

Rankin was on the frontlines of the national suffrage fight and advocated relentlessly for the creation of a Committee on Woman Suffrage, serving on that committee once it was created. Casting an “aye” vote for the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Rankin was the only woman who ever voted to give women the right to vote.

Rankin is just one of many shining examples of women knocking down barriers. I believe the history of outstanding women and many others should be shared with all Americans to uplift and inspire them. I would like to share several outstanding women from Texas who have been several “firsts,” but certainly not “lasts” of their time.

Lera Millard Thomas was the first woman elected to Congress from the state of Texas. When her husband died in February of 1966, a special election was called in March and she was elected as a Democrat to succeed her husband. Thomas served on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee where she helped to expand the Houston Ship Channel, one of the country’s busiest seaports. She chose not to run for reelection and instead dedicated her time to members of the armed services in Vietnam as a special liaison to the Houston Chronicle.

Barbara Jordan was the first black woman elected to Congress and the first woman to represent Texas in her own right in the House of Representatives. Jordan was the first black woman to serve in the Texas State Senate and stayed there for eight years. Elected to the House in 1972, she served until 1979 and gained national praise for her legislative prowess and for her rhetoric and high morals. After retirement, Jordan returned to her former profession of teaching.

Unfortunately, in Texas, the number of women in Congress is historically very low. Currently, there are three women members; myself, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, and Congresswoman KAY GRANGER. In the Senate, former Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison was the first and only woman to represent Texas. In 2017, this is unacceptable. When Jeannette Rankin said that she would not be the last woman in Congress, I believe that she imagined a Congress much different from this one, a Congress that mirrored our society.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DAILY CARDINAL NEWSPAPER

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of The Daily Cardinal newspaper serving the University of Wisconsin-Madison Campus since its debut on April 4, 1892.

This distinguished student newspaper has been a valued staple on the University of Wisconsin-campus since it was founded by two natives of Monroe Wisconsin, who originally distributed the newspaper on horseback. One of its founders, William Wesley Young, was the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s first journalism graduate. In fact, the current home of UW-Madison’s School of Journalism in Vilas Hall is built on the site of former Cardinal offices.

Thousands of students used the Daily Cardinal to pursue investigative journalism, expose corruption and develop photographic and storytelling skills. Alumni of the paper have subsequently become not only leaders in journalism, but also in politics, business, law, and medicine. Some of these students have even subsequently gone on to win Pulitzer Prizes, Emmys, Peabody awards, and Nobel prizes.

As one of the oldest college student newspapers in the United States, The Daily Cardinal has survived and thrived through decades of change at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Its editorial board has proudly been on the forefront of advocating for important issues and advancing progressive stances from women’s suffrage to civil rights to marriage equality, while also fighting injustice and racism.

Today, it is my honor to commend The Daily Cardinal staff, advisors, and distinguished alumni for all they have accomplished at this venerable student newspaper for the past 125 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the 125th anniversary of The Daily Cardinal.

RECOGNIZING THE SUNY PLATTSBURGH WOMEN’S HOCKEY TEAM

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and skill of the SUNY Plattsburgh Women’s Hockey Team, who just ended their already impressive season by winning the NCAA Division III championship.

Led by Coach Kevin Houle, the Cardinals are the first team in Division III history to win four consecutive national championships. Seniors Jordan Lipson, Katelyn Turk, Julia Duquette, Melissa Ames, Erin Brand and Camille Leonard close out their collegiate careers with an impressive four year record of 111–5–4.

Additionally, Erin Brand was honored as the Most Outstanding Player at the NCAA Division III Championship with Camille Leonard and Melissa Sheeren also earning a spot on the All-Tournament Team. Leonard, the team’s goaltender, ends her career with the most victories in NCAA Division III history, as well as the highest save percentage and the second most shutouts.

In New York’s 21st District, we are incredibly proud of these women and their incredible achievements. I would like to congratulate the SUNY Plattsburgh Cardinals on their victory and hope that their hard work and dedication serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

NEYRA VALDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Neyra Valdez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Neyra Valdez is a 12th grader at Hinkley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Neyra Valdez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Neyra Valdez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017 FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 39th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year’s ceremony will present 125 awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze and Silver Medals of Valor.

Fourteen members of the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR

Second Lieutenant Michael T. Withrow, Sergeant Nathan Cable, Sergeant Oliver Yard Master Deputy Sheriff Clifton Cooley, Master Deputy Sheriff Patrick McPartlin, Master Deputy Sheriff Jeffery Waple, Private First Class Jonathan Perryman, Private First Class Joshua Silver.

LIFESAVING AWARD

Master Deputy Sheriff Edward S. Fircetz, Master Deputy Sheriff Daniel Fyock, Master Deputy Sheriff Robert Knapp, Private First Class Daniel Boring, Private First Class Heather Trijo, Deputy James Grosser.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2017 Valor Award Recipients, and thank all of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.