

field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Deepshikha was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to her dedication to her academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Deepshikha and all of her hard work, and know she will make Fresno proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Deepshikha for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

HONORING LANIER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lanier High School. It takes its name from the late, distinguished, William Henry Lanier, a former President of Alcorn College and the first Supervisor of Jackson Colored Public Schools.

Lanier was born a slave in Huntsville, Alabama in 1851. He attended Tougaloo College, Oberlin College and Fisk University and received his B.A. degree from Roger Williams University. He served as president of Alcorn A&M for six years. Lanier taught school in Forest, Winona, Black Hawk, Carrollton, Yazoo City and Jackson. He was principal of the Robertson School from 1912–1929.

Lanier was first organized as a junior-senior high school in 1925, providing instruction for pupils from the seventh through the twelfth grades. A new chapter was added to our history when, on February 8, 1954, they transferred from the old Lanier at 136 East Ash Street and occupied the new Lanier Junior-Senior High School building at 833 West Maple Street. On January 27, 1972, the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered that Lanier School be designated as a center for the enrollment of 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. In 1991, 9th grade students were added to the enrollment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lanier High School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "Yes" on roll call vote No. 139 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1567, as amended). "Yes" on roll call vote No. 140 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4676, as amended).

E.L. KENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMED A 2015 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate E.L. Kent Elementary School in Carrollton, Texas, for earning the distinction of being named one of the nation's most successful schools through the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program.

In 1982, the Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize schools for their high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify the methods of thriving American schools to inspire others to imitate their successful practices.

In September of 2015, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan named E.L. Kent Elementary School as a 2015 Blue Ribbon School. Schools selected for national honors reflect high standards and accountability to their students and community. E.L. Kent Elementary School remains committed to enhancing the quality of learning for its students. The tireless work of the school's educators and families cannot go unnoticed, along with the hard work of the students who helped earn this award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating E.L. Kent Elementary School on its accomplishment as a National Blue Ribbon School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, on Roll Call 145, I would have voted No.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa Bay. With much of the world engulfed in conflict in 1939, the War Department selected Tampa to house a new military air field which would go on to become MacDill Air Force Base. With Tampa's natural and strategic location, MacDill has grown and expanded over its 75 years serving as a testament to our nation's military might and Tampa's dedication to supporting the brave men and women of the Armed Services.

Officially activated on April 16, 1941, MacDill trained World War II airmen to fly and operate bombers including the B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-26 Marauder. Throughout

the Second World War, MacDill saw thousands of servicemen train to lead the force in the dangerous skies over Europe. From start to finish, MacDill played a critical role in our country's great military achievement.

After World War II, the bombers gave way to fighters when MacDill became a Tactical Air Command. The turmoil in the 1960s again highlighted the strategic importance of MacDill's location. Throughout the Vietnam War and up until the first Gulf War in 1991, Tampa became a home for the F-4 Phantoms and later F-16 Fighting Falcons. Between 1979 and 1993, about half of all F-16 fighter pilots trained at MacDill Air Force Base.

Currently, MacDill houses the 6th Air Mobility Wing and 39 Mission Teammates, including U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command. MacDill is home to more than 13,000 military and civilian personnel and about 170,000 retirees live in the Tampa area and depend on the base for many necessary services. MacDill remains a vital economic driver and a source of good paying jobs for Tampa Bay residents. MacDill extends the global reach of U.S. air power through global air refueling and airlift operations and is a mission our community embraces.

In facing our nation's ongoing and future national security challenges, I am confident that MacDill will continue to play a vital role in protecting the safety of our families and all Americans. Tampa is proud to host and I am honored to represent MacDill Air Force Base every day and today on its 75 year anniversary.

HONORING LILLIE V. DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lillie V. Thompson Davis.

Mrs. Lillie V. Thompson Davis, a life time resident of Quitman County, MS, has a strong belief in God; she is a friend to education, a retired school teacher of 42 years, and lives in Marks, MS. She has a teaching experience of more than forty-two years which include seventeen years as assistant principal, Adult Education teacher, teaching in the prison system, and in the state of Indiana. She is a graduate of Rust College Holly Springs, MS and earned a Master of Education from the University of MS Oxford, MS. She was one of the first of four teachers who taught in an integrated school system in an all white school in Marks, MS. Mrs. Davis is an advocate for education and has tutored students in reading and math without a fee, and made generous donations to an educational program. She is sustaining her teaching career as an advanced adult Sunday School teacher at her membership church in Marks, MS.

She initiated the idea to build a much needed gym for the Quitman County Middle School, by the passing of a bond issue. The first attempt to pass the bond issue failed by 23 votes in November of 2013, but because of her fervent prayers, profound determination, and help of many dedicated hard working individuals, the bond issue of four million dollars was tried a second time and passed in November, 2014. She has been a member of