

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 Alexandria 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, Delayne 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, Alexandria Westray, Rebecca Wettergreen, Ziya Xu, and Julia Young.

Additionally, I want to commend the faculty and staff of Carnegie Mellon University's First 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

the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

HONORING JACKSON SCOTT  
GARRETT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Garrett. Jackson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jackson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jackson has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jackson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

STEM PROGRAM AT WHEAT RIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the STEM Program at Wheat Ridge High School for being recognized as the 2017 Horizon Award winner by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Horizon Award recognizes an organization or program that is a rising star in the community and will contribute to the future economic vitality of Jefferson County. Established in 2014, Wheat Ridge High School's STEM Program focuses on taking science, technology, engineering & math taught in class and using it in a real-world application through the building of concept vehicles. Since it was created, it has expanded to 80 students. The cost to run the STEM program is approximately \$50,000 per year and 80 percent of these funds are raised by the students themselves, expanding their learning opportunity into fundraising and finance. Participating students are responsible for all their own fundraising, marketing, social media and videography. The Wheat Ridge High School STEM Program gives students real world experience from concept to implementation and everything in between.

Congratulations to the STEM Program at Wheat Ridge High School for this well-deserved award, and I thank them for their contribution to our community.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THERESA  
RANDLEMAN

**HON. MIKE BISHOP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the 8th Congressional District of Michigan joins in celebration as we commemorate Theresa Randleman as she is recognized with the Business Excellence Award by the Greater Lansing Area Club.

Whereas, Ms. Randleman has dedicated her career to speaking on behalf of women and female youth with an emphasis on producing, hosting, and sponsoring female empowerment programs. Her work ranges from international speaking which empowers women across the globe, to hosting local Expos which guide aspiring female entrepreneurs on the path to success. She has shared her knowledge and passion all around the world and dedicated herself to the ideals that advance our community.

Let it be known, that the Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable MICHAEL D. BISHOP of the 8th Congressional District of the State of Michigan, hereby recognizes Theresa Randleman for her 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.

TRUMP REPUBLICANS ARE WAG-  
ING WAR ON THE WORKING  
POOR

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to Executive Order 13828, entitled "Reducing Poverty in America by Promoting Opportunity and Economic Mobility," issued by the President last Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

The President would have the American people believe he is bringing the country together and growing the economy for all Americans.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Executive Order 13828 is a thinly-veiled attempt to restrict access to health care, housing, food, and many other basic living programs by adding onerous "work requirements."

These social safety net programs provide necessary government assistance to help Americans families maintain a basic standard of living, and are a safety net for the poorest of the poor.

Millions of Americans, despite working two jobs, depend on these programs just to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads for their families.

In addition, the vast majority of full-time workers live paycheck to paycheck.

In fact, 70 percent of Americans rely on at least one means tested federal program throughout their lives.

America, one of the richest countries in the world, should be able to help families caught in, to use the celebrated LBJ biographer Robert Caro's famous phrase, the "tentacles of circumstance."

However, we have a president who is insensitive to the plights of every day Americans.

Trump and the conservative acolytes who seek to implement his agenda paint an inaccurate portrayal of poor people as lazy "Welfare Queens" who would rather depend on the government than pull themselves up by their bootstraps, but nothing could be further from the true reality that millions of Americans face.

Mr. Speaker, the President should know that it is unreasonable to expect the poorest people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps when they do not have boots.

Our nation's social safety net programs already fail to help all of the families in need:

Only 1 in 4 poor families with children receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);

SNAP only provide \$1.40/per meal; and

Housing assistance reaches just 1 in 5 eligible families.

That is because the federal government has failed to raise the minimum wage in almost a decade, so even if you work a full-time minimum wage job, you are still living in poverty.

Members of the CBC are here to tell the American people, do not be fooled.

Donald Trump says this is about a "poverty trap," but the real trap is not raising the minimum wage.

The President opposes increasing the minimum wage and eliminating labor protections for middle and lower income workers in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, raising the minimum wage to just \$12 per hour would save \$53 billion in SNAP benefits alone.

Wage gaps between are larger today than they were in 1979.

For example, African American men's average hourly wages were 22.2 percent lower than those of white men in 1979 and declined to 31.0 percent lower by 2015.

Young African American women have been hardest hit since 2000.

The racial wealth gap is much larger than the wage or income gap by race.

Average wealth for white families is seven times higher than average wealth for African American families.

Worse still, median white wealth (wealth for the family in the exact middle of the overall distribution—wealthier than half of all families and less-wealthy than half) is twelve times higher than median African American wealth.

Wage gaps are growing primarily because of discrimination and racial differences in skills and worker characteristics.

Declining unionization has also had a role in the growing black-white wage gap, particularly for men newly joining the workforce.

African Americans have been disproportionately affected by the growing gap between pay and productivity.

Not only are the President's policies divisive along racial and cultural lines, they also serve to further increase economic inequality due to their clear design in favor of the wealthiest among us at the expense of everyone else.

Trump's billionaire tax heist robs the U.S. Treasury of \$1.5 trillion in resources that could be invested in economic growth in underserved communities.