

Dale Erickson
 Renette Okiewicz
 Judy & Bob Wolf
 Marianne Zawitz
 Ken Fredgren
 Micki Morawitz
 Louis Finch
 Lyn Jagger

Madam Speaker, civic engagement is at the heart of a healthy community and it is clear from these awardees that Reston remains one of the healthiest communities in Northern Virginia. I congratulate all of the recipients on their awards and thank them for their service to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them great success in all their future endeavors.

AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Legion on their 100th birthday. The American Legion has been a leading voice in advocating for veterans, servicemembers, their families and communities.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of community-based programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to fellow servicemembers and veterans.

The American Legion Department of New Hampshire was chartered on August 1, 1920. There are currently 107 American Legion Posts located throughout the Granite State, boasting nearly 18,000 members. American Legion members contribute significantly to their local communities. Members participate in blood drives, and contribute generously to scholarships, community projects, emergency aid and youth activities. Many of the Posts have halls, where community enjoy social functions for events throughout the year.

The American Legion works closely with the Veterans Administration to ensure that the veterans in New Hampshire and across our country are cared for following their service to the United States. New Hampshire leaders work closely with military organizations and are proud to have two military installations within the state serving thousands of military members and their families.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, congratulations to the American Legion community for 100 years and all the best in the years to come.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 542, the "Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act of 2019."

H.R. 542 amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) within the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate.

The National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) is charged with testing and evaluating emerging technologies and conducting research and development (R&D) to assist emergency response providers in preparing for, and protecting against, threats of terrorism.

The National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) conducts nuclear and radiological R&D in support of response and recovery as well as providing technical advisory services to emergency response professionals.

It is critical that we better understand the technologies and research used to further develop and assist emergency response providers when dealing with threats of terrorism.

This bill will allow the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory to—

1. Conduct tests, evaluations, and assessments of current and emerging technologies.
2. Also, conduct tests regarding cybersecurity of such technologies that can connect to the internet, for emergency response providers;
3. conduct research and development on radiological and nuclear response and recovery;
4. carry out other such activities as the Secretary determines appropriate;
5. act as a technical advisor to emergency response providers.

When enacted, H.R. 542 will create a better understanding of the technical advisory services that are being used to help emergency response professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 542 to further evaluate emerging technologies as well as research radiological and nuclear response and recovery for the emergency response providers.

HONORING THE 2019 PLANO TEXAS GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate twenty four young women from high schools across Plano, Texas who were presented with the Gold Award by the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas for their dedication to our community.

The most prestigious accolade to earn, the Gold Award requires each young woman work tirelessly on a community project of their choice for up to eighty hours.

I want to thank each of these Girl Scouts for their exemplary service within Collin County and for demonstrating that age should never deter one from leading within their community.

It is with great pleasure I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these young ladies on their success.

2019 PLANO TEXAS GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mary Julienne Ragasajo, Mahnoor Muhammad, Sarah Cawthon, Katherine Xiong, Tahira Jones, Vennela Challagondla, Neha Jayarajan, Jiarong Joyce He, Madeline Osborne, Gauri Nukala, Sydney DeWolf, Madeline Polimerou's, Olivia King, Elizabeth Kokal, Regina Romero-Garza, Bianca Weimer, Carley Nelson, Kate Ohman, Joceyln Gillis, Rani Kumar Sarah Newman, Riya Danait, Kennedy Easter.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 BEST OF RESTON AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 28th Annual Best of Reston Awards for Community Service. These awards are the result of collaboration between Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and are presented to individuals, organizations, and businesses whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place.

I have been proud to represent this community since my days as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The level of civic engagement celebrated by these awards is a testament to the community spirit of Reston. I have often said that civic engagement is a key indicator of a healthy community and tonight's event proves that Reston continues to be one of the healthiest communities in all of Northern Virginia! That is due in no small part to the actions of those honored here this evening and I extend my congratulations to all of tonight's honorees. I also wish to thank John Thomas and Kerrie Wilson of Cornerstones and Charlene Wheeless and Mark Ingrao of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for their tireless efforts on behalf of others and in making our community one of the best places in the country in which to live, work and raise a family.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2019 Best of Reston Awards:

Bob Schnapp—Feeding Families—One Green Bag after Another
 Mike and Ellen Jennings—Expertise that Makes a Difference—It's Their Thing
 Omicron Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity/OKK Foundation, Inc.—The Colors of Their Service are Purple and Gold
 Maggie Parker—Passion that Leads to Lasting Success

Roz Rakoff—An Essential Community Kindness Connector

Kurt Rose—A Sparkling Gem of Community Spirit

Synergy Design & Construction (Mina and Mark Fies)—Constructing Better Lives by Design

The 2019 Wade Bolton-Ann Rodriguez Legacy Award—Entrusting Our Community's Future Recipient: Touching Heart (Helen and

Taylor Yi)—Generations Inspiring Gifts of Love from Open Hearts

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2019 Best of Reston honorees for their tremendous contributions. I thank Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for continuing this wonderful tradition, and I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for lending their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COAST GUARD YOUTH STEM PROGRAMS EXPANSION ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important bill, the Coast Guard Youth STEM Programs Expansion Act. This bill will allow the Coast Guard expanded authority to partner with the Department of Education and the Department of Defense to improve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education for America's elementary and secondary school students and their teachers.

Now more than ever the innovation capacity of the United States—our prosperity and security—depends on an effective and inclusive STEM education ecosystem and workforce. Given the Coast Guard's mission of coastal defense and maritime law enforcement, daily activity relies significantly on STEM skills. The ability to work with the Department of Education and Department of Defense on youth STEM programs will increase exposure and engagement to the adventures and intriguing opportunities of the Coast Guard's mission.

Specifically, the Coast Guard Youth STEM Programs Expansion Act will allow the Coast Guard to coordinate with the Department of Education to establish programs to improve STEM knowledge and skills for elementary and secondary school students and faculty. It will allow the Coast Guard to cooperate and coordinate with the Department of Defense, particularly through the very successful DOD STARBASE Program. It will also allow the Coast Guard to expand beyond traditional STEM skills to focus on expertise particularly important to their own mission, including limnology, marine science, and oceanography.

Basic STEM concepts are best learned at an early age—in elementary and secondary school—and are the essential prerequisites for career technical training, advanced college-level and graduate study, and success in workplaces. With the range of federal agencies partnered to coordinate federal STEM initiatives, the Coast Guard too has a vested interest in advancing this important mission.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and its goal of expanding the Coast Guard's efforts to engage and expose American youth to vital STEM education and workforce skills.

DHS OVERSEAS PERSONNEL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2590, the "DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2019."

H.R. 2590 is a continuation of an existing program that requires an overseas personal enhancement plan to be provided by the Department of Homeland Security.

Current law mandates that the Department of Homeland Security have a three-year strategic plan for overseas deployment of DHS personnel (P.L. 114–328 (authored by Chairman THOMPSON)).

The requirements currently state that DHS must provide Congress with a briefing regarding all DHS personnel with primary duties taking place overseas.

H.R. 2590 will build on the existing Federal DHS mandate by strengthening congressional oversight.

The resolution requires DHS to submit a plan to enhance the effectiveness of the overseas deployment of DHS personnel 90 days after their initial briefing.

The DHS plan will be required to include proposals on how to improve efforts to develop foreign partnership capacity and further the United States' counterterrorism mission.

The plan will also consider possible redeployment in response to evolving threats.

The DHS plan will result in enhanced collaboration and improved communication between DHS personnel at home and abroad.

A version of this bill passed the House 415–0 in the 115th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2590.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VERA RUBIN SURVEY TELESCOPE DESIGNATION ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am joined by my Science Committee colleague, Representative GONZÁLEZ COLÓN, in introducing the Vera Rubin Survey Telescope Designation Act.

Dr. Vera Cooper Rubin was a renowned astronomer and a staunch advocate for women in science. She was also a trailblazer. Born in 1928, Dr. Rubin's interest in astronomy was ignited early. As a young girl, she would rather stay up and watch the stars through her bedroom window than go to sleep.

After graduating from Vassar College in 1948 as the only woman astronomer in her class, Dr. Rubin hoped to pursue her doctoral studies at Princeton. However, the Princeton astrophysics graduate program did not admit women at the time and declined to send her a course catalog.

Dr. Rubin persisted and earned her master's degree at Cornell and her Ph.D. at Georgetown University before joining the Carnegie In-

stitution's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism.

As her career progressed, Dr. Rubin continued to face barriers because of her gender. For instance, after becoming the first woman to be officially permitted to observe at the prestigious Palomar Observatory in 1965, she discovered that the building had no women's restroom. Undeterred, Dr. Rubin created her own women's restroom by pasting a skirt cut-out over the stick figure of a man on the observatory bathroom.

While Dr. Rubin was breaking down barriers, she was also revolutionizing our understanding of the universe. In 1970, Dr. Rubin and her collaborator Dr. Kent Ford published some of the best evidence of the existence of dark matter. This groundbreaking work changed the conventional view of the universe from one dominated by light-emitting matter to one dominated by dark matter.

Dr. Rubin went on to become the second woman astronomer elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1981. She received the National Medal of Science from President Clinton in 1993, and she received many other honors and awards throughout her career.

Motivated by her own battle to garner respect as a woman in a male-dominated field, Dr. Rubin worked tirelessly to encourage girls interested in astronomy to pursue their dreams. She advocated for more women members of the National Academy of Sciences and for more women on review panels and academic search committees. She also advocated for more opportunities for girls in science. In her address to the University of California, Berkeley class of 1996, Dr. Rubin said "science is competitive, aggressive, demanding. It is also imaginative, inspiring, uplifting. You can do it, too," urging the students to "devise your own paths".

Dr. Rubin has a well-deserved place in history. This bill will honor her legacy by designating the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST), jointly funded by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy and set to begin operations in 2023, as the Vera Rubin Survey Telescope. The LSST was designed, in part, to probe the nature of dark matter. As a tribute to the woman whose pioneering work made this pursuit possible, this bill would ensure that it bears her name.

I urge my colleagues to join us and help us move this legislation forward into law.

HONORING ALAN D. MONROE

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan D. Monroe, a leader, a trailblazer, and an intellectual.

Alan D. Monroe grew up in Sherman, Texas. After graduating from Sherman High School in 1965, he attended Austin College where he graduated with Honors earning a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1969. In 1970, he obtained a Master of Arts at New York University. He continued his education at the University of Texas School of Law, graduating in 1975 with his juris doctor. Alan went on to practice law in many courts across Texas, including the United States Court of Appeals for