

a finalist for the Washington Post's 2016 Principal of the Year Award. Mr. Pellegrino is the principal of Evergreen Mill Elementary School in Leesburg, Virginia.

Mr. Pellegrino has led Evergreen Mill Elementary with distinction for the last five years. He has been lauded for embracing out-of-the-box techniques to ensure that his students have everything they need to succeed in the classroom. He was one of the first principals to institute the Backpack Buddies and Study Buddies programs. These programs send weekend meals home for hundreds of students and offer a mentor and tutoring program respectively. For these actions and many others, Mr. Pellegrino received the Washington Post Distinguished Educator Leader Award this year.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that educators play in inspiring our students and communities. The work Mr. Pellegrino has done, and continues to do at Evergreen Mill will inspire and shape the lives of countless young men and women for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Michael Pellegrino for being named a finalist for the Washington Post's 2016 Principal of the Year Award. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on this honor, and I wish him nothing but success in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MOORE
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Moore Catholic High School varsity football team for winning the Catholic High School Football League Class A division championship.

After a championship drought lasting 13 years, the Mavericks defeated Cardinal Spellman High School 32–22 last month to capture the Class A title. With only three seniors on the team, these young athletes proved that hard work, dedication, and perseverance are the keys to victory. After this resounding victory, I can certainly see why Moore Catholic has asked the Catholic High School Athletic Association to allow them to join the AA division. The Mavericks never backed down from tough competition this past season, and they definitely won't back down next season.

Led by Head Coach Nick Giannatasio, the Mavericks plowed through their opponents in the regular season to finish with an 8–2 record. This young team also showed its dominance in the stats. Wide Receiver Zach Hampton finished the season third overall in receiving yards in their division; Quarterback Vincenzo Scarola second in passing yards; and Running Back Justin Lacks first in rushing yards and touchdowns. But as each of them knows, you always put your team before any personal glory. The Mavericks exemplified teamwork and cooperation, so their championship should come as no surprise to their classmates, teachers, or parents.

Mr. Speaker, this team gave their time, effort, and sweat to be where they are today.

Their championship was well deserved and I wish them nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHERN RESEARCH FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVING OUR NATION THROUGH SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize Southern Research, a crown jewel of scientific and engineering research and innovation headquartered in the 7th District of Alabama, on its 75th Anniversary.

Throughout its 75-year history, Southern Research's scientists and researchers have been extraordinary stewards of the federal and private funds they have earned to solve our nation's most pressing challenges, including finding cancer cures, fighting infectious diseases, supporting our nation's defense, protecting our environment, and creating clean energy technologies, among many others.

Since 1941, the researchers and scientists at Southern Research have performed work on behalf of countless private and government organizations, including the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Energy, NASA, and others in the healthcare, aerospace, and utility industries, in seeking to resolve the world's greatest challenges.

Southern Research is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama and today, hires nearly 500 scientists and engineers working in laboratories and offices in Wilsonville and Huntsville, Alabama; Frederick, Maryland; Durham, North Carolina; Houston, Texas; and Cartersville, Georgia.

Southern Research's drug development record, particularly for FDA-approved anticancer drugs, rivals any other nonprofit research organization in the United States. Today, Southern Research is developing 18 drugs to combat various forms of cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, diabetes, kidney disease, Parkinson's and tuberculosis, among others. The drug development division also has an outstanding and notable record of achievement in infectious diseases and vaccine development, particularly work in HIV/AIDS, and mosquito borne viruses, such as Zika.

Southern Research has evaluated roughly half of the 200 FDA-approved cancer drugs on the market today and has successfully discovered seven of them. One of these drugs is Clofarabine, which was given FDA approval in 2004 and is used in the treatment of pediatric leukemia. It is currently being used to treat children not only at Children's Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham but at hospitals around the world.

In addition to drug discovery and development, Southern Research has a long history of technology development in engineering, including work on Prompt Global Strike and an aerial engineering system used by NASA to capture full motion high definition video of rocket launches.

The scientists in the Energy and Environment division at Southern Research are at the

forefront of work to produce cleaner energy and water, develop new sources of energy, and drive innovation that addresses climate change and coincides with the Clean Tech Revolution nationally.

It is clear the investments our federal government has made in Southern Research are dwarfed by the returns our nation and world have received from the achievements this prestigious research organization has made in its four divisions: Drug Discovery, Drug Development, Engineering, and Energy and Environment.

The people of Southern Research, from its current president and CEO, Art Tipton, to all of the visionaries who have worked tirelessly in its labs and offices over the past 75 years, are to be commended on this tremendous occasion. The feats they have achieved, through the legacy of Southern Research's founder, Tom Martin, have benefitted not only the South, but the entire nation and world.

It is a privilege and honor to represent Southern Research in Congress. I extend not only my congratulations on 75 years of groundbreaking accomplishments, but my sincere gratitude to the remarkable people of Southern Research for the work they have done to improve the lives of countless people across the world through research and innovation over the past 75 years.

ON MARK MILLER RECEIVING THE VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S TRUSTEE LIBRARY AWARD

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mark Miller on receiving the Virginia Library Association's Trustee Library Award. Mr. Miller has diligently served the Loudoun community for many years and is more than deserving of this honor.

Loudoun County's public libraries are an enormously important resource for our community, as they serve as centers of knowledge and learning. His efforts to expand and improve LCPL have resulted in a number of great developments such as the future Brambleton Public Library. I cannot stress enough how important it is to have leaders like Mark, who understand the needs and character of our community.

His dedication to improving both our district and the country as a whole is evident through his work on Loudoun County Public Library's Board of Trustees. I am proud to call Mark a friend as I have had the privilege of working with him and his wife Ellyn through the Smashing Walnuts Foundation. I look forward to continuing to work with him to better our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mark Miller for receiving the Virginia Library Association's Trustee Library Award. It is a privilege to represent him and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

S. 3084 AMERICAN INNOVATION
AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support S. 3084, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act.

This bill represents a bicameral, bipartisan agreement between legislation that recently passed the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and nine House Science Committee bills that passed the full House over the last two years, including H.R. 1806, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015.

This bill maximizes the nation's investment in basic research. It improves accountability and transparency, reduces administrative burden on researchers, enhances agency oversight, which improves research coordination, and reforms federal science agency programs to increase the impact of taxpayer-funded research.

The investment in basic research helps boost U.S. competitiveness, creates jobs and spurs new business and industries.

First and foremost, the bill helps ensure that research grants funded by the National Science Foundation are in the "national interest."

The House and Senate worked together to find common ground on language that ensures each NSF grant award has scientific merit and is required to serve the national interest through a broader impacts criterion, which supports one of seven goals.

These goals are:

Increasing the economic competitiveness in the United States.

Advancing of the health and welfare of the American public.

Supporting the national defense of the United States.

Enhancing partnerships between academia and industry in the United States.

Developing an American STEM workforce that is globally competitive through improved prekindergarten through grade 12 STEM education and teacher development, and improved ungraduated STEM education and instruction.

Improving public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology in the United States.

Expanding participation of women and individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM.

Each public NSF award announcement must make clear, in non-technical language, how at least one of these goals is met, affirming that the project is worthy of taxpayer support, based on scientific merit and national interest.

The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act preserves the intent of H.R. 3293, the Scientific Research in the National Interest Act, a bill I authored that passed the House earlier this year.

I believe this provision will go a long way towards ensuring the grant-making process at NSF is transparent and accountable to the American public. It also makes permanent and enhances some of the reforms NSF already has underway.

Title I of the bill includes key provisions from House-passed H.R. 5049, the NSF Major Facility Research Reform Act, introduced by Science Committee Oversight Chairman BARRY LOUDERMILK.

It also requires NSF to address concerns about waste and abuse. It improves oversight of large facility construction, increases oversight on the use of rotator personnel, and updates conflict of interest policies.

S. 3084 incorporates a number of provisions to improve research coordination across the federal government in computing, neuroscience, cybersecurity and the physical sciences, specifically radiation biology, fusion energy, and high energy physics.

Most notably, Title I of the bill contains House-passed H.R. 5312, the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Act, authored by Science Committee Member DARIN LAHOOD.

The bill updates and improves the inter-agency NITRD program, which coordinates the Federal R&D investment portfolio in unclassified networking, computing, software and cybersecurity.

Additionally, S. 3084 includes other enhancements to federal cybersecurity research and standards.

The bill directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to study the effectiveness of federal agency information security programs and practices, and the challenges to federal agencies' implementation of NIST standards and guidelines.

Other provisions also are included from H.R. 6066, the Cybersecurity Responsibility and Accountability Act of 2016, introduced by Representative RALPH ABRAHAM, which passed the Science Committee in September.

Title II includes H.R. 1119, the Research and Development Efficiency Act. This House-passed bill sponsored by the Research & Technology Subcommittee Chair BARBARA COMSTOCK helps reduce the regulatory burdens on federally funded researchers, so more time can be spent on research, not redtape.

Title III of the bill improves coordination of STEM education activities across the Federal Government. A well-educated and trained high-tech workforce ensures our future economic prosperity.

This means motivating more American students to study science, math, and engineering so they will want to pursue these careers. The bill authorizes a STEM education advisory panel of outside experts to help guide federal STEM education program decision making and help ensure the best results for the taxpayer investment.

The title also continues the commitment of the STEM Education Act, a law I authored, which makes computer science part of STEM Education. That bill authorizes grants for computer science education research as an integral part of STEM education programs.

Finally, title IV and title V include a number of provisions to improve manufacturing innovation and leveraging the private sector in improved public-private partnerships.

It includes updates to NIST's Manufacturing Extension Program to improve participation and oversight. It promotes entrepreneurship education by expanding NSF's successful Innovation Corps program. And it expands opportunities for science prize competitions by reducing barriers and providing participants with IP protections.

America's future economic strength and national security depends on innovation. Public and private investments in research and development fuel the economy, create jobs and lead to new technologies that benefit Americans' daily lives.

I urge adoption of this pro-science bill that will help America remain the global leader in basic research discovery and technological innovation.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT AND CAREER OF DOUG PETERSON, PRESIDENT OF THE MINNESOTA FARMERS UNION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the career of Doug Peterson, who will retire from his position as President of the Minnesota Farmers Union on December 31, 2016. For more than two decades, Doug has served Minnesotans as an elected official and as leader of the state's largest nonprofit representing farmers and their families.

As a member of the Minnesota State Legislature from 1990 to 2002, Representative Peterson protected the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers and rural communities. As a fellow legislator, it was an honor to serve with him for eight years and work closely with him on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and later on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee. I witnessed firsthand the level of expertise and commitment he brought to his work. It is a privilege to continue to call him a friend and an ally on issues important to Minnesota's families.

Beginning in 2002, Peterson became president of the Minnesota Farmers Union. Few people have had more of a positive and lasting impact on Minnesota agriculture policy. A fierce advocate for Minnesota's family farmers, he has worked tirelessly to shape and promote policies that protect their financial interests. His hard work on behalf of the farming community was most recently acknowledged when he was awarded with the 2016 Distinguished Friend of Extension by the University of Minnesota. His leadership as the head of the Minnesota Farmers Union and work with Extension has advanced family farming and helped ensure that farmers are provided with the tools they need on and off the farm to succeed,

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the distinguished career of Doug Peterson and his tremendous work on behalf of Minnesotans.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD T. GILLESPIE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time in recognition of Mr. Richard T. Gillespie, an extraordinarily gifted