

the same dedication and character in their future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2019*

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on April 9, 2019 during roll call no. 160, on Ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 294, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1644, Save the Internet Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 2021, Investing for the People Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 161, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 294, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1644, Save the Internet Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 1644, Save the Internet Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 2021, Investing for the People Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was unavoidably detained during roll call no. 162, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1759, the Building on Reemployment Improvements to Deliver Good Employment for Workers Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

HONORING HANNAH EDELSTEIN  
FOR RECEIVING THE GIRL  
SCOUT GOLD AWARD

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2019*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hannah Edelstein, who has earned the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award.

Hannah joins a selective group of scouts, and she should be proud of this recognition. This accolade symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

To receive the award, a scout must first obtain four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and complete the Senior Girl Scout Challenge. Awardees also complete a Gold Project, in which scouts identify and lead a project on a pressing issue in the community.

Hannah’s project focused on the needs of families affected by domestic violence in the Rio Grande Valley. I applaud her research efforts and ability to provide necessary resources at the Friendship of Women Shelter in Brownsville, Texas. She went above and beyond the expectations, raising awareness in the community and working with partners, local organizations, and fellow Girl Scout Gold Awardee—Victoria Hinojos.

A Brownsville native, Hannah leads her peers by example, excelling in academics and community service. She works with the University of Texas—Rio Grande Valley faculty to promote the conservation of the region’s native Red Crowned Parrot, serves as president of the Health Occupation Students of America, and leads the Varsity Volleyball team. Despite these extracurricular endeavors, Hannah ranks number one in her class at Veterans Memorial Early College High School, Brownsville.

It is a tremendous honor to recognize Hannah Edelstein. Our district is very proud of her service, and our community benefits greatly from her leadership. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her for her work, service, and accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF KIM  
FRANKSON, JESS JOHNSON, AND  
LAURIE ORTEL OF ASHLEY ELE-  
MENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2019*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise alongside Rep. MICHAEL BURGESS and Rep. BEN CLINE to honor Kim Frankson, Jess Johnson, and Laurie Ortel of Ashley Elementary School in the Frisco Independent School District. At

the end of last year, these North Texas school administrators used quick thinking and teamwork to help save a life 1,200 miles away.

In December 2018, Ashley Elementary School principal Kim Frankson, assistant principal Laurie Ortel, and counselor Jess Johnson received a concerning message from a student via the STOPit app, an online platform designed to allow students and parents to send anonymous reports of bullying to school officials.

The North Texas educators soon discovered that the student was in Waynesboro, Virginia—more than 1,000 miles from Frisco—and sprang into action. As Laurie Ortel said in an interview with the Dallas Morning News: “We didn’t know her, but in that moment, she became ours.”

In spite of the distance, Jess Johnson began communicating with the student, who was threatening suicide, on the STOPit app. At the same time, Kim Frankson and Laurie Ortel attempted to contact the Waynesboro Police Department and administrators at the student’s school, which already had closed for winter break. Thanks to the efforts of the North Texas teachers, local authorities in Virginia were able to locate the endangered teenager and provide lifesaving assistance.

Thankfully, the student’s message for help reached the right people.

On February 14, 2019, the Dallas Morning News published an article telling their story. In recognition of their lifesaving efforts, Kim Frankson, Laurie Ortel, and Jess Johnson were honored at the Frisco ISD board meeting on April 8, 2019. They were presented the inaugural Helping Hands Life Saver Award from the makers of the STOPit mobile app, and have received well-earned praise from Americans in North Texas, Virginia, and around the country.

As Members of Congress representing Frisco, Texas and Waynesboro, Virginia, we extend our sincere gratitude to these North Texas educators for their extraordinary work and dedication. There is no doubt that they have touched the lives of students in Frisco, Waynesboro, and beyond.