

COMMENDING LOCAL 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FOURTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 60 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized a total of 9 students. This year, we will recognize 129 young men and women who have chosen to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the Nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Marine Corps:

Steven Lawrence Allen, Jovina Argueta, Coty Brown, Daniel Bukari, Khizer Butt, Jose Cajar, Patrick Casey, Michael Conroy, Adam Crews, Jason Crites, Michael Daughtry, Hunter Day, Christopher Dullea, Jordan Dunmore, Zachary Frye, Ernesto Garcia, Nina Garrido, Zachary Gingras, Flor Gudiel, Junior Guzman Melendez, Demetrius Higgins, Garrett Humberston, Michael Irwin, Jake Kinder, Brian Knauft, Matthew Levesque, Ariel Jeffrey Magalong, Phillip Mauel, Zachary McCall, Lukas McKennedy, Blake TW Mendenhall, Sergio Miranda Henruquez, Duncan Mungovan, John Munies, Robin Murray, Alex Naupari, Rory Nelson, Omer Nezam, Kevin Nidell, Sanjar Omuraliev, John Peters, Siam Putipong, Jaycee Quispe, Hithem Shaw,

Sohrab Ali Shojanezhad, Travis Nathaniel Sievert, Luis Enrique Sosa Lopez, Michael Such, Phillip Suh, Sean Sullivan, Carl Tchatchouang, Destinee Tenakoun, Brandon Thien, Taylor Trahan, Marvin Ventura, George Vera, Damon Villamar, Mark Walker, Andrew Webster, Winfield Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense our Nation's freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ALAN
EHRGOTT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Alan Ehrgott for his twenty-five years of service with the American River Conservancy. As his family, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate his outstanding career and ongoing contributions to the community, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Mr. Ehrgott's many years of service.

With its beginnings in April of 1989, the American River Conservancy, then known as the American River Land Trust, was founded by Mr. Ehrgott and several other community leaders and members with the aim of acquiring and conserving land along the American River for future generations. As Executive Director, the American River Conservancy has thrived under Mr. Ehrgott's leadership and his love of nature. Located in the historic Kane House in the Marshall Gold Discovery State Park in Coloma, the American River Conservancy has completed over 78 land conservation projects protecting 13,709 acres of high-quality wildlife habitat, recreational lands and native fisheries in the Upper American River and Upper Cosumnes River watersheds. Mr Ehrgott's vision led to the existence of the 25-mile network of trails known as the South Fork American River Trail System. These projects were made possible through \$76 million in funds that Mr. Ehrgott was successful in securing.

In 2010, Mr. Ehrgott was instrumental in the acquisition of the 272-acre Gold Hill Ranch which has a rich cultural history starting with the local Nisenan tribe. The site is most well known for being one of the first permanent Japanese settlements in North America from the period of 1869–1871 when it was known as the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony Farm. With Mr. Ehrgott leading the way, the American River Conservancy hopes to preserve and celebrate the legacy of farming that has occurred on the site.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mr Alan Ehrgott, who has served the Sacramento community and the surrounding environment for more than two decades. His continued service has greatly contributed to the community and ensured the continued enjoyment of the American River. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this man whose persistence and leadership has helped to preserve one of Northern California's many natural treasures for years to come.

IN SUPPORT OF THE HIGHWAYS BETTER THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT ACT OF 2014

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment Act with my Co-Chairman of the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus, Representative JEFF DENHAM. This bi-partisan bill provides much-needed aid for the birds, bats, bees and butterflies that pollinate our food.

The Highways BEE Act seeks no new monies and involves a limited federal role.

This bill provides for existing authorities and finding sources to incorporate integrated vegetation management practices along America's highways, which includes things like reduced mowing and replacing invasive plant species with native forbs and grasses. This kind of roadside vegetation management provides much-needed habitat for pollinators and other small nesting animals.

The Association of American State Highway and Transportation Officials Vegetation Management Guidelines advances integrated vegetation management principles and recommendations consistent with the objectives of this legislation. A number of states, including Minnesota are already doing this and reporting maintenance cost savings of 20 to 25 percent from reduced mowing alone.

Mr. Speaker, there are around 17 million acres of land where significant reductions in mowing and maintenance can reduce costs for cash-strapped states. The millions of acres of agriculture and wildlife ecosystems adjacent to these roadways will benefit from the increased pollinator habitat resulting from integrated vegetation management practices.

To understand how worried we should be about declining pollinator populations, consider that rising global food prices have been the primary topic of discussion at recent G-20 meetings. This is the first time that agriculture has had the top spot at a meeting and is indicative of how serious the issue is. Food prices have already led to global riots overseas and a declining pollinator population will only make the situation worse. Seventy-five percent of all flowering plant species rely on creatures like birds, bats, bees and butterflies for fertilization. One out of every three bites of food that we eat, as well as \$20 billion of products in the United States alone, derive from pollinators.

If we don't solve these problems soon, we won't have any bees. Without bees, we won't have any food. The benefit to cost balance in the case of this bill is an easy choice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, I was not present for 2 votes. Had I been present for rollcall No. 241, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for rollcall No. 242, I would have voted "yea."