

Innovations that grew from scientific endeavors at the Liquid Crystal Institute have fundamentally changed our modern life, like the invention of the twisted nematic cell, the heart of modern Liquid Crystal Displays. On Kent State University's campus, the Liquid Crystal and Materials Sciences building houses more than 25 individual labs and rooms for prototype development of new liquid crystal displays. There, the Institute is conducting groundbreaking research in advanced photonics, sensors, bio- and medical molecular devices, and materials for new energy applications. Recently, a team of scientists working with the Liquid Crystal Institute developed a heat-sensitive fabric to help diabetics detect harmful inflammation and infections.

So this month we celebrate 50 years of innovation and research at the Liquid Crystal Institute of Kent State University and I know my colleagues join me in recognizing the importance of this great Ohio institution.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF FIRST
SERGEANT PETER ANDREW
MCKENNA JR., UNITED STATES
ARMY SPECIAL FORCES

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with both profound sadness and deep gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen decorated American hero. On Friday, August 7, 2015, First Sergeant Peter Andrew McKenna Jr. of the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, located in Florida's First Congressional District, tragically lost his life during an attack on a NATO facility in Kabul, Afghanistan. First Sergeant McKenna, now laid to rest in Rhode Island, was only 35 years old, but lived a lifetime marked by and full of service.

Born to Peter and Carol McKenna of Bristol, Rhode Island, 1SG McKenna graduated from Mt. Hope High School in 1998. Upon his graduation, he followed his family's example of service, began his career as an Army infantryman, and then passed the grueling Special Forces qualifying course and earned his Green Beret in 2002. Upon completion of the Q-Course, he was assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group, now based at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, as communications sergeant. During his selfless service, 1SG McKenna participated in six combat deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan while serving our Nation with the utmost distinction throughout his 17-year career.

Among his many awards and accolades are the Bronze Star with Valor, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Master Free Fall Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

He, however, was not only a consummate leader and selfless warrior in his professional life, but his personal life as well. He was recently recognized for having traveled the furthest distance to be at the 2015 Bristol Fourth Of July Celebration.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a humble and grateful Nation, I thank Andrew's family, for the love, counsel, guidance, and support given to him, which helped make him the hero he became. His life stands as a testament that freedom is not free, and to that end, his legacy will echo in time as an example of the ultimate sacrifice. My wife, Vicki, joins me in praying that God be with his daughter Rebecca, parents Peter and Carol, and the rest of his family and friends during this time of great mourning, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF JOE KANFER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Joe Kanfer, the recipient of the 48th Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award. Joe is the chairman and CEO of GOJO Industries. In addition to his position at GOJO Industries, Joe is a chairman for Startvest Partners, a firm that develops biotech startups in Israel. He is honored today for his continuous support in strengthening the Jewish community and his dedication to improving education and health care, and reducing poverty and hunger. Joe has accomplished this work along with his wife, Pam, his four children and their spouses through the Lippman Kanfer Family Philanthropies and GOJO.

His numerous accomplishments also include a three-year term as the chair of the Jewish Federations of North America, chairman of the Jewish Education Service of North America and a member of the Jewish Agency for Israel in Jerusalem. He currently serves as chair of the Honeymoon Israel Foundation. Joe Kanfer is not only known for his work on a national level, but also on a local level. He serves as chairman for countless organizations in the greater Akron Area including Akron Tomorrow, the Greater Akron Chamber Executive Committee, Bits and Atoms Innovation Center, and just recently, the Akron Children's Hospital's Building on a Promise Campaign. In addition, he is a trustee for the Jewish Community Board of Akron and the Lippman School. He is also the former vice president of University of Akron Board of Trustees and trustee of the Shaw Jewish Community center and Akron Roundtable.

It is my pleasure to recognize a man who has worked so hard to strengthen his community on a local and national level. I applaud Joe Kanfer and could not imagine a better recipient for this year's Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award.

HONORING FELICIA GASTON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Felicia Gaston, who, since founding Performing Stars of Marin 25 years ago, has

endeavored to give low-income and at-risk children in the North Bay access to the arts. For two and a half decades, Ms. Gaston has worked tirelessly to help more than 1,300 young people in Marin City and San Rafael "reach for the stars" through performance, giving them an outlet for creativity and pushing them to develop discipline, self-reliance, and self-esteem in their early years and beyond.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Ms. Gaston moved to California with her family as a teenager, later relocating to the Bay Area in college. She founded Performing Stars in 1990 to give local children access to opportunities she never had. As a black child in the South, Ms. Gaston encountered segregation and discrimination, which prevented her from taking classes at her local ballet school. By providing opportunities for young people to dance, perform, and express themselves through art regardless of skin color or socioeconomic background, her leadership and tenacity has helped other children avoid the struggle she faced.

Performing Stars has impacted hundreds of students and thousands of family members, classmates, and friends. Participants receive access to scholarships for arts programs, opportunities for performance, group trips to local arts events, and life skills workshops. More than that, they become part of the outstanding Performing Stars community that Ms. Gaston has created.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor and thank Felicia Gaston for her many years of dedicated service in improving young lives in our community. On behalf of the many individuals whose lives she's changed, I am privileged to express deep gratitude to Ms. Felicia Gaston for her continuing leadership, thoughtfulness, and passion.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESTELLA
MAVIS KNOX

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to recognize the passing of one of East Palo Alto's guiding spirits. Estella Mavis Knox, known as Mavis, passed from this earth on August 11, 2015. She had a profound impact upon the community in which she lived for five decades.

Mavis Knox was born on January 15, 1939 in Durant, Mississippi. From this small town of 2,500 in America's segregated south, Mavis eventually settled in East Palo Alto, California, a remarkable community in my district, also a small town, set amidst the larger San Francisco Bay Area with all of its diversity, vibrancy and social activism.

Mavis raised her three children as a single mother and still found the time and energy, at the age of 31, to earn a bachelor's degree in sociology from San Jose State University. She would later complete her master's at San Jose State. Mr. Speaker and members, this single mother, through her personal example and standards, also inspired her children to attend two historically black colleges: Morehouse and Tuskegee.

Nairobi College opened in East Palo Alto in 1969. Mavis was an early administrator. A