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**Las Vegas Joseph M Vassallo, CBP, PHTA Fellow, President of Paragon Pools honored with President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition Community Leadership Award**

*Vassallo is only the 4<sup>th</sup> Nevadan to receive the accolade since the Award's inception under the George W. Bush administration in 2007*

(Las Vegas, NV) 2019 —The President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition has selected Las Vegas Joseph M Vassallo, CBP, PHTA Fellow, President of Paragon Pools to receive a 2019 President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition Community Leadership Award. The award is given annually to individuals or organizations who improve the lives of others within their community by providing or enhancing opportunities to engage in sports, physical activity, fitness, or nutrition-related programs.

Vassallo's company Paragon Pools in Las Vegas launched [Float Like A Duck](#), water safety initiative in 2003 with a *Mission to educate the public on the importance of SAFETY while celebrating the joys of water sports*. The award-winning program has grown to become a highly valued, multi-platform initiative involving area first responders, the City of Las Vegas, Clark County, City of Henderson, the YMCA of Southern Nevada, UMC Children's Hospital and numerous esteemed partners including the CPSC Pool Safety program and industry partners Paramount Pool & Spa Systems, Zodiac Pool Systems, and Pebble Technology Int. "Aquatic based sports are an excellent form of exercise for all ages and skill levels," states Vassallo. "We want to encourage fitness and at the same time provide the proper tools, skills and knowledge to ensure everyone is safe."

"We are proud to recognize Joseph M Vassallo, CBP, President of Paragon Pools for the work he has done to consistently promote opportunities for individuals to lead healthy lifestyles through the Float Like A Duck, water safety initiative," says Kristina Harder, acting Executive Director of the President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition. "Because of Joseph M Vassallo's meaningful efforts and impactful contributions, we are one step closer to improving the physical fitness, health, and nutrition of all Americans. Vassallo's work reaches not only his community, but also serves as a shining example to inspire and motivate others across the United States to embrace a healthier, more active lifestyle."



“Congratulations to Joseph for receiving this well-deserved recognition,” Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman said. “Water safety is something that needs to be a priority for everyone, and Float Like A Duck has been key in helping to increase safety awareness in Las Vegas.”

This year, the President’s Council presented the Community Leadership Award to 31 recipients across the country. These individuals and organizations have all made an impact by doing work in an area of the Council’s mission, successfully serving the people in their communities through sports, physical activity, fitness, and nutrition-related programs. A full listing of the 2019 Community Leadership Awardees is available on fitness.gov <https://www.hhs.gov/fitness/programs-and-awards/council-awards/pcsfn-community-leadership-award/index.html>

#### **About Joseph M. Vassallo, CBP, PHTA Fellow**

Joseph Vassallo is founder and president of [Paragon Pools](#) in Las Vegas, NV. An award-winning swimming pool designer/builder and industry thought-leader, he is an active member of the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA, formally the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals/National Swimming Pool Foundation). Vassallo has been recognized for his philanthropic activities including numerous awards for his water safety advocacy.

#### **About the President’s Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition**

The President’s Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition (PCSFN) is a Federal advisory committee supported by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The mission of the President’s Council is to increase sports participation among youth of all backgrounds and abilities and to promote healthy and active lifestyles for all Americans. For more information about PCSFN, visit [www.fitness.gov](http://www.fitness.gov).

#### Council Members:

<https://www.hhs.gov/fitness/meet-the-council/index.html>

#### Council Co-Chairs:

Misty May-Treanor, Three-Time Beach Volleyball Olympic Gold Medalist  
Mariano Rivera, MLB World Series Champion  
Herschel Walker, NFL Player and Entrepreneur