

young women to follow. Our Nation's prayers go out to her and family. I include in the RECORD this poem penned in her honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

THE B IN BUSH, RAISING THE BAR

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

The B in Bush,
Raising The Bar
In every family
In every house
There is the greatest spouse
The one who brings life into this world so all
without
Because, The Mother is The Heart of any
home inside and out
From which all great things come from no
doubt
Who bring the gift of life and love to this
world to shout
And who nurture and teach and raise their
children with a love so devout
And in that great American family of the
Bush's,
Barbara is The B in Bush clearly no doubt.
Raising The Bar in what a Mother and Ma-
triarch and First Lady are all about
With the kind of grace, strength, leadership,
love, and example this world cannot
live
Without.
And love and dedication which brings tears
to our Lord's eyes,
and make's The Angels up oh high shout
For Barbara Bush is the pillar upon which
this great American family was built
upon,
so all throughout
The rock and foundation we know of now
With that great love story of her and George
Herbert Walker so all throughout
Who built such a great American family of
love and accomplishment,
for all the world to tout
Such a woman of character, strength, and
class,
the kind of example to all our children we
must pass
For these are the things in life and into the
future that which last
Like The Beatles said,
"and in the end the love you send is equal to
the number you make"
In 73 years,
through heart break, triumph, happiness and
tears
Barbara's and George's great love has all of
us endeared
And even though he would not eat his broc-
coli it was clear,
she still stood by her man here
And now these words seem so clear
For all our children to blossom and grow
To find happiness know
We must pass on to them such love and les-
sons so
Of a Mother's Love like Barbara's to know,
of such caring and warmth for a child to be-
come whole
And Heaven holds a place
For all loving and dedicated Mother's like
you Barbara,
whose precious moments upon this world do
not waste
With all of your love and grace.
For you are the B in The Bush family,
the foundation,
the pillar who raised The Bar make no mis-
take,
And for you my love, HEAVEN AWAITS,
And you will look into your daughter Rob-
in's face.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF CORDELL
HENDERSON

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I in-
clude in the RECORD the following Proclama-
tion:

Whereas, the 8th Congressional District of
Michigan joins in celebration as we com-
memorate Cordell Henderson as he is recog-
nized with the Frederick Douglass Award by
the Greater Lansing Area Club.

Whereas, Mr. Henderson dedicated his ca-
reer to helping both children and adults further
their education for 45 years. Serving as a
school principal, director of education, coun-
selor and on multiple school boards and com-
mittees, he changed and bettered the lives of
countless members of our community over the
course of his life. He has shared his knowl-
edge and passion with those around him and
dedicated himself to the ideals that advance
our community.

Let it be known, that the Member of the
United States Congress, the Honorable Mi-
chael D. Bishop of the 8th Congressional Dis-
trict of the State of Michigan, hereby recog-
nizes Cordell Henderson for his outstanding
achievements. Therefore, this document is
signed and dedicated to honor this milestone.
May others know of my warmest wishes and
continued support in the future.

SAS MANUFACTURING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise
today to honor SAS Manufacturing for being
recognized as the 2017 Business Recognition
Award winner by the Jefferson County Eco-
nomic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Business Recognition Award shows ap-
preciation for a local company who has shown
exceptional growth in primary employment,
sales and/or capital investments in the last
year. SAS Manufacturing is an advanced man-
ufacturing firm with more than a decade of ex-
perience providing cutting-edge solutions to
aerospace, aviation, defense and energy or-
ganizations worldwide. Today, it is a 21st Cen-
tury manufacturing facility capable of meeting
the rigorous standards of clients in aerospace,
defense, energy and many commercial indus-
tries where accuracy and precision are mis-
sion critical.

Congratulations to SAS Manufacturing for
this well-deserved award, and I thank them for
their contribution to our community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF COM-
MAND SERGEANT MAJOR KEN-
NETH J. "ROCK" MERRITT

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
recognize the career of Command Sergeant

Major Kenneth J. "Rock" Merritt. During his 35
years of dedicated service, CSM Merritt
served valiantly, made history and showed us
all how to be a family man.

After enlisting in the United States Army in
1942, CSM Merritt began his military career as
a Private to Technical Sergeant in the HQ1
Light Machine Gun Platoon. Serving in combat
all over the world allowed CSM Merritt to gain
valuable experience that would shape his dis-
tinguished career. Completing over 200 para-
chute jumps, he was awarded a Gold Century
Parachute Badge by the Original Airborne As-
sociation. While stationed at Fort Bragg, lo-
cated in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional
District, CSM Merritt made history for serving
two tours as CSM of the XVIII Airborne Corps.
In 1973, he was selected as one of the five
Command Sergeant Majors in the Army al-
lowed to serve five years beyond the manda-
tory 30 years service prescribed by Army Reg-
ulations. Additionally, CSM Merritt served five
terms as President of the 508th Parachute In-
fantry Regiment Association, three terms as
Vice President of the Association and many
years as Association Parliamentarian.

Deployed on numerous operational assign-
ments all over the globe and through some of
our nation's toughest times, CSM Merritt stood
ready to answer the call to serve our nation.
Throughout these operations, he delivered on
the promise to keep America safe and con-
front our enemies under the most difficult con-
ditions.

During these deployments, CSM Merritt re-
ceived numerous medals and recognitions for
his service, including the Silver Star Medal,
Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal with
two oak/leaf clusters, Meritorious Service
Medal with two clusters, Army Commendation
Medal with three clusters, Combat Infantry
Badge, Presidential Unit Citation, Masters
Parachutists Badge with two combat jump
stars, National Defense Medal, European The-
ater of Operations Medal with Invasion Arrow-
head and four battle stars, European Victory
Medal, and the Occupation Medal with Ger-
many Bar.

While fighting our nation's battles overseas,
CSM Merritt's most important commitment re-
mained to his family back home. He was mar-
ried to his lovely wife, Sally, for more than 60
years before she passed away, and they
raised three wonderful children during CMS
Merritt's illustrious career. This country cannot
repay the debt we owe to CSM Merritt and his
family—the Merritts are true American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in
commemorating the career of the Command Ser-
geant Major Kenneth J. "Rock" Merritt.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE
OF THE U.S.-GUATEMALA RELA-
TIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I had a productive
and informative meeting last Friday, April 13,
with Manuel Espina, Guatemala's Ambassador
to the United States. We discussed the strong
economic relationship between our two coun-
tries and our cooperative efforts to address
drug trafficking and terrorism. I was particu-
larly pleased to learn that Guatemala has

taken strong efforts on border security, including by detaining 44 individuals with possible ties to ISIS who were traveling with false documents with the intention of using Guatemala as a transit point to reach the United States. I look forward to continuing working with my Guatemalan colleagues to strengthen the relationship between our two countries.

GIRLS OF STEEL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the Chairman's Award at the March 2018 Greater Pittsburgh Regional FIRST Robotics Competition in California, Pennsylvania.

This prestigious award honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate—and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. This award qualifies them to attend Championships that will be held in Detroit, Michigan, at the end of April 2018.

FIRST, which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is an organization dedicated to engaging our students in STEM fields. Hundreds of thousands of students gain practical, team-based engineering experiences through FIRST every year.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I believe competitions like these are incredible tools for helping our young people to explore potential careers in STEM. I've witnessed firsthand the incredible economic growth and development that these fields can bring in my home district, and I strongly believe that these fields are crucial to our nation's future prosperity. I want to commend organizations like FIRST for their important work in encouraging young people in these pursuits. The FIRST Robotics Competition allows students to apply creativity and critical thinking in the demanding and competitive field of robotics, all while instilling a strong sense of pride in participants.

Thomas Pope, Systems Manager for the Institute for Software Research at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science, won the prestigious Woodie Flowers Finalist Award at the Greater Pittsburgh Regional competition. This award is presented to an outstanding mentor in the robotics competition who best leads, inspires, and empowers their team using excellent communication skills in the art and science of engineering and design.

Kristina Hilko, a junior from Penn Hills High School, was a FIRST Dean's List Finalist at the Greater Pittsburgh Regional competition. This award recognizes an outstanding student leader whose passion for, and effectiveness at, attaining FIRST ideals is exemplary.

In March at the FIRST Miami Valley Regional (MVR) in Ohio, the Girls of Steel won the FIRST Team Spirit award that celebrates extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit through exceptional partnership and teamwork in furthering the objectives of FIRST. This award recognizes the impact that these young women are having in our community as they enthusiastically spread the word about FIRST and STEM—Science, Technology, Engineer-

ing, and Math. As a result of those efforts, Girls of Steel are often featured in print media and blog posts.

For the first time, they were also regional finalists at MVR with their award-winning robot.

I think that their remarkable accomplishments speak volumes about the dedication these young women have demonstrated in pursuing STEM careers, their ability to sustain their team, and the thousands of hours they have spent collectively doing outreach in the community.

Seventy-one young women from 8th through 12th grades associated with schools located in and around the Pittsburgh area represent this year's Girls of Steel program, and in recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I would like to mention each of these inspiring young ladies by name. They are Alexandra Adams, Aeryn Anderson, Meghna Behari, Emilia Bianchini, Emma Burnett, Gracie Cain, Rosy Chen, Suan Cho, Maria Chutko, Maya Cranor, Claire Cummings, Maansi Dasari, Riley Doyle, Anna Fedele, Rozie Fero, Isabella Florian, Alexandra George, Teadora Gildengers, Corinne Hartman, Sofia Heller, Kristina Hilko, Maia Hochheiser, Anna Jablonowski, Caroline Kenney, Janise Kim, Isabelle Kowenhoven, Mary Laird, Alice Liu, Sally Liu, Eve Mango, Svea McCann, Delanyie McMillan, Sree Mekala, Lauren Michaels, Abbey Murcek, Anna Nesbitt, Anne Kailin Northam, Jimin Oh, Helen Paulini, Lehka Pendyala, Emma Prokop, Grace Raida, Lauren Raida, Ananya Rao, Priya Ray, Sedona Rocher, Rachel Sadeh, Brittany Sadej, Lauren Scheller-Wolf, Sarah Seay, Alexa Selwood, Swathi Senthil, Kriti Shah, Vivian Shao, Lauren Shovlin, Makayla Shreve, Isha Sinha, Amari Smith, Imani Smith, Kavya Soman, Aditi Srivastava, Anna Staresinic, Aditri Thakur, Mikayla Trost, Langley Turcsanyi, Anja Vojt, Janet Wang, Alexandra Westray, Rebecca Wettergreen, Ziya Xu, and Julia Young.

Additionally, I want to commend the faculty and staff of Carnegie Mellon University's Field Robotics Center, who have mentored the Girls of Steel since 2010. As a result of their efforts, more young women experience real-world technological challenges and learn from some of the nation's best at solving these problems. These experiences will certainly benefit these young women in the future.

I look forward to hearing about their progress as they advance to the FIRST District Championship in Detroit—one of the largest competitions of its kind. It's the equivalent of the Super Bowl for robotics. This will be their eighth consecutive trip in eight years and they will be competing against top teams from all over the world.

I want to congratulate the Girls of Steel on their accomplishments. I wish them the best of luck in the upcoming robotics competition as well as continued success in their future academic and professional endeavors.

HONORING MRS. DONNA BRITT

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Donna Britt, a be-

loved community leader and longtime local television personality well known throughout my hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the surrounding area. Mrs. Britt will be recognized with the prestigious 12 Points Award at a Boy Scouts ceremony this month—a reward reserved for high caliber leaders whose lives embody the 12 traits that the program seeks to instill in its participants: trustworthiness, loyalty, helpfulness, friendliness, courteousness, kindness, obedience, cheerfulness, thriftiness, bravery, cleanliness and reverence. You'd be hard pressed, Mr. Speaker, to find a more fitting recipient than Donna, who has been a shining example of these values through her professional and personal life. An accomplished woman in media, Donna is a Public Relations Association of Louisiana Communicator of the Year and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisiana Association of Broadcasters, the Award of Excellence from Women in Media and the Volunteer Activist Award from the Emerge Center. She is also a breast cancer survivor currently battling a recent ALS diagnosis. Despite these medical challenges, Donna's resilience and warmth are unwavering—a mentality perhaps best revealed through her own personal mantra: "meet each new challenge and master it." Reflecting on her life and career in a recent interview, she remarked, "I've been very blessed, and challenges remind us what is important in life." Well, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of countless people across South Louisiana who have been blessed by Donna Britt, I'd like to point out that her example helps remind all of us about what is important in life. Congratulations, Donna, on this well-deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, on April 16, 2018, I missed votes in the House in order to attend funeral services for my late brother.

Had I been present, I would have voted: AYE on Roll Call No. 140—the Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act, H.R. 146; and AYE on Roll Call No. 141—the National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act, S. 167.

IN HONOR OF PETER AND JOANNE LINDAHL'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Peter and Joanne Lindahl on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Peter and Joanne on