

FLORIDA INVENTORS HALL OF
FAME 2018

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the seven inventors who have been recognized as the 2018 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. In order to be named as an inductee, these inventors were nominated by their peers nationwide and have undergone the scrutiny of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. As a result, their innovations have been identified as significantly impacting the quality of life, economic development, and welfare of their communities, the citizens of Florida, and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 by Paul R. Sanberg, Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Enterprise, and Judy Genshaft, President, at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. Its mission is to encourage individuals of all backgrounds to strive toward the betterment of Florida and society through continuous, groundbreaking innovation by celebrating the incredible scientific work that has been or is being accomplished in Florida and by its citizens.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors (living or dead) who are or have been residents of Florida. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and his or her invention should be significant to society as a whole, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized, or led to important innovations.

The 2018 inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame are:

Sara Blakely, Tampa Bay native and graduate of Florida State University in Tallahassee, who invented the renowned undergarment SPANX and built a billion dollar enterprise that has influenced fashion worldwide;

Emery N. Brown, born and raised in Ocala, anesthesiologist-statistician at Massachusetts General Hospital, MIT and Harvard professor, who made significant contributions to the advancement of the science and practice of anesthesiology;

Phillip A. Furman, St. Augustine resident and distinguished alumnus of the University of South Florida in Tampa, whose revolutionary discoveries led to the development of antiviral drugs that are used to treat some of the most insidious viral diseases;

Richard A. Houghten, founder and CEO of Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies, headquartered in Port St. Lucie, who has made a significant impact on the pharmaceutical industry through his novel approaches to drug discovery;

Edwin A. Link (1904–1981), former trustee and vice president for the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, who invented the flight simulator, commercialized in 1929;

Sudipta Seal, Trustee Chair, Pegasus and University Distinguished Professor at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, whose

discoveries led to groundbreaking therapeutic applications in regenerative nano-medicine;

Herbert Wertheim, optometric physician, graduate of the University of Florida in Gainesville, and honorary alumnus of Florida International University in Miami, who was the first to discover and produce ultraviolet light dye absorbers for eyeglass lenses.

Innovation and invention are the building blocks of our nation. I applaud these highly accomplished individuals and the organizations that support them in their quest to change the world in ways that truly benefit humanity. Furthermore, it is because of the perseverance of these inventors that future generations are encouraged to reach beyond their limits and push the boundaries of innovation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 74TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY INVA-
SION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 74th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. Today in 1944, more than 160,000 allied troops crossed the English Channel and landed on the heavily-fortified French coastline of Normandy. This was the largest amphibious military operation in history, and establishing a foothold in Continental Europe was critical to the ultimate defeat of Nazi Germany. The bravery and heroism displayed by American soldiers will forever be remembered.

There is an annual D-Day ceremony in Normandy, and this year 137 members of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte "Pride of Niner Nation" Marching Band will participate in the event. The University originally began as an education center for World War II veterans, and this is a terrific opportunity for the students to connect with the University's roots.

Nine of these members of the "Pride of Niner Nation" Marching Band are from North Carolina's Second Congressional District. Those students include Jeffrey Bubar, Michelle Dunbar, Hope Dunn, Kerriona Jones, Kelsey Lane, Victoria Mitchell, Abraham Ogden, Jonathan Shough, and Hailey Waynor.

Mr. Speaker, these students represent the best of our state and our nation, and it is an honor to represent them in Congress. Not only are these students part of the first university band from North Carolina that will represent the United States at this ceremony, they are the only college marching band from the United States that were selected to perform in today's ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, we will always owe a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women in uniform, and today's anniversary is a solemn reminder of the sacrifices that they have made to keep our nation secure. I thank the students of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte "Pride of Niner Nation" Marching Band for their dedication to honoring our nation and our veterans.

HONORING ALBUQUERQUE HIGH
SCHOOL STEAM TEAM

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a talented group of students from the Albuquerque High School STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Team, which placed third overall and was the top placing United States team at the 2018 RoboRAVE International Entrepreneurial Challenge.

This impressive team, made up of Asael Diaz, Mary Cherino, and Dante Van Orten, created a robotic dog intended for fun and companionship. They also created a logo, brochure, and 30-second commercial video in order to present their invention to judges and competition attendees.

This competition represents an outstanding opportunity for students to gain valuable exposure to STEM disciplines, and I am so pleased that high schoolers from Albuquerque were able to participate and perform so well. I am hopeful that New Mexico will continue to be a leader in STEM fields and that our students will continue to apply their skills through outlets like this competition.

I would also like to recognize the team's sponsor, science teacher Valerie Kovach, as well as educational assistant Jean Hart, for the sacrifices they made in order to provide the team with valuable supervision and guidance.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the students and staff from the Albuquerque High School STEAM Team on their impressive performance at the 2018 RoboRAVE International Entrepreneurial Challenge. I wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

IN SUPPORT OF LGBTQ PRIDE
MONTH AND HOUSTON PRIDE
WEEK

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate LGBTQ Pride Month and the remarkable progress that has been made in making our country more diverse and tolerant and embracing of differences in the 18 years since the cruel murder of Matthew Shepherd, a college student from Laramie, Wyoming.

As a country, America has made and continues to make great progress in the area of social equality, as evidenced most dramatically by the seismic shift in public support for marriage equality over the past decade.

Today, supporters of marriage equality dramatically outnumber opponents by 61–35 percent; a near total reversal from 2004, when opponents outnumbered supporters 58–39 percent.

Our country made progress in bringing our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, mother and fathers out of the shadows with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which I was proud to support.