

witnessed explosive regional growth and now serves the Town of Herndon; western Fairfax County, including the communities of Chantilly, Centreville and Fairfax; and eastern Loudoun County, including the communities of Sterling/Dulles, South Riding, and parts of Ashburn. The DRCC defines itself as a workforce chamber and is known for its leadership in the areas of diversity, education, and transportation advocacy.

As the former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and now as a Member of Congress representing much of this community, I have been proud to partner with the DRCC on promoting the region's pro-business climate and expanding Metro's Silver Line into the Dulles Corridor.

Northern Virginia is considered one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family. One factor in this designation is our outstanding school systems. The DRCC recognizes the importance of a globally competitive K–12 education system to our workforce development and believes the most important investment Virginia can make is in human capital.

The jobs of the future and the ability of our businesses to compete rest in having a well-trained workforce. As an elected representative and a parent, I believe that investing in education and college access programs, with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, is an investment in America and will spur innovation and set our young people on a path for lifelong success. This year's awardees have demonstrated how outstanding educators are crucial leaders on that journey. Therefore, I am pleased to join the chamber in congratulating the following recipients of the 2013 Educator of the Year Award:

Ms. Whitney Branisteanu, Dranesville Elementary School; Ms. Hallie Case, Herndon Middle School; Ms. Barbara Clougherty, Chantilly High School; Ms. Jen Howe, Chantilly Academy; Mr. Jeff Jones, Mountain View High School; Ms. Cheryl McGovern, Herndon Elementary School; Ms. Kelly Mosgrove, Ormond Stone Middle School; Ms. Amy Valint, Herndon High School; Ms. Kay Ward, Liberty Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals and thanking them for their many contributions to our children's success and our nation's future.

HONORING ANDREW L. HAWKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a war veteran, Mr. Andrew L. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins is a native of Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. He is the youngest son born to the late Dave and Evelyn Hawkins of Webb. He received his early education in the West Tallahatchie School District and is a 1966 graduate of West District High School of Sumner. Mr. Hawkins migrated to Chicago, IL after graduation, and shortly thereafter was inducted into the United States Army.

Mr. Hawkins attended Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training (AIT) in Fort Polk, Louisiana. He qualified with the 45 caliber, M–

14 and M–16 as a marksman and sharp shooter. His next duty station following AIT landed him in Southeast Asia (Vietnam) from 1969 to 1970, where he served one year of duty initially while stationed in La Kai for several months with the First Infantry Division. The remainder of his tour was with the 101st Airborne Division, where he was wounded in action and was awarded a Purple Heart Metal and returned home.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, he began pursuing higher education at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois on the GI Bill. He completed his bachelor's degree and much of his master's at DePaul. He later moved back to his home state of Mississippi because he felt that his military experience had equipped him with life skills and discipline to cope with life challenges back home. Mr. Hawkins attributes his will to survive and success to his parents, community, elementary and high school teachers, and his strong spiritual upbringing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing wounded Vietnam War Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Andrew L. Hawkins, for his dedication and service to his country while in the United States Army.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF STEM EDUCATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to this country's future and posterity. Educating a STEM workforce has become increasingly central to U.S. economic competitiveness and growth and requires the collaborative efforts of government, private industry and non-profits to succeed.

STEM fields are more important than ever to the development and maintenance of a high standard of life than ever. However, over the past several decades the performance of American students in STEM subjects has lagged behind their international peers. And at the same time that students are spending less time studying science in the classroom than they did a decade ago, only one out of every five households has access to STEM extracurricular activities.

Employers are increasingly frustrated when searching for qualified applicants for high-paying STEM jobs. Job growth in STEM fields offers great potential, estimated to grow at the rate of 17 percent by 2018—nearly double the rate of non-STEM related careers. Given these figures, it is difficult to understate the importance of STEM education, both in and outside of school, for our nation's collective economic future and the future our nation's students. Federal, state, and local governments must partner with the private sector to provide American students with the resources necessary to compete in an increasingly competitive global market.

One private sector campaign aimed at addressing this issue is Time Warner Cable's Connect a Million Minds (Camm) program. Camm is designed to inspire the next generation of problem solvers by connecting young

people to the wonders of STEM outside of the classroom. Introduced in November 2009 in conjunction with President Obama's "Educate to Innovate" effort, Camm has answered the President's call-to action for cross-sector partnerships to address the STEM crisis. In downstate New York, Camm connects parents and students with dozens of local STEM resources that would otherwise remain untapped, including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the National Park Service at Hamilton Grange, and the New York Transit Museum.

I want to congratulate Time Warner Cable for this important initiative and urge my colleague to recognize how essential such programs are to all of our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR
PAY ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 4th anniversary of The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, I would like to take a moment to recognize the importance of equal pay for equal work. Equal opportunity for women—of which equal pay is a fundamental facet—is an essential premise for our nation to be a Democracy.

In 2009, the Democratic Congress took strides to further close the gender discrimination gap in the professional work environment by passing The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which was the first bill President Obama signed law. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is of enormous importance for women's rights in the workplace. For decades, companies large and small have paid women less for the same work compared to their male counterparts. This law reaffirmed that each occurrence of pay and compensation discrimination against women violates title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The law addressed a Supreme Court ruling in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company* that undermined statutory protections against discrimination by unduly restricting the time period in which victims of discrimination could challenge and recover for discriminatory compensation decisions or other practices, contrary to the intent of Congress. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act restored women's right to challenge employers once they discovered they were wrongfully discriminated against in terms of pay and benefits. Further, the law clarified that employees are entitled to up to two years of backpay for such discrimination, as provided under title VII.

Since enactment, courts around the country have applied the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act as Congress intended, for straightforward pay discrimination cases based on sex, race, disability, and age. In clarifying the period during which a worker may file a discrimination claim by each unfair paycheck, the law has provided a proper time frame extension to file lawsuits against employers for wage discrepancies. The anniversary of the signing of this bill reflects the commitment of our nation to ensure equal pay for all Americans and serves as a reminder that we must monitor and protect civil rights laws.