seen and heard about programs like the AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start program serving parents and children in the 18th Congressional District.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start is a program serving low income families in my Houston Texas District.

I have visited with AVANCE-Houston administrators many times to get an update on how low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women served by the program were doing.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start's mission is simple: AVANCE-Houston works for healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhances the development of very young children, and promotes healthy family functioning.

AVANCE-Houston serves nearly 1,800 children city wide; each of these families and their children are suffering the effects of the sequestration.

Sequestration has cost AVANCE-Houston over \$842,518 Head Start and Early Head Start in lost funding and put on hold the head start on the future our children deserve.

As I stated, Mr. Speaker, this Continuing Resolution is not perfect and it only funds the government until December 11, 2015, but it is better than the alternative we faced in 2013 when House Republicans shut down the government for 16 days and cost our economy \$24 billion in lost economic productivity.

For that reason, I will vote for H.R. 719 and renew my call that all members of the House and Senate work together and with the President to reach agreement on an appropriate budget framework that ends sequestration but does not harm our economy or require draconian cuts to middle-class priorities.

#### MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

### HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to Malnutrition Awareness Week. I salute those who fight against this underestimated but very important disease. While we often talk about hunger, obesity, food insecurity and other topics that deal with what and how we eat, we do not talk nearly enough about the common thread that links these issues together: malnutrition.

Though not commonly viewed as a medical concern in the U.S., malnutrition is a serious disease that largely affects certain demographic groups, such as older adults, hospitalized patients and minorities. For example, older African Americans have a significantly higher risk of malnutrition compared to their white counterparts.

A recent study estimated the economic burden of community-based diseases associated with malnutrition to be \$157 billion per year. Studies have further shown that chronic disease is often linked with malnutrition, and 1 in 3 patients arrive at our hospitals malnourished. This translates into higher health care costs, increased readmission rates, and longer hospital stays. We need real, cost-effective solutions, particularly for those who need care the most.

We also need more vigilance and action in the area of good nutrition. Malnutrition screening, assessment, and appropriate nutritional interventions for older adults could be vital to them leading healthier lives and saving on healthcare costs. We cannot afford to ignore such low-cost solutions.

September 28 through October 2 has been designated as Malnutrition Awareness Week. Hopefully increased awareness about this problem will lead to healthier aging of citizens across all our communities.

BOB BRIGGS

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bob Briggs for receiving the Jefferson County 2015 Hall of Fame Award from the West Chamber.

The Hall of Fame Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have had significant,

long-lasting impacts through their leadership and contributions to Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

As a third-generation Coloradan, Bob earned a degree from Colorado State University in horticulture. In 1961, Bob founded Briggs Flower Shop and Garden Center. From there, Bob became engaged in various community and political activities in Jefferson County, such as serving as Adams County Commissioner.

As Commissioner, he helped prevent the expansion of Stapleton Airport on to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal which ultimately led to the construction of Denver International Airport (DIA). Bob also served as President of Adams County Economic Development for three years. During his tenure, he helped in efforts to secure the South West Mall and build the Front Range Airport. Bob went on to be elected as a Council Member for Westminster in 2007.

Bob's extracurricular work also had tremendous impacts including his work on the board of the Butterfly Pavilion where he helped spearhead the City Wide Trail system, a system that is responsible for 15 percent of Westminster's open space today. Bob also served as a board member of the Regional Transportation District where he approved the project ideas that became FasTracks, TREX, and Union Station Light Rail station.

Congratulations to Bob Briggs for this well-deserved honor by the West Chamber. I am grateful for his contributions to Jefferson County.

#### IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Cumberland County Association of Township Officials. Over the past century, the organization has consistently endeavored to advance the interests of Cumberland County's 18 townships and has diligently served my constituents.

First established in 1915, the organization continues to provide an arena for the discussion of issues of local and regional importance. Furthermore, the association serves over 400 township officials in Cumberland County by hosting informational conferences, offering training opportunities, and advocating for its members at the county, state, and federal levels. Most importantly, the organization helps a range of supervisors, managers, secretaries, treasurers, tax collectors, and auditors develop a better understanding of the rights and duties of township officials—an invaluable educational service.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Cumberland County Association of Township Officials as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. I am incredibly grateful for this community organization that strives every day to ensure the future stability and prosperity of Cumberland County.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIANE  
CALLAHAN

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Diane Callahan, who is retiring after 15 dedicated years of public service in Highland Village. The city has benefited immeasurably from her unflinching precision, unflinching commitment, and unwavering devotion to the residents she serves.

Ms. Callahan began serving the City of Highland Village in 2000 as an administrative secretary. She performed zealously in this role by compiling meticulous reports and utilizing her comprehensive knowledge of city policy to the benefit of constituents and businesses alike. In 2008, after several years of ardent work and study she earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification. In 2011, Ms. Callahan was appointed City Secretary of Highland Village. In large part due to her efforts, the City of Highland Village has operated efficiently and reliably, thereby solidifying the quality of life residents of the city have come to enjoy.

Ms. Callahan had an extensive breadth of duties as Highland Village's City Secretary. She was responsible for keeping all seven council members informed on city events and developments as well as maintaining city ordinances, coordinating municipal and special elections, and responding in a timely manner to public information requests. Ms. Callahan performed these duties with sterling customer service.

In 2014, Ms. Callahan attained the title of Certified Municipal Clerk, an award distributed by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, in recognition of her vast experience and attendance at an exhaustive number of educational programs. Additionally, Ms. Callahan was honored by the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association as the 2015 Municipal Clerk of the Year. This most recent achievement is a testimony to the professional reputation she has built with her commitment to excellence.

As Ms. Callahan retires, she is highly esteemed by her colleagues and the community she has served for 15 years, and she will be greatly missed. It is my privilege to honor such an outstanding citizen and serve the City of Highland Village in the U.S. House of Representatives.

JAMES E. DALE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James E. Dale for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

The Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence recognizes organizations, businesses and individuals that significantly contribute to the wellbeing and improvement of the City of Golden.

Jim has served on the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee and the Golden Planning

Commission. He was a founding member of the Sustainability Taskforce, and he currently serves on the Citizens Sustainability Advisory Board and the Golden Visitors Center Board. Additionally, he supports the Golden History Museum, Landmarks Association, Foothills Art Center, Miners Alley Playhouse and Colorado Cowboy Gathering.

I congratulate James E. Dale for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank him for his continued commitment to the City of Golden.

HONORING TAIWAN'S 104TH  
NATIONAL DAY

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taiwan's 104th National Day on October 10th, also known as Double Ten Day.

Both the United States and Taiwan share the belief that remembering our countries' heritage is critical to forging a path to a better tomorrow. Only a few decades ago, Taiwan was an authoritarian state. Yet today, presidents and legislators are elected through a peaceful, democratic process. I applaud Taiwan for cherishing these liberties rather than taking them for granted.

The United States has been a close ally of Taiwan for many years, and our friendship is solidified by our core set of shared values. Justice, rule of law, human rights, and freedom of the press are treasured by people in both the United States and Taiwan. Furthermore, Taiwan is an important security and economic partner of the United States.

As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I am pleased to see Taiwan's admission to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group and World Trade Organization, as well as Taiwan's observer status at the World Health Organization. However, Taiwan and its 23 million people are still not fully represented in the United Nations. It is vital for the United States to continue to stand with Taiwan by supporting its meaningful participation in international bodies. This is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 76, which supports Taiwan's full membership in the United Nations. I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in supporting Taiwan's full and equal membership in the United Nations and other international organizations.

I would again like to congratulate the people of Taiwan on their 104th National Day. This anniversary is a time to remember the sacrifices of the past and to look ahead to a promising future.

IN VENERATION OF RETIRED  
MAJOR JOHN SPARKS

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the retired Major John Sparks. Major Sparks is a trailblazer for the African American

community, with a career that spans fifty-seven years and three very different industries.

Major Sparks joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1954. After finishing first in his Drill Instructor School in San Diego, Major Sparks went on to serve his country in the Vietnam War. He was one of two African Americans to receive Battlefield Commission. Furthermore, Major Sparks continued to make strides as a service man when he was the first African American officer to be chosen to command Marines aboard a ship. Despite facing pervasive racism and segregation, John Sparks climbed the ranks of the US Marine Corps until he retired as a Major in 1978.

With the asset of military training and service, Major Sparks joined the business world. After serving in the Marine Corps for over twenty years, he worked as Director of Educational Training at IBM for twenty years. Not done giving back to his community, Major Sparks subsequently taught at Booker T. Washington high school for thirteen years before retiring.

Major Sparks has spent his professional career educating, leading and serving the American people in a number of different industries. There is much that can be said about Major Sparks' diverse career. He undoubtedly opened doors for those that served after him in the armed services. He has helped educate and inspire both young minds and young professionals. He has been not only a leader in the military but also within his own community.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to not only honor the impressive achievements of this man, but also to commend his compassionate contributions to my Congressional district and to the great State of Georgia. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this distinguished individual.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH  
SCIAME, RECIPIENT OF THE  
SONS OF ITALY'S 2015  
GUGLIELMO MARCONI AWARD

**HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Joseph Sciame, a resident of New Hyde Park, New York and life-long public servant who recently received the Sons of Italy's 2015 Guglielmo Marconi Award, which is presented biennially to an Italian American who has made significant contributions to the United States.

Mr. Sciame is truly deserving of this honor, as he has worked tirelessly throughout his life to serve others and strengthen the communities in which he lives and works. Mr. Sciame currently serves as Vice President of Community Relations at St. John's University, the largest Catholic university in the United States. As a St. John's alumnus and university administrator for three decades, Mr. Sciame has truly dedicated his life to serving the school and its surrounding community. He also serves as a board member of the Jamaica and Staten Island Chambers of Commerce, the Kupferberg Holocaust Center, and the Boy Scouts of America, and chairs the Board of Ethics of the Town of North Hempstead. Mr.