

as the Overall AFJROTC and AFA Cadet Leadership Award Winner for 2019–2020. Cadet Tippy was selected from 890 AFJROTC Units and over 125,000 AFJROTC cadets in the United States and on military installations overseas. The selection process started with each unit nominating their top cadet for the award. From there, 48 state winners were selected, followed by eight regional winners and then finally, one national winner, recognizing the most outstanding AFJROTC cadet in the world.

Cadet Tippy has a 4.0 GPA, putting her at the top of her graduating class going into her senior year, despite a demanding schedule with college level courses and an extra-curricular schedule that includes National Honor Society, Student Council, Track, and Cross Country. She holds the unit record in every category of the AFJROTC Physical Fitness Test, including the mile run, push-ups, and crunches. She finished first, from over 100 female competitors, in two local physical fitness competitions with other JROTC units from Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri and Mississippi.

Earlier in the school year, Cadet Tippy was one of only 200 AFJROTC cadets, from over 3,000 applicants, to be selected to attend the AFJROTC Flight Academy, a summer scholarship program valued at over \$25,000, which allows cadets to earn their private pilot license during a 10-week course at a college or university. Because of COVID-19, this course has been postponed until the summer of 2021. She is in the process of applying for the Air Force Academy and plans to be an Air Force officer and pilot.

It is obvious to all that read her accolades that Cadet Tippy is more than deserving of this achievement. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Cadet Tippy a congratulations.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to confront the health and economic crises presented by COVID-19, Americans are understandably anxious about the future. I take hope in our history of meeting extraordinary challenges with new innovations, and I believe research and development will be a key part in addressing today's challenges as well.

Our federal government supports some of the brightest and most creative minds in the world at America's colleges and universities through research grants administered by the National Science Foundation. Particularly in this time of economic turmoil, we must ensure that we fully capitalize on these research investments by transitioning scientific discovery into tangible products, creating new businesses for a healthy and prosperous America.

My amendment highlights the importance of programs like the National Science Foundation Innovation Corps in facilitating tech transfer. I-Corps, as it is known, began in 2011 and utilizes the Lean LaunchPad curriculum developed by serial entrepreneur Steve Blank to train faculty, students, and other researchers

in entrepreneurship. The immersive experience requires participants to get out of the lab and interview industry leaders and potential customers. Researchers gain an improved understanding of how their work could be further applied to meet real needs in our nation. These insights improve potential commercialization of their work and influence future research directions.

According to the spring 2019 Innovation Corps biennial report, since inception in 2011 I-Corps has trained 1,315 teams with a total of 3,745 people. These participants have raised more than \$300 million in follow-on funding and created 644 startups. The report highlights recent participating teams, including Respira Labs, which spun out of the University of California Berkeley to develop a technology incorporating AI to predict chronic obstructive pulmonary disease attacks; Diligent Robotics, which develops robotic equipment that supports healthcare staff in Texas; and Ecovia Renewables, founded at the University of Michigan to create compostable alternatives to petrochemical polymers found in a variety of commercial products. These and many other companies are now in existence due to the National Science Foundation research funding and the training that enabled their founders to transition their findings into tangible products Americans can use.

I thank my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for increasing funding for this critical program in this year's CJS appropriations bill, to a total of \$40 million. I encourage my colleagues to continue their strong support for National Science Foundation university research programs and I-Corps in future budgets.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS BRYAN BALTIERRA, USMC

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class (Pfc) Bryan Baltierra. Throughout the history of our republic we have asked young men and women to voluntarily step forward to guard and protect the freedoms we hold so dear. Pfc. Baltierra of Corona, California, took that step forward and assumed the duties, responsibilities, and sacrifices that are required of all Americans who join the finest military in history. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to our country.

Pfc. Baltierra was born September 18, 2001, to Carlos and Evelyn Baltierra. As a child, he aspired to serve his country by joining the military and after graduating from Centennial High School, Bryan achieved his dream. On July 30, 2019, at the age of only 17, he was sworn into the U.S. Marine Corps. After graduating from basic training, Bryan was stationed at Camp Pendleton where he remained close to his family and was able to visit with them. Bryan is described as someone who radiated positivity, which you can clearly see from his bright smile. He shared with his parents and sisters how he loved the brotherhood that ac-

companied being a Marine and how he also came to enjoy the rigorous training and fitness that was required of him.

On July 30, 2020, exactly one year after he was sworn into the Marine Corps, Pfc. Baltierra boarded an amphibious assault vehicle for a routine exercise in training for his upcoming September deployment. The vehicle sank off the coast of San Clemente Island, resulting in the death of Pfc. Baltierra, seven other marines, and a sailor.

As we look at the rich history of our country, we realize that this history is comprised of men and women, just like Pfc. Baltierra, who so bravely chose a life of military service. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they will be called to face, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. Pfc. Baltierra is survived by his father, Carlos, mother, Evelyn, and three sisters, Natalie, Emily, and Sara.

While we send our deepest sympathies to his family, there are no words that can express or alleviate the grief of losing a son and brother. Pfc. Baltierra's parents and sisters have given a part of themselves in the loss of Bryan, and I hope they know that their son and brother, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will always be remembered.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE
CPL. MARCO A. BARRANCO

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mourn the tragic loss of Lance Cpl. Marco A. Barranco from Montebello, California. Lance Cpl. Barranco, known to his loved ones and friends as "Andy," proudly served our country as a United States Marine in the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit based at Camp Pendleton.

On Thursday, July 30th, Lance Cpl. Barranco was training on an amphibious assault vehicle off the coast of San Clemente Island, California. Due to an incident that is still under investigation, the vehicle sank hundreds of feet into the water. Lance Cpl. Barranco and seven other Marines and one Sailor of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit were killed or presumed dead. Seven Marines were rescued following the incident, two of whom were injured.

I offer my deepest condolences to Lance Cpl. Barranco's loved ones and friends for their heartbreaking loss. He exemplified the best of our armed forces and was known to his family, friends, and neighbors as an incredibly kind man who would do anything to help those in need. His sister, Selma, noted that he always wanted to serve his country, even as a boy when he dressed up like a G.I. Joe for Halloween.

Though Lance Cpl. Barranco was taken before he had the chance to fully live out the promise of his life, he had already fulfilled so much of that promise as a rifleman in the United States Marine Corps. His passing is a loss not just for all who were lucky to know him, but for a nation for which he put his life on the line. He is survived by his two sisters, a niece and an unborn nephew, and both of