

needed to require the armed services to display the District flag whenever the flags of the states are displayed. With these significant actions by Congress, it is not too much to ask to add the Mayor to the list of principals who are recognized upon their deaths.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE MANASSAS
PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT 2019
PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE VALOR AWARD RE-
CIPIENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the Manassas Park Police Department and its outstanding members who have demonstrated superior dedication to ensuring the safety of their colleagues and members of the community and their designation as 2019 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Award recipients. The annual Valor Awards ceremony recognizes the remarkable heroism and bravery above and beyond the line of duty exemplified by our public safety and law enforcement professionals. For the past 33 years, the Prince William Chamber of Commerce has paid tribute to police officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel for their extraordinary service.

Our public safety and law enforcement workforces put their lives at risk on a daily basis to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. In recognition of acts of valor, we award the following honoree for his demonstrated extraordinary dedication and outstanding performance under unusually difficult or dangerous circumstances. It is my honor to include in the RECORD one of the names of the Manassas Park Police Department law enforcement professionals:

Hillary Robinette Award
Detective Christopher Koglin

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2019 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Award recipient of the Manassas Park Police Department. The selfless acts of heroism by this distinguished individual merits our highest praise. I thank each honoree, as well as all Manassas Park Police Department law enforcement professionals, for their dedication and commitment to the protection of our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VA ANN
ARBOR FISHER HOUSE
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fisher House for their exemplary work in service of our nation's veterans and their families. Today, we celebrate the groundbreaking of the VA Ann Arbor Fish-

er House which will provide critical temporary housing for the families of servicemembers.

Fisher House provides free lodging for the families of active military and veterans while their loved ones are undergoing treatment. This program has saved the families of our servicemen and women an estimated \$451 million in costs for lodging and transportation. With nearly 650,000 veterans, Michigan is the largest state without a Fisher House. Fisher House Michigan formed in November 2016, and as of April 2019 has raised over \$5.5 million towards its goal of \$20 million for construction and support costs of new facilities in Michigan. The VA Ann Arbor Fisher House will be the first in the state of Michigan, with plans to create a second location in Detroit at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center already underway.

The VA Medical Centers in Southeastern Michigan receive approximately 1000 requests for lodging from veterans and their families every month. The creation of a Fisher House in Michigan will provide significant financial support for these groups through free lodging as their family members undergo treatment. This critical work reaffirms our commitment to supporting our active military and veterans as they continue to protect our nation. We thank Fisher House Michigan for its exemplary work supporting the families of our servicemembers and congratulate them on the ground breaking of the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Fisher House for their dedicated work. Their efforts to provide high-quality services to the families of our nation's veterans and active military are worthy of commendation.

INVENTOR AND PIONEERING EYE
DOCTOR, PATRICIA BATH

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I rise to take special note of the passing of a long-time constituent, Dr. Patricia E. Bath, an ophthalmologist whose career included a special focus on combating preventable blindness in underserved populations. Among many remarkable accomplishments, she was the first black female doctor to patent a medical invention, a laser device for treating cataracts.

Just two months ago, on April 3, 2019, Dr. Bath testified before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property in a hearing entitled "Trailblazers and Lost Einsteins: Women Inventors and the Future of American Innovation." There she noted gender disparities that result in fewer women inventors and made recommendations to improve the barriers she saw as holding back American innovation.

Right out of medical school, she was struck by discrepancies in vision problems between the primarily Black patient population she saw for her internship at Harlem Hospital and the largely white population she saw at an eye clinic at Columbia University. Her findings that blindness was twice as prevalent among Black

people as among white people would drive her lifelong commitment to bringing quality eye care to underserved people around the globe.

An educator and researcher, in 1974 she joined the faculties of the University of California, Los Angeles, and the nearby Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

In 1976 she founded the nonprofit American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness, to promote what Dr. Bath called "community ophthalmology," which advances optic health through grass-roots screenings, treatments and education.

Her research and her work with cataract patients in the early 1980s led her to envision the device that became known as the laserphaco probe, which uses laser technology to remove the cataracts that cloud the lens of the eye. The United States Patent and Trademark Office, which has singled out Dr. Bath's achievement several times, said in 2014 that the device had "helped restore or improve vision to millions of patients worldwide."

Dr. Bath's dedication, insight and brilliance repeatedly overcame challenges from prevailing attitudes about women and African Americans in medicine. The recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Dr. Bath described her "personal best moment" as using an implant procedure called keratoprosthesis to restore the sight of a woman in North Africa who had been blind for 30 years.

Forty years ago, Dr. Bath wrote in the Journal of the National Medical Association that "Disproportionate numbers of blacks are blinded by preventable causes. However, thus far, no national strategies exist for reducing the excessive rates of blindness among the black population." As we honor her memory and her contributions, her challenge to us remains.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN RATCLIFFE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Madam Speaker, due to an illness that required medical attention, I was unable to vote during many of last night's roll call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 264; NAY on Roll Call No. 265; YEA on Roll Call No. 266; YEA on Roll Call No. 267; NAY on Roll Call No. 268; YEA on Roll Call No. 269; NAY on Roll Call No. 270; NAY on Roll Call No. 271; NAY on Roll Call No. 272; NAY on Roll Call No. 273; NAY on Roll Call No. 274; YEA on Roll Call No. 275; NAY on Roll Call No. 276; YEA on Roll Call No. 277; YEA on Roll Call No. 278; YEA on Roll Call No. 279.

NAY on Roll Call No. 280; YEA on Roll Call No. 281; NAY on Roll Call No. 282; NAY on Roll Call No. 283; YEA on Roll Call No. 284; YEA on Roll Call No. 285; YEA on Roll Call No. 286; NAY on Roll Call No. 287; NAY on Roll Call No. 288; YEA on Roll Call No. 289; NAY on Roll Call No. 290; YEA on Roll Call No. 291; NAY on Roll Call No. 292; YEA on Roll Call No. 293; and NAY on Roll Call No. 294.