

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 ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY INVASION

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.

Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better.

In April 2015, President Obama issued a landmark Executive Order prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ persons in the workplace.

This civil rights victory ensures the tax dollars used to pay government contractors support contractors that are committed to equal employment opportunity for all persons regardless of sexual orientation.

This legislation marks a major shift from a time when the U.S. Civil Service Commission prohibited the hiring of LGBTQ persons to a time when the Secretary of Defense has selected an openly gay man as his chief of staff.

And we are making progress in realizing the goal of making H.R. 2282, the "Equality Act of 2017," the law of the land so LGBTQ people will finally be guaranteed explicit, permanent protection under the nation's existing civil rights laws against discrimination in vital areas of life, like employment, access to public spaces, housing, credit, education, jury service, and federally-funded programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that in 31 states LGBTQ people can get married on Sunday and remain at risk of being fired or evicted on Monday simply because of who they are.

This year marks the 49th anniversary of the LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement, where activist such as Frank Kamney led the struggle for the voices of the LGBTQ community to be heard.

Frank Kamney's courageous demonstrations inspired others to resist mistreatment and we witnessed in 1969 what happens when a community says enough is enough.

Our country has made much progress since the Stonewall uprising of 1969 but more remains to be done to realize the full promise of America that all are equally treated and protected by the law.

So there is much reason for joy and optimism when my home city of Houston hosts the Ruby Anniversary celebration of Pride Week later this month, June 14–24, 2018.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the 16th largest LGBTQ community in the nation is located in the Houston metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent.

The Houston LGBTQ community is culturally diverse, economically dynamic, and artistically vibrant.

Houston Pride Week has been an annual event for the last 39 years, since 1979, and promotes the individuality of Houston's ever-growing LGBTQ community.

The Pride Festival and Parade are at the center of a celebration annually attended by more than 700,000 people from Houston and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

All Americans should be deeply concerned over the increase in violence and acts of hate perpetrated against members of the LGBTQ community we have witnessed in recent months.

Especially troubling is the rise in bigotry and violent crimes against transgender people, particularly transgender women of color.

According to statistics compiled by the Human Rights Campaign, at least 22 trans

gender people in the United States lost their lives due to fatal violence, the most ever recorded.

Sadly, we are on pace to break this record in 2017, as 11 transgender persons have been killed in the first five months.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all Americans to visit Houston during Houston Pride Week to observe how we live out our conviction that "Love Will Conquer Hate."

Progress is made through the efforts of courageous men and women who actively engage their communities and face adversity to ensure that the rights of all are clearly recognized and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and who was the driving force behind the historic 1963 March on Washington.

Texas natives such as Sheryl Swoopes, a 3-time WNBA Most Valuable Player and champion for the Houston Comets, and former Houston Mayor Annise Parker.

These leaders have set an example of what can happen when we lift the limits of inequality and support our fellow Americans in their pursuits of their inalienable rights.

Other members of the LGBTQ community whose contributions have enriched American culture and made our country better include the great poet Langston Hughes; Mandy Carter, 2008 national co-chair of Obama Pride and lifelong activist; Billy Strayhorn the musician and gifted composer whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington gave the world some of the greatest jazz music ever; Tom Waddell, army medical doctor and Olympic athlete; and James Baldwin, one of the towering figures in the history of American literature.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who overcame prejudice and discrimination to make America a more welcoming place for succeeding generations of LGBTQ community members.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING PAYU-TA, INC. ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY SERVING THE GUAM COMMUNITY

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 Payu-ta, Inc. as they celebrate their 10th anniversary as a nonprofit organization serving the people of Guam. Payu-ta is Guam's umbrella association of non-governmental organizations. It was established in 2008 to address the need to enhance the services and effectiveness of non-governmental agencies on Guam. The mission of Payu-ta, Inc. is to support system that promotes and strengthens member organizations' capacity and advocates for a progressive and sustainable Guam community. The organization seeks to create collaborative partnerships that maximize resources and responds efficiently and effectively for positive community impact.

For the last 10 years, Payu-ta, Inc. has demonstrated that all those in our community are called to work together for the betterment of the island of Guam. The work of Payu-ta, Inc. has been a true investment in our community on Guam. The organization has recognized that non-profit organizations are a vital part of our society that contribute to the improved quality of life for all those in the community. Payu-ta, Inc. is made up of 27 member organization who provide a range of services to supplement the needs of the people of Guam. The members of Payu-ta, Inc. continue to deliver and enhance services to strengthen the island community. I am proud of the good work Payu-ta, Inc. has done over the last 10 years. I join the people of Guam in recognizing and commending Payu-ta, Inc. on its 10th anniversary as a nonprofit organization serving our island and people. I look forward to their continued success and contributions to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT AND BLACK EUROPEANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a resolution that I have introduced with my good friends, Congressman GREGORY MEES of New York and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE of Wisconsin. Our resolution recognizes the history and current situation of People of African Descent living in Europe and Black Europeans, and encourages the Secretary of State to take a number of steps to ensure their situation is improved following recommendations from the People of African Descent Week (PADWEEK) held by our colleagues in the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium from May 13–17, 2018.

As European Parliamentarian Cecile Kyenge has noted, "The People of African Descent Week reaffirms European values by developing strategic and coherent responses to make our society more inclusive in the face of rising racial prejudice and violence across Europe." Recommendations from the week included a European Black History Month and Remembrance Day for Victims of Colonialism and Enslavement, a fund for Black European led initiatives to address continuing disparities and discrimination and support empowerment initiatives, European-wide strategies for the inclusion of People of African Descent, and support for transatlantic exchanges on common issues of racial prejudice and discrimination.

The need for recognition of Black populations in Europe became clear ten years ago when I chaired a U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, "The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics," where we learned that the situation in Europe is very similar to the one in the United States. While the presence of Blacks in Europe can be traced to enslavement, colonization, military deployments, voluntary or forced migration, the movement of refugees and asylum seekers, or educational and other professional exchanges, the story of Europeans of African Descent and Black Europeans still remains