

Taylor Yi)—Generations Inspiring Gifts of Love from Open Hearts

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2019 Best of Reston honorees for their tremendous contributions. I thank Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for continuing this wonderful tradition, and I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for lending their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COAST
GUARD YOUTH STEM PROGRAMS
EXPANSION ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important bill, the Coast Guard Youth STEM Programs Expansion Act. This bill will allow the Coast Guard expanded authority to partner with the Department of Education and the Department of Defense to improve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education for America's elementary and secondary school students and their teachers.

Now more than ever the innovation capacity of the United States—our prosperity and security—depends on an effective and inclusive STEM education ecosystem and workforce. Given the Coast Guard's mission of coastal defense and maritime law enforcement, daily activity relies significantly on STEM skills. The ability to work with the Department of Education and Department of Defense on youth STEM programs will increase exposure and engagement to the adventures and intriguing opportunities of the Coast Guard's mission.

Specifically, the Coast Guard Youth STEM Programs Expansion Act will allow the Coast Guard to coordinate with the Department of Education to establish programs to improve STEM knowledge and skills for elementary and secondary school students and faculty. It will allow the Coast Guard to cooperate and coordinate with the Department of Defense, particularly through the very successful DOD STARBASE Program. It will also allow the Coast Guard to expand beyond traditional STEM skills to focus on expertise particularly important to their own mission, including limnology, marine science, and oceanography.

Basic STEM concepts are best learned at an early age—in elementary and secondary school—and are the essential prerequisites for career technical training, advanced college-level and graduate study, and success in workplaces. With the range of federal agencies partnered to coordinate federal STEM initiatives, the Coast Guard too has a vested interest in advancing this important mission.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and its goal of expanding the Coast Guard's efforts to engage and expose American youth to vital STEM education and workforce skills.

DHS OVERSEAS PERSONNEL
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2590, the "DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2019."

H.R. 2590 is a continuation of an existing program that requires an overseas personal enhancement plan to be provided by the Department of Homeland Security.

Current law mandates that the Department of Homeland Security have a three-year strategic plan for overseas deployment of DHS personnel (P.L. 114–328 (authored by Chairman THOMPSON)).

The requirements currently state that DHS must provide Congress with a briefing regarding all DHS personnel with primary duties taking place overseas.

H.R. 2590 will build on the existing Federal DHS mandate by strengthening congressional oversight.

The resolution requires DHS to submit a plan to enhance the effectiveness of the overseas deployment of DHS personnel 90 days after their initial briefing.

The DHS plan will be required to include proposals on how to improve efforts to develop foreign partnership capacity and further the United States' counterterrorism mission.

The plan will also consider possible redeployment in response to evolving threats.

The DHS plan will result in enhanced collaboration and improved communication between DHS personnel at home and abroad.

A version of this bill passed the House 415–0 in the 115th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2590.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VERA
RUBIN SURVEY TELESCOPE DESIGNATION ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am joined by my Science Committee colleague, Representative GONZÁLEZ COLÓN, in introducing the Vera Rubin Survey Telescope Designation Act.

Dr. Vera Cooper Rubin was a renowned astronomer and a staunch advocate for women in science. She was also a trailblazer. Born in 1928, Dr. Rubin's interest in astronomy was ignited early. As a young girl, she would rather stay up and watch the stars through her bedroom window than go to sleep.

After graduating from Vassar College in 1948 as the only woman astronomer in her class, Dr. Rubin hoped to pursue her doctoral studies at Princeton. However, the Princeton astrophysics graduate program did not admit women at the time and declined to send her a course catalog.

Dr. Rubin persisted and earned her master's degree at Cornell and her Ph.D. at Georgetown University before joining the Carnegie In-

stitution's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism.

As her career progressed, Dr. Rubin continued to face barriers because of her gender. For instance, after becoming the first woman to be officially permitted to observe at the prestigious Palomar Observatory in 1965, she discovered that the building had no women's restroom. Undeterred, Dr. Rubin created her own women's restroom by pasting a skirt cut-out over the stick figure of a man on the observatory bathroom.

While Dr. Rubin was breaking down barriers, she was also revolutionizing our understanding of the universe. In 1970, Dr. Rubin and her collaborator Dr. Kent Ford published some of the best evidence of the existence of dark matter. This groundbreaking work changed the conventional view of the universe from one dominated by light-emitting matter to one dominated by dark matter.

Dr. Rubin went on to become the second woman astronomer elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1981. She received the National Medal of Science from President Clinton in 1993, and she received many other honors and awards throughout her career.

Motivated by her own battle to garner respect as a woman in a male-dominated field, Dr. Rubin worked tirelessly to encourage girls interested in astronomy to pursue their dreams. She advocated for more women members of the National Academy of Sciences and for more women on review panels and academic search committees. She also advocated for more opportunities for girls in science. In her address to the University of California, Berkeley class of 1996, Dr. Rubin said "science is competitive, aggressive, demanding. It is also imaginative, inspiring, uplifting. You can do it, too," urging the students to "devise your own paths".

Dr. Rubin has a well-deserved place in history. This bill will honor her legacy by designating the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST), jointly funded by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy and set to begin operations in 2023, as the Vera Rubin Survey Telescope. The LSST was designed, in part, to probe the nature of dark matter. As a tribute to the woman whose pioneering work made this pursuit possible, this bill would ensure that it bears her name.

I urge my colleagues to join us and help us move this legislation forward into law.

HONORING ALAN D. MONROE

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan D. Monroe, a leader, a trailblazer, and an intellectual.

Alan D. Monroe grew up in Sherman, Texas. After graduating from Sherman High School in 1965, he attended Austin College where he graduated with Honors earning a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1969. In 1970, he obtained a Master of Arts at New York University. He continued his education at the University of Texas School of Law, graduating in 1975 with his juris doctor. Alan went on to practice law in many courts across Texas, including the United States Court of Appeals for

the Fifth Circuit in 1979 and the Supreme Court of the United States in 1981.

Alan D. Monroe is highly respected in the field of real estate law. Among his many prestigious accomplishments, he obtained his Board Certification by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Commercial Real Estate Law and Residential Real Estate Law in 1988. Additionally, he has held memberships in the State Bar of Texas, the Hidalgo County Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

Alan D. Monroe is a multi-faceted lawyer with years of experience and a wealth of knowledge. Upon graduating from the University of Texas School of Law, Alan D. Monroe served as an Associate with Kelly, Looney & Alexander in 1976. He became a partner of the firm in 1980. Seven years later in 1987, he established his own practice named the Law Office of Alan D. Monroe. On July 1, 2002, Alan D. Monroe became partners with Byron Jay Lewis and Mark S. Peña. They renamed the firm Lewis, Monroe & Peña.

Alan D. Monroe is known for both his successes and his generosity, constantly sharing his knowledge with peers. He taught courses in banking law for the American Bankers Association from 1989 to 1991. He also served as a chairman of the Real Estate Section for the Hidalgo County Bar Association from 2009 to 2011, and he coauthored Creative Solutions to Complex Title Problems, which was presented during the 28 Annual Advanced Real Estate Law Conference in 2006.

Alan D. Monroe is looking forward to devoting his time to his wife, Banceliza, and his children: Rebecca Monroe, Jessica Martinez and her husband Daniel, James Alan Monroe and his wife Mary Beth. He especially cherishes time with his grandsons, Luke Martinez and Tom Monroe.

Mr. Alan D. Monroe will retire officially on June 30, 2019. To say we are grateful for his contributions would be a grave understatement—he has earned the respect of many throughout his decades of service. His work ethic, dedication and professionalism have made a lasting impact on many, especially those who have had the privilege of working with him.

Madam Speaker, I commend Alan D. Monroe for his work in the real estate industry that has produced great lasting results for the Rio Grande Valley, South Texas, and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam 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 41st Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exem-

plified 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 123 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 Medal of Valor.

Twenty awards will be bestowed upon first responders who serve with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in recognition of their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include in the Record the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR

Lt. Rudy Iturrino,
Lt. Edward Payne
Lt. Mark Fernandez
Master Technician John Capps
Master Technician Luis Mata
Master Technician Joshua Morrison
Master Technician Robert Pickel
Technician Dominic Runfola
Firefighter Stephen Langone
Firefighter Christopher Murray
Fire Medic Robert Elam

BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR

Lt. William Hyden Jr.
Lt. Angel Medina
Firefighter Christopher Murray
Firefighter Jonathan Shao

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR

Lt. Lawrence Mullin
Technician Jason Dolan
Technician Andrew Reedy

LIFESAVING CERTIFICATE

Captain II Felicia Barnes
Lt. William Schnaekel
Madam Speaker, I congratulate the 2019 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, on June 10, 2019, I was not present for the recorded vote on roll call no. 242, roll call no. 243 and roll call no. 244. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 542, H.R. 2539, and H.R. 2590.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF GEORGE ALBERT GAINES, JR.

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a life so rich in purpose

and experience that it would be a shame not to commit a place in the record of this body to commemorate it.

In August, a selfless servant of considerable character, Mr. George Albert Gaines, Jr. of Elberton, Georgia, will celebrate his 100th birthday in the company of friends, family and loved ones.

Born August 17, 1919, in Elberton, Georgia, George Albert Gaines, Jr. has spent 100 years demonstrating why his life—a life of service, leadership, and fortitude—is worth celebration and reflection.

In 1940, George began what would ultimately become a 31-year career in the military by joining the National Guard Unit in his hometown of Elberton, Georgia. As a member of the Greatest Generation, and a veteran of World War II, George served under General George S. Patton in North Africa, Corsica, and Italy, where he earned a Bronze Star in April of 1945 for his leadership on the battlefield, and for courage in the face of enemy fire.

After the war, George worked in the granite industry, capably managing Atlas Granite Company from 1947 to 1964. He later resigned from Atlas and took a position as the full-time executive officer with the Georgia National Guard, where he assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 214th Artillery, with units in Elberton, Washington, Thompson, Sparta and Waynesboro, Georgia. While in that position, George received the Distinctive Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious and distinctive service.

In addition to serving his country, George has been devoted to serving his community throughout his lifetime. He served on various boards, including the Elbert County Board of Education, and has been active in many civic and community organizations, including the Sons of the American Revolution, the Salvation Army, the Rotary Club of Elberton, and the Elberton Granite Association, of which he was once the President. He has been a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Elberton and has served the congregation in many leadership positions over the years.

On behalf of the people of Northeast Georgia, please join me in thanking Mr. Gaines for his service and celebrating 100 years of a life well lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD MCEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on June 10, 2019 during roll call no. 242, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 542, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 243, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2539, the Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was unavoidably detained during roll call no. 244, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2590, the DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."