

But the operation was a success.

More than 156,000 troops or paratroopers came ashore on D-Day, 73,000 from the U.S., 83,000 from Great Britain and Canada.

By the end of June 11, D-Day+5, 326,547 troops, 54,186 vehicles and 104,428 tons of supplies had come ashore.

And with them came the seeds for the victory in Europe that would come less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, with the fall of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the Nazis.

On the eve of the Normandy invasion, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, addressed the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces and said to them that they were about to embark upon a "Great Crusade," and that the "eyes of the world" were upon them.

He told them that their task would not be easy because the "enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely."

But, General Eisenhower said, "this is the year 1944. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory."

And march to victory they did, fully justifying General Eisenhower's "confidence in their courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle."

Because of the heroism of these men who willingly risked their lives to be the tip of the spear of liberty, the war was won and a world was saved for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, D-Day was, and remains, a day like no other in the history of man's sojourn on earth.

We remember Gettysburg.

There, President Lincoln paid tribute to those "who gave their lives so that the nation might live."

It is equally fitting and proper that we never forget D-Day and that we continue to honor those who risked all and gave all so that the light of freedom would never be extinguished in the world.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 231, 232, and 233 on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GORDON WALTER SONDKER

### HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, we lost a beloved Southwest Washington resident and Navy veteran this past month. Gordon Walter Sondker passed away on May 13th at the age of 91, leaving a legacy his family will carry on for generations.

Born on February 10, 1927, in Holton, Kansas, Gordon lived his life full of passion and

pride for his community and country. Gordon served in the Navy and was very active in the Monticello Lions Club and Toastmasters. He was also a founding member of the Southwest Washington Canoe Club. Gordon and his wife, Barbara, were also very involved in their community and gave back whenever they had the opportunity. Gordon was also involved with the Longview Community Church, American Field Service, Kelso Methodist Church and the Columbia Theatre Guild.

To say Gordon dedicated his life to helping others and working to better his community would be an understatement. Gordon was an exceptional example of what it means to be an American patriot, and he will be missed by everyone who was blessed to know him.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for Roll Call votes 231, 232, and 233 on June 5, 2018. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call vote 231, Yea on Roll Call vote 232, and Yea on Roll Call vote 233.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 175th Anniversary of the Independence Fire Department in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I proudly represent.

Throughout the first half of the 18th Century, Independence, Missouri was a prospering village on the cusp of achieving the noteworthy status of an industrialized community. As people planted their roots and a community flourished, there emerged an evident need to protect what they had established. In 1843, community members petitioned the state legislature, and the 12th General Assembly of Missouri approved the establishment of a volunteer fire department known as the "Independence Fire Company".

At that time, it is my understanding that these volunteers carved out an indelible mark of innovation in the community, with a manpowered wooden engine and buckets of water to put out fires as their only tools. In August of 1894, the Independence Fire Company transitioned from a volunteer based organization to a professionally paid department. Furthermore, it gives me great pride to know just how far this company has come over the years.

By the end of the 1950's, the department boasted the employment of more than 100 firemen, nearly five times the amount the company had at the beginning of the decade. Furthermore, with eight stations total, the department expanded its protection of a population

of 16,000 to nearly 100,000 citizens. This period of rapid expansion was initiated by the Missouri Inspection Bureau; however, it is my belief that these achievements would not have been possible without the hard work and determination of each and every individual within the department.

Today, the department encompasses 10 fire stations, 165 firefighters, and an area of 78 square miles. Under the current leadership of the Fire Chief Douglas Short, the Independence Fire Department remains an institution that protects and serves the community. Just as those who established the company 175 years ago, they maintain the same selfless sacrifice regarding the protection of countless lives and the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring the Independence Fire Department for their 175 years of dedicated service to the community. Let us join in recognizing the bravery of the men and women, past and present, who have honorably served the community and preserved the integrity and excellence of this establishment.

#### RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING DARLENE QUICHOCHO AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE JANE WHA- YOUNG KIM AWARD FOR TEACH- ING EXCELLENCE

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Darlene Quichocho as the recipient of the first Jane Wha-Young Kim Award for Teaching Excellence sponsored by the Jane Wha-Young Kim Foundation. Darlene currently teaches English and Speech and Drama at George Washington High School in Guam.

The Jane Wha-Young Kim Award for Teaching Excellence was established in 2017 to recognize one full-time middle or high school teacher on Guam who models excellence as a teaching professional. Darlene was chosen for her effective use of instructional practices and materials, her ability to inspire, enable, and assist students to achieve their full potential. She was also recognized for encouraging community engagement and service by students.

Darlene was chosen unanimously by a selection committee, made up of Jane Wha-Young Kim's family and prominent members of the education community on island. Darlene was chosen from among nine outstanding nominees based on her exemplary teaching record at the George Washington High School, her strong support for various extracurricular activities, and her exceptionally positive impact on her students, colleagues, and community. The award was presented to Darlene on Monday, April 23, 2018 at George Washington High School.

I join the people of Guam in congratulating Darlene, her family, and school community on this accomplishment. I look forward to her continued success and future contributions to our island.

FLORIDA INVENTORS HALL OF  
FAME 2018

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the seven inventors who have been recognized as the 2018 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. In order to be named as an inductee, these inventors were nominated by their peers nationwide and have undergone the scrutiny of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. As a result, their innovations have been identified as significantly impacting the quality of life, economic development, and welfare of their communities, the citizens of Florida, and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 by Paul R. Sanberg, Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Enterprise, and Judy Genshaft, President, at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. Its mission is to encourage individuals of all backgrounds to strive toward the betterment of Florida and society through continuous, groundbreaking innovation by celebrating the incredible scientific work that has been or is being accomplished in Florida and by its citizens.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors (living or dead) who are or have been residents of Florida. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and his or her invention should be significant to society as a whole, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized, or led to important innovations.

The 2018 inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame are:

Sara Blakely, Tampa Bay native and graduate of Florida State University in Tallahassee, who invented the renowned undergarment SPANX and built a billion dollar enterprise that has influenced fashion worldwide;

Emery N. Brown, born and raised in Ocala, anesthesiologist-statistician at Massachusetts General Hospital, MIT and Harvard professor, who made significant contributions to the advancement of the science and practice of anesthesiology;

Phillip A. Furman, St. Augustine resident and distinguished alumnus of the University of South Florida in Tampa, whose revolutionary discoveries led to the development of antiviral drugs that are used to treat some of the most insidious viral diseases;

Richard A. Houghten, founder and CEO of Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies, headquartered in Port St. Lucie, who has made a significant impact on the pharmaceutical industry through his novel approaches to drug discovery;

Edwin A. Link (1904–1981), former trustee and vice president for the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, who invented the flight simulator, commercialized in 1929;

Sudipta Seal, Trustee Chair, Pegasus and University Distinguished Professor at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, whose

discoveries led to groundbreaking therapeutic applications in regenerative nano-medicine;

Herbert Wertheim, optometric physician, graduate of the University of Florida in Gainesville, and honorary alumnus of Florida International University in Miami, who was the first to discover and produce ultraviolet light dye absorbers for eyeglass lenses.

Innovation and invention are the building blocks of our nation. I applaud these highly accomplished individuals and the organizations that support them in their quest to change the world in ways that truly benefit humanity. Furthermore, it is because of the perseverance of these inventors that future generations are encouraged to reach beyond their limits and push the boundaries of innovation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 74TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY INVA-  
SION

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 74th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. Today in 1944, more than 160,000 allied troops crossed the English Channel and landed on the heavily-fortified French coastline of Normandy. This was the largest amphibious military operation in history, and establishing a foothold in Continental Europe was critical to the ultimate defeat of Nazi Germany. The bravery and heroism displayed by American soldiers will forever be remembered.

There is an annual D-Day ceremony in Normandy, and this year 137 members of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte "Pride of Niner Nation" Marching Band will participate in the event. The University originally began as an education center for World War II veterans, and this is a terrific opportunity for the students to connect with the University's roots.

Nine of these members of the "Pride of Niner Nation" Marching Band are from North Carolina's Second Congressional District. Those students include Jeffrey Bubar, Michelle Dunbar, Hope Dunn, Kerriona Jones, Kelsey Lane, Victoria Mitchell, Abraham Ogden, Jonathan Shough, and Hailey Waynor.

Mr. Speaker, these students represent the best of our state and our nation, and it is an honor to represent them in Congress. Not only are these students part of the first university band from North Carolina that will represent the United States at this ceremony, they are the only college marching band from the United States that were selected to perform in today's ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, we will always owe a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women in uniform, and today's anniversary is a solemn reminder of the sacrifices that they have made to keep our nation secure. I thank the students of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte "Pride of Niner Nation" Marching Band for their dedication to honoring our nation and our veterans.

HONORING ALBUQUERQUE HIGH  
SCHOOL STEAM TEAM

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a talented group of students from the Albuquerque High School STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Team, which placed third overall and was the top placing United States team at the 2018 RoboRAVE International Entrepreneurial Challenge.

This impressive team, made up of Asael Diaz, Mary Cherino, and Dante Van Orten, created a robotic dog intended for fun and companionship. They also created a logo, brochure, and 30-second commercial video in order to present their invention to judges and competition attendees.

This competition represents an outstanding opportunity for students to gain valuable exposure to STEM disciplines, and I am so pleased that high schoolers from Albuquerque were able to participate and perform so well. I am hopeful that New Mexico will continue to be a leader in STEM fields and that our students will continue to apply their skills through outlets like this competition.

I would also like to recognize the team's sponsor, science teacher Valerie Kovach, as well as educational assistant Jean Hart, for the sacrifices they made in order to provide the team with valuable supervision and guidance.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the students and staff from the Albuquerque High School STEAM Team on their impressive performance at the 2018 RoboRAVE International Entrepreneurial Challenge. I wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

IN SUPPORT OF LGBTQ PRIDE  
MONTH AND HOUSTON PRIDE  
WEEK

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate LGBTQ Pride Month and the remarkable progress that has been made in making our country more diverse and tolerant and embracing of differences in the 18 years since the cruel murder of Matthew Shepherd, a college student from Laramie, Wyoming.

As a country, America has made and continues to make great progress in the area of social equality, as evidenced most dramatically by the seismic shift in public support for marriage equality over the past decade.

Today, supporters of marriage equality dramatically outnumber opponents by 61–35 percent; a near total reversal from 2004, when opponents outnumbered supporters 58–39 percent.

Our country made progress in bringing our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, mother and fathers out of the shadows with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which I was proud to support.