

Wyoming and the late Congressman James Howard of New Jersey. Originally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter, the legislation (Public Law 96–114) established the Congressional Award as a public-private partnership, which receives all funding from the private sector. Every president since, both Democratic and Republican, have signed legislation to continue the program.

The Congressional Award Board of Directors is comprised of 48 members and supports the work of the foundation by providing mission-based leadership and strategic governance. Every member of the Board serves as a volunteer to help make the program a national opportunity available in every congressional district.

During this past year, over 40,000 participants from all 50 states were actively working toward earning a Congressional Award and 5,000 new participants enrolled in the program. Since its inception, over 7 million hours of service have been contributed to communities nationwide.

The example set by Patrick is one we all should strive for. His willingness to serve his community and our nation's young people sets him apart as an outstanding individual, and I have been honored to serve alongside of him as Leader PELOSI's congressional appointee to the Board. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in thanking Patrick for his service and wishing him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 42 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Friday in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to our nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Russell Carter, Army; Carolyn Clark, Army; Robert Kakuska, Army; Henry Kreminski, Army; Milford McDougal, Army; William Osteen, Army; Carl Propes, Army; Richard Reeve, Army; Arthur Schlenther, Army; Carl Smith, Army; Richard Sowell, Army; Frank Spiegel, Army; Alvin Tesky, Army; Edward Usselman, Army; Walter McNeill, Army Air Corps; Gordon Sodorff, Army Air Corps; Shirley Wilson, Army Air Corps; Clarence Read, Army Air Forces; Walter Seaman, Army Air Forces; William Thompson, Army Air Forces; Robert Turkisher, Army Air Forces; Robert Lortie, Coast Guard; Nancy Songer, Coast Guard; Frank Gibson, Marine Corps; Owen Anson, Navy; Ellsworth Bell, Navy; Jack Clevinger, Navy; Leroy Colvin, Navy; Kenneth Harding, Navy; David Henthorne, Navy; Robert Jackson, Navy; Hugh Keavney, Navy; William Krager, Navy; Willis Marshall, Navy; William Miller, Navy; Melvin Probst, Navy; Margaret Ross, Navy; Leonard Tischler, Navy; Donald Quinn, Navy; Forrest Hall, Navy Reserve; Santo Regalbutto, Navy Reserve; and Patsy Seaman, Women's Army Corps.

These 42 heroes join the estimated 20,000 to 25,000 veterans who will travel to Washington, D.C. from their home states in 2016, adding to the over 150,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these brave Americans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS AND BILL MATHENY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lois and Bill Matheny of Des Moines, Iowa, on their 50th wedding anniversary, celebrated on September 3, 2016.

Lois and Bill's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the very best.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF FLIGHT RESEARCH AT NASA ARMSTRONG

HON. STEPHEN KNIGHT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the 70th anniversary of NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, which was founded on September 30, 1946.

In 1946 a group of officials from NASA's predecessor organization, the NACA, set up an operations base for our nation's effort in the race to achieve supersonic manned flight. A year later, on October 14, 1947, Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first pilot to break the sound barrier in the experimental Bell X-1 aircraft. This achievement, one of many incredible "firsts" in our history, inaugurated a national legacy of excellence in aerospace that defines American power today.

More X-planes followed the X-1, each building on our understanding of flight and projecting U.S. power further into air and space. Twenty years after Yeager, my father, Pete Knight, flew the X-15 at Mach 6.7. Even today that flight holds the world record for aircraft speed. What we learned from the X-programs

was critical to our journey to the moon and paved the way for the Space Shuttle.

Today NASA Armstrong continues to play an important role in the advancement of American aeronautics. It is pursuing a new generation of X-planes that will validate technology for faster, cleaner, quieter, and safer air travel over the next ten years. These bold programs are not only an exciting next step for our nation's legacy in aviation pioneering, but a necessary one, to renew our technological and competitive edge in aviation for the 21st Century.

I congratulate the men and women of NASA Armstrong on their outstanding achievements over the past 70 years. Their unflinching pursuit of useful knowledge in atmospheric flight and airborne science is essential to the American scientific enterprise, as well as our engagement with international science community, the competitiveness of our private sector air and space companies, and our military's edge over potential adversaries. On behalf of the 25th Congressional District of California, I would again like to thank the NASA Armstrong team for all they do for our country.

CELEBRATING KEVIN CLINE AND HIS NATIONAL AWARD FOR EX- CELLENCE IN TEACHING HIS- TORY

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate educator Kevin Cline of Frankton Junior Senior High School, the winner of the 2016 National History Teacher of the Year Award given by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. It is well-deserved.

Kevin teaches United States History, American Government, World History, and several AP history courses at Frankton Junior Senior High School located in the town of Frankton in Madison County, Indiana. When asked why he loves teaching history he said "it's got the best heroes and the best villains". That quote shows the fun he brings to his role. I have been honored to be able to speak with Kevin and his students not only in his classroom but also in the Indiana State House where students had the opportunity to learn about the law making process at the state level. These students even had the chance to present their bill ideas to state legislators. I have seen firsthand his passion for teaching, history, and his students. Despite the hard work he has put in to achieve this honor, Kevin says that winning this award does not match the privilege he has of getting to work with his students every day. His dedication to his students and his innovation in the classroom are a gift to his students and our Hoosier community.

Kevin is also an innovator by integrating technology into the classroom. He believes technology is the best way to connect classroom content to individual students. I would like to share one of many examples of him going above and beyond in his job and incorporating innovation. Kevin worked with Indiana University's Center on Congress to develop the app "Freedom Summer." The app teaches students the relationship between the Civil

Rights Movement and the passage of civil rights legislation in Congress in a game-based, interactive learning environment. Continuing to innovate and make history relevant to today's students will ensure our next generation can prepare for our future challenges by learning from the past. Kevin continually engages with my office to educate his students which inspires his students to become more active citizens of the United States.

In 2013, I had the honor of meeting with Kevin in D.C. to congratulate him on his 2012 American Civic Education Teacher Award. I am proud once again to congratulate Kevin on his 2016 National History Teacher of the Year award. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kevin for his contributions to our schools, history education, and most importantly to our students. As the daughter, sister and mom of teachers, I know the difficult, yet rewarding, job he has. The very best teachers have a deep passion for their subject matter, devoting themselves to not only sharing wisdom but igniting enthusiasm and excitement in their pupils. In a time when there is concern for declining civic engagement Kevin Cline is guiding the next generation of Indiana students to be knowledgeable, passionate, and engaged members of their community and the United States. Congratulations Kevin, your award is well-deserved.

HONORING UPROSE ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to UPROSE, a pillar of social justice organizing in New York City and Brooklyn's oldest Puerto Rican/Latino community based organization. This year, UPROSE will celebrate five decades of fighting for progress and advancing the rights of New York's working families and people of color.

UPROSE was founded during the civil rights movement and has made significant strides over the last five decades. The organization has helped prevent polluting power plants from being located in lower income neighborhoods. It has impacted transportation policy, improving transit options for hardworking Brooklyn communities. The organization has made fighting climate change a centerpiece of its agenda. Indeed, it has sent three young people of color to Antarctica and one to the North Pole on scientific expeditions, to observe these environmental issues firsthand.

Likewise, UPROSE has been at the forefront of ensuring that our local industrial sector continues to blossom, while providing good paying, union jobs for local residents in the community.

Centered near Brooklyn's Sunset Park, UPROSE has always stood for this neighborhood's diversity. With a thriving immigrant population and more affordable housing than many parts of Brooklyn, Sunset Park attracts new waves of working people every year. UPROSE has stood with them for generations, empowering these New Yorkers to improve and strengthen the neighborhood, borough and City that they call home.

Mr. Speaker, after five decades UPROSE remains an anchor in our community, fighting for justice and improving our community locally. I would ask all my colleagues to join me on their fifty years of progress and wish them the best for many more years of achievement and success.

HONORING THE SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA PROGRAM AND THE INAUGURAL SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA DAY IN DALLAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Safe Communities America program and the inaugural Safe Communities America Day, which will take place in Dallas on October 5th. Safe Communities America is a program of the National Safety Council which recognizes communities that prioritize safety and take deliberate steps to improve the health and safety of its citizens. I am proud to say that the first Safe Communities Day will be celebrated in Dallas, which was the first U.S. city—and first urban city worldwide—to be accredited as an International Safe Community. In fact, the City of Dallas has proudly retained its accreditation since 1996.

The City of Dallas and its local partners have worked tremendously hard to improve the safety and security of our communities in Texas. For over 20 years, the City of Dallas has been implementing Operation Installation, a residential fire safety program. The Injury Prevention Center of Greater Dallas has teamed up with the Dallas Fire Rescue Department to go door-to-door, installing smoke alarms at homes in neighborhoods most impacted by fire-related deaths, resulting in a 74 percent decrease in fire deaths. Since its inception, this partnership has installed more than 30,000 smoke alarms, covering 42,000 residents.

More recently, Dallas Safe Communities has implemented PHOTOVOICE, a project that teaches middle school students how to use a camera and photographs to improve pedestrian safety in the Vickery Meadow area. Students are getting involved in their communities by taking photographs of broken sidewalks, absent sidewalks, damaged pedestrian signals and share their "story" with city officials to advocate for improved safety.

Our neighboring City of Fort Worth has also been an accredited Safe Community since 2013. A variety of services are being offered around the city in order to have a comprehensive approach to fall prevention, including free home safety evaluations to seniors via the local fire department, education to first-responders on home safety hazard recognition, Matter of Balance classes, an evidence based-approach to falls prevention, offered to older adults through multiple community partners, STEADI (fall screening and intervention) training for local physicians and medication management via pharmacists and Meals on Wheels. With one of the fastest growing elder populations in Texas, the Ft. Worth coalition is committed to keeping older adults injury free.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, in conjunction with local organizations, are taking the lead to promote safety within our communities. I would also like to reiterate my support for the Safe Communities America program, which has proven to be a tremendous initiative led by the National Safety Council. This program has helped to create safer environments in our neighborhoods while engaging local citizens and encouraging individuals of all ages to become active members of their communities.

COMMEMORATING MRS. FRANCISCA MARTINEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Gold Star Mother and Laredoan Mrs. Francisca Martinez.

Mrs. Martinez was born September 3, 1911, in Linares, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to parents Jesus Jasso and Francisca Trevino Jasso. She immigrated to the United States when she was fourteen years old. Her family settled in Laredo, Texas, and she soon became a United States citizen. Mrs. Martinez later met Enrique Martinez who would become her husband in 1929.

Francisca was a proud mother of eight children, Estanislado, Guadalupe, Petra, Maria Antonietta, Enrique, Jesus, Antonio, and Maria Aurora. Five of her sons served in the United States Army. Her oldest son, Estanislado Martinez, was wounded in the Korean War and her second eldest, Sgt. First Class Guadalupe Martinez, a Green Beret, was killed in action during the Vietnam War. It is because of her son's brave service and sacrifice that she became a member of the American Gold Star Mothers Organization.

Francisca was affectionately called "Panchita" by those close to her, who remember her passion and commitment to serving the community. She instilled a sense of service and charity in all her children. Francisca spent her life caring for others, continuing to volunteer at the local food bank on a weekly basis even into her later years.

Mrs. Martinez is survived by her sons, Jesus and Antonio Martinez; her daughters, Petra Hill and Maria Aurora Gutierrez; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and countless friends. Her legacy will live on in Laredo and she will be remembered for the countless lives that she touched in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the life of Francisca "Panchita" Martinez.

IN HONOR OF JACQUELINE A. ELLIS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, Jacqueline A. Ellis. Sadly,