

than 720,000. In this capacity Michelle has been able to leverage her college degrees and bilingual skills to help resolve complex problems for many individuals in need.

Michelle is deeply principled, a hard worker, and an excellent team player. She consistently took on challenges to serve others using her intelligence, diplomacy, and empathy. Recently, Michelle served as the only staffer supporting a congressional fact-finding visit, when I traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border along with my colleague Congressman COLIN ALLRED. Michelle's language skills, subject matter knowledge, and ability to build trust allowed us to communicate with individuals seeking asylum in the United States. This firsthand experience provided us with valuable insights on how the humanitarian crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border is impacting national security, and how the complexities and ambiguities of immigration law, as well as changes in the law's application, can affect families on both sides of the border. She has worked on high-profile cases for my constituents, including complicated immigration work for the Washington Post journalist Jason Rezaian and his family following his imprisonment in Iran.

Over the years; Michelle has developed a keen understanding of how her casework informs my legislative agenda. She has worked with all levels of government, non-profits, community groups, and businesses to help address key local problems. She has become an integral member of my district staff, and she will be sorely missed as she leaves us to pursue law school. Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me and my staff in extending to Michelle our deep appreciation for her many good deeds and wishing her the best in all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. CARL REINER

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Carl Reiner, a beloved American and resident of California's 33rd Congressional District, who passed away at the age of 98 on June 29, 2020. With decades of work as an Emmy-winning writer, actor, director and producer, Carl's comedic genius and generous spirit impacted not only the world of comedy but also deepened our understanding of the human condition.

Born on March 20, 1922 in The Bronx, Carl graduated high school at 16 and started working as a shipping clerk and then as a machinist's helper before discovering a newspaper announcement for free drama classes sponsored by the Works Progress Administration.

From there, Carl began acting at a midtown Manhattan theater and joined a Shakespearean repertory company. He even took a job performing at Allaben Acres, a summer camp for adults in the Catskills where he met jazz singer Estelle Lebest, his wife for 65 years who passed in 2008.

Drafted into the Army during World War II, Carl trained as a French interpreter at Georgetown University before touring the South Pacific in G.I. revues in the Special Services en-

tertainment unit. After his honorable discharge in 1946, Carl branched into performing Broadway musicals, until landing a spot in an NBC comedy sketch show entitled "Your Show of Shows" as an actor and a writer. In this writing room with Mel Brooks, Mel Tolkin, Lucille Kallen, and Neil and Danny Simon, the idea of the 2,000-Year-Old-Man routine came to life with fellow comedian and director Mel Brooks.

Later, while writing for singer Dinah Shore's variety, Carl developed the idea for "The Dick Van Dyke Show," a comedy sitcom based on his own life experiences. This highly successful and well-crafted show would run for five seasons and earn Carl multiple Emmys for writing and producing.

After "The Dick Van Dyke Show," Carl transitioned into a full-time director, creating films like "The Jerk" (1979), "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid" (1982), "The Man with Two Brains" (1983) and "All of Me" (1984) with actor Steve Martin during the 1970s and 1980s. In his later years, Carl would return to acting, with his reoccurring roles in the television sitcom *Frasier* and the *Ocean's Eleven* movie franchise, and even becoming a prolific writer of books. As Carl once said, "The absolute truth is the thing that makes people laugh."

Carl is survived by his son Rob Reiner, a noted actor, director, producer, and political activist; son Lucas Reiner, an artist; daughter Annie Reiner, a psychoanalyst; and his five grandchildren. May his compassion, kindness, and dedication to the craft of comedy continue to live on through the millions of people he brought joy to and inspired.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE IOWA MASK BRIGADE AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, as millions of individuals, families, and essential workers struggle to obtain the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) required to keep them safe during these difficult times, volunteer organizations like the Iowa Mask Brigade have stepped up to provide these critical items to keep our citizens and communities safe. That is why today, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Iowa Mask Brigade as this week's Iowan of the Week.

The Iowa Mask Brigade was founded earlier this year by Connie Klug after she received a distressed call from her niece, an emergency room doctor in desperate need of PPE. Connie immediately got to work researching protective masks and found that filters were the most important feature that made them effective. Although commercial face mask filters were not available, Connie used her problem-solving skills to create her own. She began cutting furnace filters from the company 3M, the same company that produces the coveted N95 masks. Sandwiching this filter in between two layers of high-quality cotton fabric, Connie produced her first mask in a process the New York Times would later consider the best method of making homemade masks. Connie, a quilter, enlisted the help of two of her seam-

stress friends, who enlisted the help of their friends, and an organization instantly formed as volunteers coalesced around one simple idea: to provide masks to those who need them.

In their first month of operation, the Iowa Mask Brigade used over 75 furnace filters. Today, the Iowa Mask Brigade consists of 35 volunteers who have collectively produced almost 8,000 masks since its inception in March.

One of those volunteers is Ray Getting, who handles much of the logistics within the Brigade. In a recent conversation, he mentioned everyone who has received a mask is so incredibly appreciative. The group maintains extremely high standards for quality, and if a mask wasn't perfect, it wasn't sent out. He's been able to send high quality masks to people he cares about in places he knows it's going to make a difference.

As the organization has grown, their mask-making has become more innovative. When the Brigade ran out of elastic bands for ear loops, they turned to hairbands. Today, they have purchased over 25,000 hairbands for their masks, and they have shared this technique, as well as many others they have developed, with other mask-making organizations.

The Iowa Mask Brigade has sent masks to people in need all over the United States. From the Iowa's Dallas County Hospital to San Antonio to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, for whom they have created a custom design to fit their preferences. Now, the Brigade mostly serves low income housing, hospitals, and nursing homes, such as the APEHA senior living apartments in Johnston, Iowa.

In honoring the Iowa Mask Brigade today, I want to underscore the values of hard work, dedication, persistence, and problem-solving that Iowans demonstrate in spades during this difficult time. As Connie Klug said, "A unique characteristic of Iowans is that we don't get defeated easily. We just went to work and overcame it. That to me is Iowans: we don't get discouraged; we just get to work. We're not helpless. We rolled up our sleeves and said, there are not problems that we can't figure out."

I am so proud to recognize the Iowa Mask Brigade for their outstanding work and their unwavering willingness to help all those in need. It is my hope that other individuals and organizations are inspired to take action of their own. The volunteers powering the Iowa Mask Brigade have not only given protective gear to people in need, but also instilled hope when we need it most. It is my honor to share the Iowa Mask Brigade's story and recognize the group as our Iowan of the Week.

CADET LAITYN TIPPY SELECTED AS OVERALL AFJROTC AND AFA CADET LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cadet Laityn Tippy from Westside High School and the Air Force JROTC, Unit No. AR20061, in Jonesboro, AR,

as the Overall AFJROTC and AFA Cadet Leadership Award Winner for 2019–2020. Cadet Tippy was selected from 890 AFJROTC Units and over 125,000 AFJROTC cadets in the United States and on military installations overseas. The selection process started with each unit nominating their top cadet for the award. From there, 48 state winners were selected, followed by eight regional winners and then finally, one national winner, recognizing the most outstanding AFJROTC cadet in the world.

Cadet Tippy has a 4.0 GPA, putting her at the top of her graduating class going into her senior year, despite a demanding schedule with college level courses and an extra-curricular schedule that includes National Honor Society, Student Council, Track, and Cross Country. She holds the unit record in every category of the AFJROTC Physical Fitness Test, including the mile run, push-ups, and crunches. She finished first, from over 100 female competitors, in two local physical fitness competitions with other JROTC units from Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri and Mississippi.

Earlier in the school year, Cadet Tippy was one of only 200 AFJROTC cadets, from over 3,000 applicants, to be selected to attend the AFJROTC Flight Academy, a summer scholarship program valued at over \$25,000, which allows cadets to earn their private pilot license during a 10-week course at a college or university. Because of COVID-19, this course has been postponed until the summer of 2021. She is in the process of applying for the Air Force Academy and plans to be an Air Force officer and pilot.

It is obvious to all that read her accolades that Cadet Tippy is more than deserving of this achievement. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Cadet Tippy a congratulations.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to confront the health and economic crises presented by COVID-19, Americans are understandably anxious about the future. I take hope in our history of meeting extraordinary challenges with new innovations, and I believe research and development will be a key part in addressing today's challenges as well.

Our federal government supports some of the brightest and most creative minds in the world at America's colleges and universities through research grants administered by the National Science Foundation. Particularly in this time of economic turmoil, we must ensure that we fully capitalize on these research investments by transitioning scientific discovery into tangible products, creating new businesses for a healthy and prosperous America.

My amendment highlights the importance of programs like the National Science Foundation Innovation Corps in facilitating tech transfer. I-Corps, as it is known, began in 2011 and utilizes the Lean LaunchPad curriculum developed by serial entrepreneur Steve Blank to train faculty, students, and other researchers

in entrepreneurship. The immersive experience requires participants to get out of the lab and interview industry leaders and potential customers. Researchers gain an improved understanding of how their work could be further applied to meet real needs in our nation. These insights improve potential commercialization of their work and influence future research directions.

According to the spring 2019 Innovation Corps biennial report, since inception in 2011 I-Corps has trained 1,315 teams with a total of 3,745 people. These participants have raised more than \$300 million in follow-on funding and created 644 startups. The report highlights recent participating teams, including Respira Labs, which spun out of the University of California Berkeley to develop a technology incorporating AI to predict chronic obstructive pulmonary disease attacks; Diligent Robotics, which develops robotic equipment that supports healthcare staff in Texas; and Ecovia Renewables, founded at the University of Michigan to create compostable alternatives to petrochemical polymers found in a variety of commercial products. These and many other companies are now in existence due to the National Science Foundation research funding and the training that enabled their founders to transition their findings into tangible products Americans can use.

I thank my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for increasing funding for this critical program in this year's CJS appropriations bill, to a total of \$40 million. I encourage my colleagues to continue their strong support for National Science Foundation university research programs and I-Corps in future budgets.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS BRYAN BALTIERRA, USMC

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class (Pfc) Bryan Baltierra. Throughout the history of our republic we have asked young men and women to voluntarily step forward to guard and protect the freedoms we hold so dear. Pfc. Baltierra of Corona, California, took that step forward and assumed the duties, responsibilities, and sacrifices that are required of all Americans who join the finest military in history. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to our country.

Pfc. Baltierra was born September 18, 2001, to Carlos and Evelyn Baltierra. As a child, he aspired to serve his country by joining the military and after graduating from Centennial High School, Bryan achieved his dream. On July 30, 2019, at the age of only 17, he was sworn into the U.S. Marine Corps. After graduating from basic training, Bryan was stationed at Camp Pendleton where he remained close to his family and was able to visit with them. Bryan is described as someone who radiated positivity, which you can clearly see from his bright smile. He shared with his parents and sisters how he loved the brotherhood that ac-

companied being a Marine and how he also came to enjoy the rigorous training and fitness that was required of him.

On July 30, 2020, exactly one year after he was sworn into the Marine Corps, Pfc. Baltierra boarded an amphibious assault vehicle for a routine exercise in training for his upcoming September deployment. The vehicle sank off the coast of San Clemente Island, resulting in the death of Pfc. Baltierra, seven other marines, and a sailor.

As we look at the rich history of our country, we realize that this history is comprised of men and women, just like Pfc. Baltierra, who so bravely chose a life of military service. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they will be called to face, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. Pfc. Baltierra is survived by his father, Carlos, mother, Evelyn, and three sisters, Natalie, Emily, and Sara.

While we send our deepest sympathies to his family, there are no words that can express or alleviate the grief of losing a son and brother. Pfc. Baltierra's parents and sisters have given a part of themselves in the loss of Bryan, and I hope they know that their son and brother, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will always be remembered.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE
CPL. MARCO A. BARRANCO

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mourn the tragic loss of Lance Cpl. Marco A. Barranco from Montebello, California. Lance Cpl. Barranco, known to his loved ones and friends as "Andy," proudly served our country as a United States Marine in the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit based at Camp Pendleton.

On Thursday, July 30th, Lance Cpl. Barranco was training on an amphibious assault vehicle off the coast of San Clemente Island, California. Due to an incident that is still under investigation, the vehicle sank hundreds of feet into the water. Lance Cpl. Barranco and seven other Marines and one Sailor of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit were killed or presumed dead. Seven Marines were rescued following the incident, two of whom were injured.

I offer my deepest condolences to Lance Cpl. Barranco's loved ones and friends for their heartbreaking loss. He exemplified the best of our armed forces and was known to his family, friends, and neighbors as an incredibly kind man who would do anything to help those in need. His sister, Selma, noted that he always wanted to serve his country, even as a boy when he dressed up like a G.I. Joe for Halloween.

Though Lance Cpl. Barranco was taken before he had the chance to fully live out the promise of his life, he had already fulfilled so much of that promise as a rifleman in the United States Marine Corps. His passing is a loss not just for all who were lucky to know him, but for a nation for which he put his life on the line. He is survived by his two sisters, a niece and an unborn nephew, and both of