

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RUBY JUANITA FLEMING BRIDGEFORTH AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Ruby Juanita Fleming Bridgeforth is a retired executive from the United States Postal Service with 27 years of leadership experience in customer service, training, processing, and distribution. As the senior plant manager of the Central Florida District, she directed processing and distribution centers in Orlando, Sanford, and West Palm Beach. Ruby was instrumental in improving mail service to the Central Florida community by driving the district's performance ranking in the United States from No. 72 to No. 5 within three years. As a trailblazer, she was the first Black senior plant manager of the Central Florida District, the first postmaster/metro manager for Memphis, Tennessee, and the first Black female plant manager in the Orlando and Memphis processing and distribution centers.

Her education includes a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Music Education. She has also earned leadership development certificates from Eckerd College and Harvard Business School. Ruby has received numerous awards, including the Postmaster General Team award, two Vice President awards, and the Zeta Phi Beta Woman of the Year award. Ruby has also been featured in several publications for her accomplishments, including Jet, Grace, and Southern Women magazines. Her community service includes being the treasurer of the Osceola County Branch of the NAACP and a Golden Soror of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Omicron Omega Chapter. Additional community outreach includes partnering with a few friends to provide care bags to the homeless.

Prior to her postal career, Ruby taught music at Cotton Plant Public Schools in Cotton Plant, Arkansas. Her love of teaching has continued as an Osceola County Public School substitute teacher, Sunday School teacher at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, and instructor at Mount Pleasant Bible Academy. She is married to Rev. Anthony C. Bridgeforth and they have three sons and two grandchildren. Her priorities are God, family, and "service to all mankind."

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN BRET BUTLER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Captain Bret Butler,

a dedicated and courageous member of the Lake Pillsbury Fire Protection District. I have named Captain Butler as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Lake County in recognition of his extraordinary selflessness, leadership, and unwavering commitment to protecting his community.

Captain Butler was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and raised in Walnut Creek, California. He graduated from Northgate High School before pursuing studies at the Controlled Data Institute in San Francisco. After spending much of his professional life in Concord, he retired to his cabin—now his permanent home—in the Rice Fork community of Lake Pillsbury.

Captain Butler has been a steadfast leader in the Lake Pillsbury Fire Protection District, where he has risen through the ranks from Firefighter to Fire Captain. In addition to his operational leadership, he serves as the Federal Excess Equipment Program coordinator with CalFire. He also demonstrated remarkable bravery during the 2018 Mendocino Complex Fire, aiding in firefighting efforts and the evacuation of a Hotshot crew. Within the community, he is widely regarded as the unofficial "Mayor" and "Real Estate Agent" of our Rice Fork community due to his deep-rooted involvement and dedication to the well-being of its residents. Captain Butler is happily married to his wife, Debra Butler.

Beyond his firefighting duties, Captain Butler has made countless contributions to the Lake Pillsbury community. He played a crucial role in procuring and installing mile marker signs along the 36-mile stretch of road in the Lake Pillsbury Basin, greatly improving emergency response times. He has also been a key advocate for evacuation route improvements, drone mapping projects, and defensible space initiatives, particularly for seniors and veterans. Additionally, he facilitated the donation of an ambulance and fire engine to the district and personally installed a solar system for Fire Station 2.

Mr. Speaker, Fire Captain Bret Butler's courage, leadership, and dedication to service have had a profound impact on his community. His selfless actions during the Mendocino Complex Fire and his ongoing contributions to public safety exemplify the very best of our first responders. It is with great honor and deep appreciation that we recognize him today.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO DONALD GRAVES

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Corporal Donald "Don" Graves, a Fort Worth resident and distinguished World War II veteran. Graves left high school in 1942 at just 17

years old to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps, inspired by his father's service. He served as a flamethrower in the Second Battalion of the 28th Marine Regiment of Iwo Jima.

Of the 335 Marines that landed on the island, only 18, including Graves, made it off. His strength and courage were displayed as he survived the intense, three-day long battle, climbing toward the top of Mount Suribachi. On the third day, Graves and his fellow Marines climbed to the summit before reaching the top and raising the U.S. flag.

Graves served for four years, leaving the service for civilian life after the war ended. It was in the heat of battle for Iwo Jima that he discovered his faith, leading him to serve in the ministry for 32 years.

As Graves celebrates his 100th birthday later this year, we honor his incredible journey. I thank Corporal Graves for his service and the lasting impact he has made on our country.

RECOGNIZING MR. ALEX J. WILSON

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young leader, Alex J. Wilson, a student at Cass Job Corps in Ozark, Arkansas. Alex is currently enrolled in the Heavy Equipment Operations Pre-Apprentice Trade, where he has demonstrated exceptional leadership, service, and perseverance—qualities that embody the Cass Cougar spirit.

Alex's leadership extends far beyond the classroom. As the Student Government Association President and a Student Ambassador for the Youth-to-Youth initiative, he is a dedicated voice for his peers, advocating for their needs and championing opportunities for student success. Through the Youth-to-Youth program, Alex has worked to combat violence and drug use while promoting positive mental health on campus.

His servant-style leadership is evident in his commitment to both his fellow students and the broader community. As a member of the Cass Job Corps Fire Crew, Alex has trained extensively to serve and protect, further exemplifying his dedication to helping others. Recognizing the challenges new students face, he implemented a volunteer program with Needy Paws, a local animal shelter, providing students with an opportunity to ease stress and homesickness through service.

Alex's impact reaches beyond campus through his involvement in numerous community service projects. He has participated in a River Valley event honoring local veterans, served as Sergeant at Arms for Bumpers North Dorm, and was selected for the Cass Community Leadership Program. His commitment to excellence also earned him a spot in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

a real-world work experience opportunity with the West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District.

Alex attributes his passion for Heavy Equipment Operations to the mentorship of his instructors, Mr. Chris Wilson and Mr. Hibbs, who have instilled in him the values of discipline, hard work, and innovation. Their guidance has fueled his ambition to secure an apprenticeship with the International Union of Operating Engineers—a goal I have no doubt he will achieve.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, Alex J. Wilson exemplifies the very best of our young leaders. His work ethic, commitment to service, and ability to elevate others will undoubtedly lead him to success. I am proud to recognize Alex today and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

HONORING JOHN C. EGERTSON

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend John C. Egerton, County Administrator of Culpeper County, Virginia, on his retirement after a remarkable career in public service.

Mr. Egerton began his career in public service in 1986 as a planning technician, quickly advancing to the role of zoning administrator a year later. His commitment to leadership only deepened over time, culminating in his selection as County Administrator by the Board of Supervisors in April 2016.

For more than 25 years, Mr. Egerton has served as a steadfast leader and dedicated steward of Culpeper County's government. As County Administrator, he has overseen the daily operations of county departments, implemented the directives of the Board of Supervisors, and served as a vital liaison between the Board and state and regional agencies. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing initiatives that have strengthened the community and improved the quality of life for all residents.

Throughout his career, Mr. Egerton has been deeply involved in various organizations and committees, including the Town and County Interaction, Human Services Board, Chamber of Commerce, Piedmont Workforce Development, Career Partners, Airport Committee, Criminal Justice Board, E-911 Board, Public Safety Board, and the Joint Capital Planning Board.

Under Mr. Egerton's guidance, Culpeper County has achieved numerous milestones, including recognition for excellence in financial reporting and innovative programs that have fostered civic engagement and community pride. His commitment to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and collaborative governance has left a lasting legacy that will benefit Culpeper County for generations to come. As he embarks on this new chapter of his life, I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Egerton for his dedicated service and exemplary leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Egerton on his retirement and wishing him continued success and happiness in the years ahead.

HONORING TAMIKA HOLLEY AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Tamika Holley was born on September 12, 1975, in Orlando, Florida, to Charlotte Gray and Bishop Gary Gray, both from Osceola County. She graduated from Osceola High School. She is the mother of three children, the grandmother of three beautiful granddaughters, and the extraordinary wife of 25 years to Bishop A.L. Holley.

For the last 20 years, Tamika has worked in the Marydia community, where she grew up. She has a passion for changing the lives of our youth and exemplifies outstanding qualities when working with at-risk youth. She has strong communication skills and can effectively interact with at-risk juveniles and their families. Her patience and empathy for youth help her understand the complex issues faced by the youth today. She supersedes crisis management skills with her ability to respond to and de-escalate potentially dangerous situations quickly.

Tamika has an associate degree in science in early childhood education, and she teaches a wide variety of activities designed to promote children's cognitive and social development before entering kindergarten. Some programs primarily focus on school and academic readiness, while her passion and love embrace the "whole child," which makes her approach to working with early childhood children so creative.

Tamika is also an active member of Kid Vision Network and the Florida League of Christian Schools. She also has experience working with children with special needs and teaching preschool and after-school. She's had the privilege of administrating a large childcare center for five years. She loves having the opportunity to guide and teach little minds. There is no better feeling than knowing you have helped to brighten a child's day and seeing their faces and expressions while they experience and learn new things.

Tamika worked at the Osceola County Children's Home for five years. She is currently working with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida, Marydia Branch, and is the caretaker of the Marydia Community Center, where she creatively hosts monthly activities for the community and the surrounding areas. Some of the events she hosts annually include the Community Friendship Dance, an Easter Celebration, a community picnic for Water Day, Back-to-School events, a Fall Festival, and a Thanksgiving community dinner and turkey giveaway. Other programs include the Senior Coffee House and Marydia Community Garden.

Tamika witnessed the incredible acts of kindness, resilience, and collaboration that make our neighborhoods unique. She has made a tangible difference in the lives of so many residents. Tamika has been the New Harvest Kingdom Covenant Church pastor for the past seven years following her father's demise.

HONORING MICHAEL ROBINSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emergency Medical Technician Michael "Mike" Robinson of the Medic Ambulance Service's Solano Division. I have named Mr. Robinson as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County because of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

Born and raised in Woodland, California, Michael pursued his passion for emergency services by earning associate degrees in Fire Science and Business before beginning his career with Medic Ambulance Service in 2012 as a Wheelchair/Gurney Van Technician. His dedication to serving his community and helping his patients led Mr. Robinson to quickly rise through the ranks to Emergency Medical Technician, officially becoming a certified paramedic in 2017.

Amid the national healthcare provider shortage brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Robinson stepped up to become a paramedic preceptor. In this role, he shared his years of experience and depth of knowledge with interns, supporting them in obtaining their paramedic licenses. In recognition of his outstanding service to our Solano County community, Mr. Robinson was bestowed the prestigious Stars of Life award by the American Ambulance Association in 2023.

Mr. Robinson is also a pivotal member of Medic Ambulance's emergency response team. A notable emergency in 2024 demonstrates Mr. Robinson's exceptional leadership while precepting an intern in the field. Dispatched with the intern to aid a citizen who had been shot in the chest, Mr. Robinson quickly assessed the patient had diminished lung sounds and was struggling to draw in oxygen. Under his steady guidance, the intern performed a needle thoracostomy, which immediately improved the patient's breathing and blood oxygen levels. Thanks to Mr. Robinson's decisive actions and leadership, the patient made a full recovery.

Beyond his work in the field, Mr. Robinson has played a crucial role in improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of Solano County's Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Robinson mentors interns and aspiring paramedics, contributes to company initiatives aimed at improving ambulance technology, and takes on extra shifts to support his colleagues. Additionally, he represents the Field Training Officers in the Medic Ambulance quality assurance program, ensuring high standards of patient care, and serves as a shop steward for the union.

Outside of his professional commitments, Mr. Robinson is a devoted father to his three children, Sandy, Abby, and Hailey. Michael finds joy in spending time with his family, enjoying outdoor adventures like camping and fishing, and passionately engaging in his favorite sport, hockey. Mr. Robinson is also deeply involved in his local church, where he has led youth group meetings and taught Sunday School classes for the past five years.

Mr. Speaker, Emergency Medical Technician Mike Robinson's expertise and dedication

have greatly benefited both his patients and Solano County's Emergency Medical Services. His commitment to our community and his leadership in training the next generation of paramedics exemplify the best of public service. I extend our community's gratitude for his years of dedicated service and find it fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE
CAPTAIN WAYNE PAVLIK

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Wayne Pavlik from the Euless Police Department on his 36 years of service to North Texas. Captain Pavlik began his public safety career at Sears Department Store, where he monitored security cameras and handled fraudulent checks before joining the Euless Police Department in 1989. He quickly rose through the ranks—promoted to Corporal in 1993, Sergeant in 1997, Lieutenant in 2004, and Captain in 2022.

His time with the Euless Police Department is both vast and varied, serving as a tactical team member, bike officer, and field training officer, commanding the patrol and criminal investigations divisions, supervising the Traffic and the Citizens Police Academy, and consistently demonstrating his expertise across all areas of law enforcement. In his role as Captain, he oversees critical jail operations and records, as well as 9–1–1 communications.

Captain Pavlik received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Texas at Arlington, where he was a Division I Collegiate basketball player, and his master's degree from the University of North Texas. He also graduated from the HEB Chamber of Commerce's Leadership HEB and the 41st Management College at the Institute of Law Enforcement Administration. Pavlik's education has been the foundation for his role as a Master Peace Officer and his status as a highly respected leader in law enforcement. He has received numerous commendations, including Supervisor of the Year in 2006 and the Certificate of Merit Award in 2003, while remaining active in fundraising for the Special Olympics and YMCA youth basketball.

I thank Captain Pavlik for his dedication to protecting and serving our North Texas community. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING NICOLE VICTORIA
MCLAREN AS A DISTINGUISHED
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA
FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Nicole Victoria McLaren, Esq. is a first-generation American born to Jamaican immigrants. She is a proud alumna of Florida's public school system, graduating from West Orange High School, Florida A&M University, and the University of Florida's Levin College of Law.

She wholeheartedly believes, as Shirley Chisholm once said, "Service is the rent you pay for the privilege of living on this Earth." She built her career in public service, first as an assistant public defender and then as an assistant prosecutor for Florida's Department of Business and Professional Regulation, following the 2008 foreclosure crisis. During this time, she volunteered as the Orange County District 3 representative on the Orange County Membership and Mission Review Board and was later elected as an Orange Soil and Water Supervisor.

Nicole was honored and humbled to serve the residents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District as the legislative director for Congressman Darren Soto and, most recently, as a presidential appointee to the role of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development during the Biden-Harris Administration.

She is eternally thankful for the lessons she learned from her grandmothers, Dezerene Christian and Emelme McLaren, as well as her parents, Gary and Dell McLaren. Nicole is grateful for the continuous support she receives from her sister and brother-in-law, Dr. Shelly McLaren and Joseph Webster; her nieces, Ailani Simone, Alora Synclair, and Alaya Shayne Jolee Webster; her day-ones; her "Golden Girls"; her FAMU forever friends; her mentor, Colonel, USA Retired Myrna Amelia Mesa; and her mentees, whom she affectionately calls her kids, Renegade, Atlas, Dandelion, Velvet, and Jaguar.

She will eternally be grateful to Congressman Darren Soto and her extended Team Soto family for the opportunity to work alongside them to serve her neighbors.

Team Soto Forever (Team Soto Para Siempre).

HONORING BATTALION CHIEF
EMILY LO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Battalion Chief Emily Lo of the Davis Fire Department. I have named Chief Lo as the California's 4th District Public Safety Hero of the Year for Yolo County in honor of her 35 years of extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others, as she retires from firefighting.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Chief Lo immigrated to the United States in 1981. She earned an Associate of Science degree in Fire Technology from American River College and a Bachelor of Science in Fire Service Management from California State University, Sacramento. Chief Lo currently resides in Davis with her husband, Rob, and is a devoted mother to Austin and Lola.

Chief Lo began her career in 1990 as a firefighter with the Fairfield Fire Department before joining the Davis Fire Department in 1991. Over the next three decades, she rose through the ranks, earning a promotion to Fire Captain in 2002 and then to Battalion Chief in 2022. Her rise in leadership was historic—she was the first female firefighter and the first Asian American Battalion Chief in the Davis Fire Department's history.

Beyond her work on the front lines of fighting fires, Chief Lo has been a dedicated leader and advocate for her profession. She served on the Executive Board as Treasurer for Davis Firefighters Local 3494 for 25 years, making her the longest-serving female firefighter union officer in California history. As Co-Chair and a founding member of the California Firefighters Joint Apprenticeship Committee's Commission to Recruit Women for the Fire Service, she played a pivotal role in increasing diversity within the profession. Chief Lo was also an active delegate for both the California Professional Firefighters and the International Association of Firefighters, where she advocated on critical issues such as firefighter cancer risk, labor rights and retirement security. Additionally, she served as a delegate to the 2000 Democratic National Convention and has been a dedicated grassroots advocate for numerous local and state candidates.

Chief Lo's dedication extends beyond the firehouse. She has volunteered annually for the Davis Firefighter's "Fill the Boot" Thanksgiving Basket program, ensuring that Yolo County families have meals during the holiday season. She also worked alongside Thriving Pink, a nonprofit that supports breast cancer survivors, to help raise thousands of dollars through their annual crab feed.

Chief Lo's career has been defined by resilience, leadership and commitment to service. She has thrived in a male-dominated field, breaking barriers while earning the respect and admiration of her colleagues. Her humor, integrity and loyalty to her profession made her an inspiration to future generations of firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Battalion Chief Emily Lo for her extraordinary service, leadership and dedication to the Davis community. We thank her for her lifelong commitment to public safety and wish her a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHIMON AND
SARA BIRNBAUM JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center in Bridgewater, NJ. Through its wide range of services and diverse programming, the JCC works with the Jewish community and the Bridgewater community at large to preserve and strengthen Jewish identity. Over the past 25 years, members of all ages have had the opportunity to enjoy services such as fitness centers, educational classes, summer camps, and much more. I am honored to have such an incredible organization in the 7th Congressional District, and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth of the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center.

HONORING DR. TRACY MACINTOSH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tracy MacIntosh is a leader in the field of medicine, serving as the associate dean for access, belonging, and community engagement at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine, as well as an associate professor of emergency medicine.

With her educational background, which includes a master's degree in science, a master's degree in public health, and a medical degree from Yale School of Medicine, Dr. MacIntosh brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her roles. Her dedication to medical education is paralleled by her unwavering commitment to promoting health equity and eliminating health disparities.

As a practicing emergency physician, Dr. MacIntosh applies her clinical experience to improve the health and well-being of her patients in Kissimmee. Her dual focus on clinical excellence and medical education allows her to deliver compassionate care while inspiring the next generation of healthcare providers, both in the classroom and at the bedside. Dr. MacIntosh is a passionate mentor to students, residents, and community youth, encouraging them to pursue careers in healthcare and provide care to improve quality and outcomes for every single patient. She leads the UCF College of Medicine in its mission to train future physicians and scientists dedicated to ending healthcare disparities.

She also spearheads many innovative medical educational outreach programs in Osceola County. For example, the Future Healthcare Leaders Program provides local high school students with hands-on clinical experiences in the hospital. She has also partnered with the Osceola School District's Special Programs, teaching and inspiring local students from families experiencing housing insecurity and offering students the opportunity to use ultrasound technology.

Her commitment to creating immersive opportunities for elementary, high school, and college students extends to clinical and mentoring programs at the UCF College of Medicine so they can successfully pursue professional healthcare careers and improve health equity for all of us.

HONORING DETECTIVE KELSEA NELSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Kelsea Nelson of the Santa Rosa Police Department. I have named Detective Nelson as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Sonoma County because of her extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

Detective Nelson was born in Southern California but has called Sonoma County home since she was four years old. Her family resides in Santa Rosa, and her partner works in

victim advocacy, serving many of the same vulnerable populations she does. She earned an Associate of Arts degree in Humanities from Santa Rosa Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with an emphasis in Law and Society from the University of California, Davis.

Detective Nelson began her career with the Santa Rosa Police Department in 2016 as a Records Technician. She transitioned to a police officer role in 2018 and took her current assignment as a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Detective in 2023. In addition to her investigative duties, Detective Nelson serves her department as a drone operator, honor guard member and defensive tactics instructor. She has also volunteered as a Crisis Line Counselor with Verity, Sonoma County's sexual assault crisis support organization.

Her outstanding work on a missing juvenile case exemplifies her dedication to protecting the most vulnerable. In May 2024, she led an investigation into a missing juvenile case, utilizing the National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) resources to track a suspect across multiple states. Her swift and strategic efforts, in coordination with federal and local law enforcement, led to the safe recovery of the juvenile and the apprehension of the suspect, who now faces multiple state and federal charges. Detective Nelson's exceptional work earned her the NCIC 2024 Success Story of the Year award, a testament to her skill, dedication, and relentless pursuit of justice.

Detective Nelson's work shows her selfless dedication and service at the highest levels to our community and the Law Enforcement profession.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we recognize and honor Detective Kelsea Nelson for her outstanding service. Her tireless dedication to justice and public safety makes our community a better and safer place. We congratulate her on this well-earned recognition and thank her for her continued service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SANDY OPPENHEIMER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional constituent from my district, Mr. Sandy Oppenheimer. As a United States Navy World War II Veteran, a newspaper editor, a volunteer, and a marathon runner, Sandy has found ways to serve his country and his community. He continues to inspire all generations.

Eighty-two years ago, Sandy served bravely aboard the heavy cruiser USS *Salt Lake City* (CA-25) during some of the most famous battles in history like the Doolittle Raid, Battle of the Coral Seas, and the Battle of Midway. He was there when the flag was raised at Iwo Jima. Today, he is one of only three remaining survivors of one of the Navy's most storied ships.

Sandy was born September 1, 1925, in New York City. This year (2025), he will turn 100.

His father was a World War I Veteran, who died when Sandy was just 11, and left four young boys—at the height of the Depression—alone with their young mother. She went

to work, and the older boys watched the younger boys. All four boys went on to serve in our Armed Forces, in the Navy, the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.

After WWII, Sandy attended New York University on the G.I. Bill, graduated with a degree in accounting, but went into journalism. He began a long career in journalism as the United Press International bureau chief in Guam. After a few more stops, he moved with his wife Mary and two young children, in 1954, to Levittown, and spent more than 50 years with the Bucks County Courier Times. He served as its editor for many of those years, writing the reader-favorite front page column, "Good Evening", which he signed with only his initials.

Sandy still remembers the day President Kennedy was assassinated, and sending people to find and stop the trucks that were just heading out with that day's edition, and pulling his team together to put out a new edition with the terrible news.

He also feels great pride when contacted by best-selling authors like Erik Larson, and Hall of Fame reporter Claire Smith, thanking him for giving them their first job.

He was an active volunteer and board member in many community organizations. Sandy was one of the earliest presidents of the Bucks County Free Library, and helped start it on its path to what it is today.

Sandy and Mary, who passed away five years ago, were charter members of the Bucks County Road Runners, and ran marathons throughout the country. Recently, Sandy was honored as the first recipient of the Newtown Library Company's Honorary Runner award at their annual 5K. He was surrounded by members of the news media who remembered working for him and members of the running community, happy to see him again.

Sandy still reads three newspapers every day from cover to cover. He appreciates the work of reporters getting a good story out to the readers and knows the importance of informing the community of the important issues we face every day.

We thank him for his service to our country and our community.

RECOGNIZING LEONARDO MENDOZA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leonardo Mendoza, a distinguished law enforcement professional and United States Air Force veteran, for his decades of service to our community and our Nation. With over 23 years of dedicated service in immigration enforcement, operations leadership, and national security, Mr. Mendoza has been an integral part of protecting our country through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Mr. Mendoza developed a foundation in discipline, leadership, and mission execution early on, serving six years in the United States Air Force before joining ICE. In his current role as a Detention and Deportation Officer, he leads the development and execution of national training programs at ICE's Enforcement

and Removal Operations (ERO) Academy. Throughout his career, he spearheaded the creation of a nationally standardized On-the-Job Training Program enhancing field training effectiveness, designed and implemented a national Train-the-Trainer program aligned with strategic objectives of the Warrant Service Officer Program, and supervised the Criminal Alien Program (CAP) team increasing arrest efficiency and enforcement actions against high-priority targets. Additionally, he played an instrumental role in securing a search warrant in collaboration with an Assistant U.S. Attorney that led to the seizure of heroin and firearms from an aggravated felon.

Mr. Mendoza's leadership played a crucial role in developing collaborations between Department of Homeland Security leadership, field operations, and private sector partners. His work has improved our national security and operational readiness within ICE. Beyond his technical and strategic contributions, Mr. Mendoza has served as a dedicated mentor, guiding the next generation of law enforcement professionals toward excellence.

Leonardo Mendoza's long career has made our country safer and our law enforcement professionals stronger. I thank Mr. Mendoza for his distinguished service to the United States, and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

HONORING FRED ROBINSON AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Fred Robinson enlisted into the United States Marine Corps at 17 during the Vietnam War. Fred was the Vitas Healthcare Veterans liaison covering Seminole, Orange, and Osceola counties from 2012 through 2021.

Fred is a national and regional mentor for We Honor Veterans. He was the first Florida Vitas Healthcare Veterans liaison to achieve Level V accreditation from WHV, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It invites hospices, state hospice organizations, hospice-Veteran partnerships, and VA facilities to join a pioneering program focused on recognizing the unique needs of America's Veterans and their families. Fred is also certified in CE training for the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC). This project is both a national and international initiative to improve palliative care. Fred's collaborations with the Osceola Council on Aging, Veterans organizations, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and community health fairs provide vital information to attendees by debunking the myth of hospice, educating Veterans and community families on end-of-life care, and informing them about resources and benefits that many are unaware of so they can make informed decisions on how they want to be cared for at the end of their life.

Some of Fred's achievements include being named Orlando Business Journal's Veteran of Influence 2019, being a National Partner to

the 50th Commemoration of Vietnam Veterans out of the Pentagon since 2013, being named the Orlando Mayors Veterans Advisory Council Hero of COVID 2021, receiving the HFUW Mission United Inaugural Game Change Impact Maker Award 2021, being in the Florida Governors Veterans HOF Class of 2021, being named the OCMVAC Inaugural Veteran of the Year 2023, and receiving the 1st Baptist Church Academies Patriot of the Year Award 2023. Fred volunteered as the co-chair of OCMVAC from 2018–2023 and became the chair in 2023. He has also been a OCMVAC member since 2013, the VP of CMSGT R. Hall, Jr., Tuskegee Airman Central Florida Chapter since 2019, and a member of Congressman Soto's Veterans Advisory Board since 2014. Additionally, he has been a member of the Heart of Florida United Way Mission United Council since 2020, is a member of the HFUW Mission United Veteran Council, and has been a member of the VA Patient Experience Council since 2022.

HONORING ROGER LUTZ, III

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Station Leader Roger Lutz, III of the Napa County Fire Department. I have named Mr. Lutz as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County because of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Born in San Luis Obispo and raised in Napa County, Mr. Lutz has dedicated his life to protecting and serving his community. After graduating from St Helena High School, Mr. Lutz pursued studies in Fire Science at Santa Rosa Junior College before earning his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification from Napa County Junior College.

Mr. Lutz began his fire service career in 1992 as an Explorer at the Deer Park Napa County Fire Station before becoming a Volunteer Firefighter in 1993. Over the years, he advanced through the ranks to become the Station Lead, a role he has held for over a decade. In addition, he has served as an Engine Boss for more than 20 years, leading critical fire response efforts across the region. Throughout his dedicated service to the community, Mr. Lutz has also maintained full-time employment at his family's company.

Mr. Lutz has been on the front lines of numerous fires. These include the Topanga Fire, Tubbs Fire, Glass Fire, Valley Fire, and most recently, the Eaton Fire. His leadership and expertise have been instrumental in mitigating these devastating wildfires and protecting lives and property.

In addition to his exemplary fieldwork, Mr. Lutz has played a key role in shaping the next generation of firefighters. Through his mentorship, he has guided many of his peers into successful careers in the fire service. His influence and dedication to professional development are reflected in his work on multiple committees within the Napa County Fire Department, including the Equipment Committee, Adhoc Committee, Radio Communications Committee, and Training Officer Committee.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Lutz is known for his tireless work ethic, humil-

ity, and compassion. His colleagues and community members regard him as a leader who leads by example, never seeking recognition but always putting the needs of others first. His selflessness and dedication make him not only a respected firefighter but also a cherished friend and role model to all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, Station Lead Roger Lutz, III embodies the highest ideals of public service and leadership. His decades of dedication to the fire service and our community have left an indelible mark on Napa County and beyond. It is with great respect and appreciation that we recognize his contributions and honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LA PORTE LITTLE THEATER

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to recognize the La Porte Little Theater and its 100th Anniversary as community members gather to celebrate this weekend on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at the La Porte Little Theater in the City of La Porte, Indiana.

The La Porte Little Theater began with an advertisement in the local LaPorte Herald Argus newspaper to gauge interest in a community theater club. The La Porte Little Theater was founded on November 11, 1925, when twenty-five community members convened the first official meeting at the local YMCA, which was considered home base for the theater for many years that followed. Early on, the club presented one-act plays in the La Porte High School Auditorium before purchasing the St. John's Lutheran Church building at the corner of 3rd Street and A Street in 1954, where it remains today. Getting the theater ready for showtime was truly a community effort, with Mr. Roy Kaber performing all the electrical wiring, Mrs. Haskell Rosenthal donating the main stage, and Ms. Julie Blankschein Hilbish's family donating the velvet curtains.

Today, the La Porte Little Theater is a 200-seat community theater that aims to provide quality theatrical experiences to Northwest Indiana audiences and actors. Over the last century, the La Porte Little Theater has presented plays, musicals, mysteries, dramas, and comedies, in efforts to bring our region together through art, dance, song, and expression. It is because of the generations of dedicated volunteers who contributed their time, efforts, and talents that the La Porte Little Theater continues to serve as a beacon of creative expression for all in LaPorte County and Northwest Indiana. Through the years, the committed Board Members and volunteers of the La Porte Little Theater have selflessly dedicated their time and efforts to provide opportunities to youth and adults on stage and behind the scenes. From sidesplitting comedy to thoughtful commentary on modern society, hundreds of volunteers have contributed their skills and talents to bring stories to life on stage. Through hundreds of thousands of hours of rehearsal, tens of thousands of costumes, thousands of handmade sets, hundreds of stories brought to the stage, and one

hundred years, the volunteers of the La Porte Little Theater are worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the La Porte Little Theater as volunteers gather to celebrate its 100th Anniversary and the magic of storytelling this Sunday, February 23, 2025.

130TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Our Lady of the Lake University's 130th anniversary. A true San Antonio institution, the university's dedication to public service extends further than the classroom, uniting generations of students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Since 1895, Our Lady of the Lake has been a true Jewel of San Antonio's Westside. Established by the Sisters of Divine Providence, the school was created with the intention of serving the community in all aspects of life. Throughout the school's 130 years, it has held true to its traditions, while constantly innovating to ensure its position as a preeminent institution of higher education. Whether it was teaching grade school students at the turn of the twentieth century as a parochial school, providing individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds with access to higher education, or implementing community-based social service programs, Our Lady of the Lake has continually shown San Antonio and beyond that it is built on a commitment to service of all.

Now, in 2025, Our Lady of the Lake is a university that embraces its history to continually drive academic excellence and community development. As a leader in numerous academic disciplines, the university attracts students from throughout the United States and the world. Across Our Lady of the Lake University's three campuses, more than 75 undergraduate and graduate programs, and successful athletic programs, the university has positioned itself to inspire current and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize an educational legacy defined by success, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to service.

HONORING DR. LANCELOT GOODEN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Lancelot Gooden is an executive administrator and visionary leader with over two decades of experience in education. He holds a bachelor's degree in industrial mathematics, a master's degree in math education, and a Doctor of Education in adult and community college leadership. Since 2022, he has served as the pro-

vost for the Osceola and Poinciana campuses of Valencia College, where his leadership has profoundly impacted Osceola County, Florida. Dr. Gooden's tenure in Osceola County is marked by his commitment to academic excellence, student success, and community impact.

He is a member of the boards of directors of Hope Partnership and the Osceola County Education Foundation. He also serves on the boards of the Osceola Chamber, HCA Poinciana Hospital, and the National Science Foundation Engine Broadening Participation and Regional Engagement Advisory Board. He is a champion of community engagement. He actively works to strengthen partnerships between Valencia College and local organizations. His leadership demonstrates a commitment to fostering educational opportunities and community impact in Osceola County. He also focuses on developing innovative STEM education and workforce training programs to support the region's economic growth and resilience.

Dr. Gooden firmly believes in providing accessible, high-quality educational experiences for all learners, particularly students from low-income and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. He is the eighth of 12 siblings and the son of Clive Gooden and the late Candace Gooden. He is the proud father of two exceptional children, Matthaeus and Céline Gooden, and is married to his wonderful wife, Kutina Gooden. Through his visionary leadership and dedication to community engagement, Dr. Gooden continues to inspire positive change and transform lives in Osceola County, leaving a legacy of academic and civic excellence.

HONORING DETECTIVE MICHAEL NAKAHARA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Michael Nakahara of the Lake County Sheriff's Office I have named Detective Nakahara as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Lake County because of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Born in Japan and raised in Hawaii by his parents, Scott and Susan Nakahara, Detective Nakahara graduated from the Hawai'i Preparatory Academy in 2014 before attending the San Joaquin Delta College P.O.S.T. Academy in 2021. He joined the Lake County Sheriff's Office later that year and, through his hard work, was assigned to the Major Crimes Unit in February 2024. In addition to his investigative duties, Detective Nakahara serves as an Explorer Advisor for the Lake County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post, mentoring young people interested in careers in law enforcement. His contributions to the department were recognized in December 2024 when he was awarded the Lake County Sheriff's Office Community Service Award and Sheriff's Citation.

Detective Nakahara demonstrated his skill while working on Lake County's first-ever fentanyl homicide case. Beginning in February 2024, he partnered with Sergeant Jeffrey Mora to investigate the tragic death of 17-year-old

Illeanna Frease, a Native American youth. Despite this being his first major case, as well as his first homicide case, Detective Nakahara tackled the investigation with tireless resolve. Over several months, he authored numerous reports and search warrants and conducted extensive interviews, allowing the evidence to guide him to the truth. His tenacity led to the arrest and charging of a suspect with second-degree murder who will face a jury trial this March. This case garnered widespread support from the Native American community at both the local and state levels and underscores the critical role Detective Nakahara plays in bringing justice to victims and their families.

Beyond his law enforcement duties, Detective Nakahara is an engaged member of our Lake County community. During the 2024 football season, he volunteered over 100 hours as an assistant coach for the Youth Varsity Kelseyville Chiefs in the Kelseyville Chiefs Youth Football League. His efforts helped instill values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal integrity in young athletes while strengthening the bond between the Sheriff's Office and the local community.

Mr. Speaker, Detective Michael Nakahara embodies the highest ideals of law enforcement—courage, dedication, and an unwavering pursuit of justice. Our citizens of Lake County and the Sheriff's Office can depend on him to protect and serve with honor and integrity. It is my privilege to recognize and commend Detective Nakahara for his outstanding contributions, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him today.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE JOHN D. ALLEN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of a loving husband, doting father and grandfather, dedicated public servant, and my friend of longstanding, Judge John D. Allen. Sadly, Judge Allen passed from labor to reward on February 16, 2025. A celebration of his life will be held on February 21, 2025 at St. Mary's Road United Methodist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Judge Allen was born on January 17, 1943, to the union of Daniel and Beatrice Allen, in racially segregated Columbus, Georgia. It seemed like all the odds were against him of one day becoming a Superior Court Judge. Despite the lack of Black role models in the law as he was growing up, Judge Allen kept education as his main priority. He graduated from Tuskegee University in 1966 with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

A distinguished cadet in the ROTC, Judge Allen was commissioned into the Air Force in 1966 as a 2nd Lieutenant Pilot. By the end of his Air Force career, Judge Allen had attained the rank of the Captain and flown over 280 combat missions across Southeast Asia wherein he took out enemy anti-aircraft positions and made the battlefields safer for an untold number of American troops and our allies. He then went on to serve in Tampa, Florida as an academic and flight instructor until

his discharge in July of 1973. He left the Air Force as a highly decorated pilot, earning 23 Air Medals, 2 Air Force Commendation Medals, and numerous other awards for his service during the Vietnam War.

In 1975, Judge Allen earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida, and he was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1976. From 1976 to 1987, he maintained a private law practice in the Columbus area. At that time, Judge Allen and I were two of only four black lawyers in town.

Judge Allen continued to break barriers when he began serving as a Columbus Recorder's Court Judge for one year before assuming a position on the State Court for Muscogee County in 1987. In 1993, he was appointed to the position of Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge. He was re-elected in every election since his appointment, until he retired from the bench in 2013.

Judge Allen's diligent judicial service has also been mirrored by his extensive involvement with the local and state communities. In conjunction with his professional accomplishments in the Air Force and on the bench, Judge Allen served on a number of boards and commissions, most notably as Chairman of the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and received many awards and accolades for his service. Judge Allen's contributions to the Columbus area and the state of Georgia even earned him recognition from the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer as one of "100 People to Remember for the Century." Additionally, on April 3, 2021, Judge Allen was inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall Fame for his distinguished service in the Air Force, as well as his decades of contributions to the legal field as an attorney and jurist.

None of Judge Allen's momentous accomplishments would have been possible without the enduring love and support of his late wife Victoria; his former wife Maureen, children John Jr., Geoffrey, and Kevin; and grandchildren, John III and Carson.

A true Georgian devoted to serving his great state, Judge Allen embodied Georgia's state motto, "Wisdom, Justice and Moderation." Judge Allen was a man of great integrity who set a high standard of values that made for a strong foundation of character in himself and in others. He was indeed a trailblazer, and he used his extensive knowledge and experiences to mentor other professionals he met along the way.

On a personal note, I am grateful to have known Judge Allen and counted him as a dear friend. His wise counsel and sage advice have contributed immensely to my success and have been a guiding light for me as I serve in Congress. For that I will always be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Judge John D. Allen and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, colleagues, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that all will be consoled by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JANET BASZILE

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Janet Baszile, who passed away peacefully in December of 2024. Born on January 18, 1939, in Royal Oak Township, Michigan to Willa Mae and Mamon Dean, she was the fourth of five daughters. Janet also sharpened her natural love of adventure and nature when she followed in her sisters' footsteps and attended Green Pastures Camp, the only camp in Michigan for Black children.

Ms. Baszile attended Eastern Michigan University, where she pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She earned a B.A. in Education in 1961 and in 1962, she married Barry Baszile and moved to Los Angeles. She began her eighteen-year career in the Los Angeles Unified School District by teaching kindergarten and third grade at Woodcrest Elementary School. She taught until 1980, when she retired to become a full-time mother.

Ms. Baszile lived on the Palos Verdes Peninsula for more than 53 years, where she loved the natural beauty and gorgeous views. She was a dedicated community volunteer who drew strength from service. She served on the boards of Community Association of the Peninsula, Torrance Cultural Art Center Foundation, Providence Trinity Care Hospice, Palos Verdes Art Center, and the Los Angeles International Visitors Council. Janet was a Founding Member of the Affinity support group for the Volunteer Center, in South Bay-Harbor Long Beach, where she was honored as a Legend of the South Bay. When she wasn't volunteering, Janet enjoyed gardening, golf and travel. She was a world traveler, most recently having traveled to Ghana.

Janet is survived by her two daughters, Natalie and Jennifer, her sons-in-law, Warrington and Malacai, and her three grandchildren, Hyacinth, Chloe, and Caleb. She is also survived by her sisters, Marion, Gloria, and Carol, her brother-in-law, Charles Baszile, and many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

HONORING BEN LARRY AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Ben Larry is the director of human resources for SkyWater Technology in Florida. Ben has been a human resources professional for 34 years. Born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, Ben earned a Master of Health Services Administration from the University of Kansas. Ben also earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Tougaloo College. Ben is a Veteran of the United States Navy.

In addition to his role in human resources, Mr. Larry is recognized as a dedicated advocate for workforce development and community relations/involvement in Osceola County,

especially for underserved students and communities. He has given several SkyWater career opportunity presentations to the faculty, staff, students, and parents at a STEM elementary school, a STEM middle school, a STEM high school, and other middle and high schools across Kissimmee to get kids interested and excited about careers as engineers and technicians in the semiconductor manufacturing industry.

In 2022, Ben partnered with NeoCity Academy to create an internship program for NeoCity Academy students. The idea is to give students exposure to working at SkyWater and in the semiconductor industry as engineers. SkyWater continues to hire three to four NeoCity Academy students each summer to work on meaningful and impactful projects.

Beginning in 2021, Mr. Larry and other SkyWater leaders partnered with Valencia College to help enhance Valencia's mechatronics and robotics curriculum and helped them create their Associate of Arts program in semiconductor engineering. Ben and the SkyWater leaders also helped Valencia create their mock clean room. Mr. Larry also partners with Valencia College to offer internships for Valencia's mechatronics and robotics student graduates. This has resulted in SkyWater hiring three graduates to date from Valencia's programs as full-time technicians. In addition to Valencia College, Mr. Larry partners with the University of Florida, the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida, and Florida Polytechnic University to hire students for internship opportunities. These internships have allowed SkyWater to hire five graduates from these institutions as full-time engineers and technicians.

From a community relations and involvement perspective, Mr. Larry and other Skywater employees have participated in over 15 Osceola County community events over the past four years. Three Kings Day, Viva Osceola, and Juneteenth, to name a few. Mr. Larry serves on the board of Career Source Central Florida, representing Osceola County. He is also a 2023 graduate of Leadership Osceola. Lastly, Mr. Larry is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

HONORING OFFICER MATTHEW BOWEN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Officer Matthew Bowen of the Vacaville Police Department. I have named Officer Bowen as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County in honor of his ultimate sacrifice to our community, tragically losing his life in the line of duty. Officer Bowen exemplified the highest ideals of law enforcement—service, integrity, and sacrifice—and his devotion to protecting our community will never be forgotten.

Born in Walnut Creek, California, Officer Bowen was active in his church and the Boy Scouts of America, where he became a senior leader of his troop and achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. His commitment

to service led him to Arizona State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, preparing him for a career dedicated to public safety.

Officer Bowen joined the Vacaville Police Department in 2023 after serving with distinction as a Police Officer for the City of Concord. In both departments, he was celebrated for his kindness, humor, work ethic, and unwavering calm under pressure. Colleagues and community members alike remember him as a compassionate officer who treated everyone with dignity and respect.

On Thursday, July 11, 2024, Officer Bowen was initiating a traffic stop when he was struck by a vehicle, tragically losing his life in the line of duty. His selfless dedication to protecting others, even in the face of danger, is a testament to his courage and commitment to public service.

Officer Bowen is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and their two young sons, Mason and Everett. In the wake of his passing, condolences poured in from across the country, with community members sharing heartfelt memories of his kindness and dedication. He was remembered as an inspiration to others, a person who encouraged those around him to be better, and as a compassionate soul who went beyond the duties of his profession to support those in need.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Bowen's bravery, compassion, and unwavering commitment to his community embody the very essence of public service. His loss is deeply felt, but his memory will endure as an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues, and we honor Officer Matthew Bowen's legacy of courage and sacrifice. He will never be forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
JANET MARTIN, 'MAYOR OF
ARMITAGE'

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janet Martin on concluding an iconic career with the Chicago Transit Authority.

For the last 29 years, Janet has worked for the CTA across the Red, Purple, Yellow, and Green lines. But it is her work at the Armitage Brown Line station that has earned Janet acclaim amongst Chicagoans across the city. Known as the Mayor of the Armitage Brown Line Station, Janet's warm demeanor is well known amongst all riders. Throughout her career, Janet has gone above and beyond, befriending commuters and making sure that everyone has a friendly, helping hand, whether they are Chicago natives or visitors to the city.

Janet has truly led a life of service and plans to continue this work even in her retirement. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service and warmth Janet has provided during her entire tenure. Our Mayor of the Armitage Brown Line station will surely be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS
NELSON PERRY

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a man who exemplified the American spirit—Thomas Nelson Perry, a dedicated veteran, successful businessman, and steadfast community leader. On January 24, 2025, Thomas went home to be with the Lord, leaving behind a legacy of service, integrity, and devotion to his family and country.

From an early age, he demonstrated a commitment to service, joining the Air Force Reserves while still in high school before enlisting in the United States Army. Rising to the rank of staff sergeant, he served as an instructor at the Army Signal Corps School in Fort Gordon, Georgia, and played a role in history by monitoring the Soviet Union's launch of the first-ever satellite, Sputnik.

After his military service, Thomas applied his technical expertise as an electrician before transitioning to sales, where his talent and tenacity led him to secure a historic contract with NASA while working for Smith Corona. He later built a successful decades-long career with Monsanto, serving as a sales manager in the Astroturf and Fome-cor divisions. It was during this time that he met his beloved wife, Mary Lou, with whom he built a life full of love, adventure, and family. Together, they welcomed their son, Brandon, while living in Atlanta before retiring to Galveston.

Thomas's retirement years were no less impressive. An avid sailor, he explored the Gulf of America aboard his beloved vessels, the Gloria Del Mar and later the MV Mary Louise. Even as age made sailing more difficult, his commitment to service never wavered. He dedicated his time to charitable work with Lighthouse Charity Cooking Texas, served his community with pride, and remained actively engaged in local Republican politics, always bringing his sharp wit, deep patriotism, and unwavering sense of justice to the causes he held dear.

Later in life, Thomas moved back to Atlanta to be near his grandson, John, cherishing the time spent watching him grow and sharing in his love of sports. His legacy of faith, family, and service will continue to inspire all who knew and loved him.

May God bless the Perry family during this time of mourning. We honor the life of Thomas Nelson Perry—his dedication to his country, his commitment to his community, and his enduring love for his family. His impact will not be forgotten, and his legacy will live on for generations to come.

HONORING LEIA PEREZ AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Leia Perez, celebrated for her couture cake designs, has

achieved widespread recognition for her exceptional craftsmanship through her award-winning bakery, Candyland Designs.

Her work has been featured in prominent magazines, and she has made several television appearances regarding her work. Leia's dedication to excellence has earned her numerous prestigious accolades, including an NAACP award and the Military Order of the Purple Heart award, recognizing her profound commitment to philanthropy and community impact.

Holding a B.S. in Business Management & Accounting from Case Western Reserve University, Leia actively contributes her expertise by serving on the executive boards of several nonprofit organizations. Her unwavering dedication to giving back is reflected in her partnerships with Make-A-Wish bakers, the Osceola NAACP, the Kissimmee Main Street Program, Team Kareem Memorial Foundation, Kiss Kormucopia's Community Shared Agriculture program, and the Black Empowerment Community Council. She also consistently donates a portion of her profits to No Kid Hungry, ensuring her impact extends far beyond her business. Leia's passion for philanthropy goes beyond financial contributions—she strives to create joy and lasting memories. As the founder of the Wedding Wish by Candyland Designs Foundation, she grants dream weddings and provides mental health support to couples facing life-altering challenges.

Through initiatives like free Wellness Workshops, offering yoga, meditation, and art therapy, Leia empowers her community by promoting self-care and connection. Her heartfelt mission is to provide hope, joy, and support to those in need—work that she holds closest to her heart.

HONORING CANINE OFFICER
MURPH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Canine Officer Murph of the Vacaville Police Department's K-9 Unit. I have named Canine Officer Murph as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County because of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Born on July 4, 2020, Canine Officer Murph began his law enforcement career in 2021. Paired with his partner, Officer Chad Hudson, the two quickly became the senior K-9 team of the Vacaville Police Department's K-9 unit. Canine Officer Murph has been expertly trained to assist in the apprehension of criminal suspects and the detection of narcotics. Canine Officer Murph has facilitated numerous arrests, assisted nearly every department within the agency, and worked numerous hours in the line of duty.

Canine Officer Murph is also heavily involved in the Vacaville Police Department's mission of community engagement. When Canine Officer Murph was not actively patrolling, he and his partner conducted canine demonstrations to showcase their unique skillset and abilities to the public. Of these demonstrations, Canine Officer Murph's favorite engagements are with elementary school students in

the Travis and Vacaville Unified School Districts. Canine Officer Murph is a favorite among the students and these visits have allowed him to connect with hundreds of children.

On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, Canine Officer Murph assisted the Vacaville Police Department with the service of a high-risk arrest warrant. During this operation, the suspect, a suicidal individual who had attempted on many occasions to harm uninvolved members of the public, was confronted in front of his residence. The suspect was armed with a rifle, and Canine Officer Murph was deployed in a heroic effort to resolve the engagement without using lethal force.

Tragically, the suspect fired upon Canine Officer Murph and struck him in his left paw, causing a serious injury that ultimately resulted in the amputation of his leg. Despite his injury, Canine Officer Murph was able to successfully detain the suspect and prevent further harm to the public. During this incident, Canine Officer Murph displayed exemplary bravery and demonstrated the importance of his specialized training. Canine Officer Murph is currently recovering at home under the care of his partner Officer Hudson. On the day of his return home, K-9 teams across the region lined the streets to honor his service.

Mr. Speaker, Canine Officer Murph has displayed courage and valor in all aspects of his work. His selfless dedication and unfaltering bravery exemplify the highest levels of public service. Canine Officer Murph is truly deserving of this honor, and we wish him a speedy recovery and many dog treats in his future.

HONORING RUFUS “BUD” MYERS.
JR.

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rufus Myers, Jr., a cherished Indianapolis native whose legacy as a dedicated public servant continues to resonate throughout our community. His life's work embodied the values of service, justice, and equity—values that will endure for generations to come.

Bud's unwavering commitment to housing equity, social justice, and community advocacy transformed Indianapolis, leaving a lasting imprint on our city. As the Executive Director of the Indianapolis Housing Agency (IHA) from 2001 until his passing, he led efforts to provide affordable housing to thousands of families. Under his stewardship, IHA managed 13 public housing communities and administered nearly 7,400 Housing Choice Vouchers. His tireless dedication ensured that vulnerable families in Indianapolis had access to a place they could call home, setting a gold standard for public service.

His influence extended far beyond his work with IHA. His impactful role at the Chicago Housing Authority, where he played a pivotal part in advancing the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, brought about nationwide improvements in tenant opportunities. His legacy also includes over three decades of service in the U.S. Congress, where he served as Chief of Staff to my mentor, Andy Jacobs, and other representatives

like Barbara Jordan, and Mickey Leland. Through these roles, Bud contributed to shaping policies that impacted our city and the Nation.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Bud was deeply embedded in the fabric of our local community. He served on the boards of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and the Indianapolis Housing Trust Fund and was actively involved with organizations like 100 Black Men of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Concerned Clergy. His leadership uplifted countless individuals and organizations, ensuring that the spirit of service and compassion remained at the heart of our community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of Rufus “Bud” Myers, Jr. His commitment to social justice, public service, and the well-being of others will continue to inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN DILLON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the exceptional dedication and hard work of one of my outstanding constituents, Brian Dillon.

Brian has recently completed an internship in the Office of the Clerk for the House of Representatives, where he has been an invaluable asset, assisting with a wide range of matters that have come before him. This opportunity came after Brian made the remarkable decision to graduate from high school early, demonstrating not only his drive but his commitment to public service. With a deep sense of purpose, he traveled all the way from Florida to Washington, D.C., to contribute to the work of our government and lend a helping hand to the people of Florida and the United States.

Throughout his time here, Brian has played a role in supporting the office with various tasks, including assisting staff with vacant offices, processing administrative paperwork, and assisting with other legislative duties. His dedication and tireless work ethic have not gone unnoticed, and he has made an impact during his time with the House.

As Brian's internship draws to a close, he plans to return to Florida, where he will embark on a new chapter of his career as an electrician apprentice. I have no doubt that his future is bright, and I wish him the very best of luck as he takes this important step toward a successful career.

It is young individuals like Brian who inspire all of us with their initiative, hard work, and commitment to their communities. I am proud to have him represent the great state of Florida, and I look forward to seeing the great things he will undoubtedly achieve in the years to come.

HONORING OFC. ELIJAH K. SHABAZZ AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Ofc. Elijah K. Shabazz was born in Albany, Georgia, and his mother and father are from Valdosta, Georgia. Ofc. Shabazz has two brothers and one sister. He is the youngest of his siblings. His family moved to Orlando in the early 70s when he was very young. However, he spent a lot of his childhood in Georgia with his great-grandmother and great-aunts and uncles, which were some of his fondest memories in his formative years.

Ofc. Shabazz's mother was a physical therapist for the Orange County School Board working with special needs children, and his father worked in Central Florida for the Tri-County Transit Authority, which is now Lynx Transport.

Ofc. Shabazz has always had a special place in his heart to serve. When he was young, he was in the Boy Scouts of America, learning values and discipline to become productive in the community. He was also in the ARMY JROTC while in high school. Ofc. Shabazz would spend time with his mother in the historic town of Eatonville, Florida, volunteering at festivals and community events.

As time went on, after getting married and having children of his own, he decided to pursue his dreams of going into law enforcement. Ofc. Shabazz attended the Seminole State College School for Public Safety, where he earned his Florida Law Enforcement Certification. Ofc. Shabazz obtained his degree in the Science of Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia College and became a police officer in Eatonville, Florida, where he served for eight years. While there, he also became a school resource officer at Hungerford Elementary School and resurrected the school safety patrol to give students a sense of meaning, purpose, and integrity, as well as assisting families living in poverty in the community.

Ofc. Shabazz also received a letter of commendation before joining the Belle Isle Police Department. Besides conducting his duties as an officer, he assists in new officer field training and as the police department's mental health liaison and senior citizen public relations officer. Ofc. Shabazz received a life-saving award and a Distinguished Officer of the Year award for 2024 from the Belle Isle Police Department. Ofc. Shabazz continues to serve with pride and self-agency.

HONORING SERGEANT ERIK OLSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Erik Olson of the Napa County Sheriff's Office. I have named Sergeant Olson as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for

Napa County as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Born in Hayward, California, Sergeant Olson moved to Napa in 1980. He is a graduate of Vintage High School and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration from Sonoma State University. Sergeant Olson attended the Napa Valley College Police Academy, graduating as class president in 2005.

In December of 2005 Sergeant Olson began his career with the Napa County Sheriff's Office. During his nineteen years of service, Sergeant Olson has held a multitude of positions, including Marine Patrol Deputy, K-9 Handler, Field Training Officer, Search and Rescue Team Liaison, Community Emergency Response Team Liaison, Napa Sheriff's Mounted Posse Liaison, EVOC/PIT Instructor, and Mobile Field Force Team Leader. Sergeant Olson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2021, retiring his K-9 partner of seven years, Chase. Sergeant Olson currently serves as the Marine Patrol and Off Highway Vehicle Unit Supervisor in Lake Berryessa.

On June 8, 2024, the Napa Central Dispatch received 9-1-1 calls regarding a shooting and fight between ten individuals in the Oak Shores Day Use Area of Lake Berryessa. Sergeant Olson responded to this call, learning as he arrived on the scene there were multiple victims with stab wounds and a gunshot victim. Sergeant Olson then attempted to locate the gunshot victim, breaking up a fight and assisting an unconscious victim in the midst of his search. After locating the shooting victim, Sergeant Olson immediately administered life-saving measures. Tragically, the victim passed from their injuries.

As the only officer on the scene for seven minutes, Sergeant Olson's presence was essential in bringing calm to the situation. He performed essential aid to victims and provided Napa Central Dispatch with critical information to relay to other responding units. Sergeant Olson's quick response allowed the shooting suspect to be apprehended and for safety to be restored to the area.

Sergeant Olson's actions during this incident show selfless dedication and service at the highest levels to our community and the Law Enforcement profession.

Outside of his law enforcement service, Sergeant Olson is also involved in his community, serving at The Father's House "We Love Our City" Ministry, which works in partnership with the Napa Valley Food Bank. Beyond his community service, Sergeant Olson loves to spend time with his wife, Sara, and their two daughters, Kadance and Kirra. He is an avid golfer and enjoys spending time outdoors, both hobbies he enjoys with his family.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Olson's actions on June 8, 2024, as well as his nineteen years of work with the Napa County Sheriff's Office, exemplify the ideals of public service. His courage, dedication, and quick-thinking are truly admirable, and we honor him today.

REMEMBERING DR. HAROLD
JORDAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Harold Jordan, a pioneering

medical doctor and psychiatrist in my state of Tennessee who passed in December at the age of 87. Dr. Jordan became the first Black resident physician at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 1964 and Tennessee's first Black Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. My father, Dr. Morris Cohen, was the Superintendent of the Western State Psychiatric Hospital (now the Western Mental Health Institute) in Bolivar, Tennessee, in the mid-1970s, and worked with Dr. Jordan. After ensuring that every mental health facility in the state was accredited, Tennessee named a building in his honor: the Harold W. Jordan Habilitation Center in Nashville in 1979. Dr. Jordan also served for 18 years as the Chairman of the Psychiatry Department at Meharry Medical College, from which he graduated in 1962. He also served as its acting dean. He won the college's President's Award and its Humanism in Clinical Medicine Award. Vanderbilt established the Harold Jordan Lecture celebrating Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice in his honor. Born in 1937 in Newnan, Georgia, he knew by the age of seven that he would follow in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather into medicine. He graduated from Morehouse College with a degree in biology in 1958. After medical school, he married a nursing student named Geraldine, who survives him after 62 years of marriage. Family lore says they met while hiding after a bomb threat as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was preparing to speak at nearby Fisk College. Dr. Jordan and his wife raised four children in Nashville and belonged to the Clark Memorial United Methodist Church where he sang in the choir. He served as an officer in both the Tennessee National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. Dr. Jordan and his wife retired to Los Angeles to be nearer to their children. I extend my condolences to Dr. Jordan's family, friends and many admirers. He made a profound difference in our state and his compassion, patient care and mentoring of future doctors will be long remembered.

HONORING POLICE WEEK IN
PUERTO RICO

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous and dedicated men and women of the Puerto Rico Police Department as we commemorate Police Week from February 17 to February 23, 2025. Every day, law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to protect our communities, uphold the rule of law, and ensure that justice prevails. Their sacrifices often go unnoticed, but today, we take a moment to express our deepest appreciation for their service and commitment.

While no institution is without its challenges, we must acknowledge the unwavering dedication of our police officers who work tirelessly to make our communities safer. Their role is not only to enforce the law but also to serve with integrity, fairness, and a deep sense of responsibility.

In Puerto Rico, we have exceptional law enforcement professionals who have demonstrated exemplary service. I want to take

this opportunity to highlight some of the distinguished members of the Puerto Rico Police Department's Puerto Nuevo Precinct 282, who have gone above and beyond in 2024:

Director of the Year: Captain Rubén Gómez Sanabria

Outstanding Male Officer: Agent Daniel Ayala Almodóvar

Outstanding Female Officer: Agent Gretchen M. Arroyo Rivera

Distinguished Officers:

Agent Nicasio Lima Candelano

Agent Jeannette González Vázquez

Agent Marangely De León Sustache

Outstanding Civilian Personnel: Ms. Grisel Morales Guadalupe

These individuals exemplify the highest standards of public service and professionalism. Their dedication reminds us of the importance of supporting our law enforcement officers with the resources, training, and respect they deserve.

As we mark Police Week, let us reaffirm our commitment to those who serve and protect. Let us work together to ensure that law enforcement agencies have the tools they need to carry out their mission while fostering trust and accountability within our communities.

Mr. Speaker, today and every day, I stand with the brave men and women of the Puerto Rico Police Department, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring their service.

HONORING DEPUTY REIKO
MATSUMURA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Reiko Matsumura, an esteemed member of the Yolo County Sheriff's Office. I have named Deputy Matsumura as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Yolo County in recognition of her 20 years of service to our community, embodying selflessness, dedication and service throughout her career.

A fourth-generation resident of Capay Valley, Deputy Matsumura graduated from the Los Rios Corrections Academy in 2004 and the Yuba College Police Academy in 2006. Over the years, she has completed more than 100 POST-certified courses, including training in Human Trafficking, Interview and Interrogation, School Vulnerability Assessment, and Swift Water Rescue. While balancing her work responsibilities, she is also raising her teenage son.

Deputy Matsumura began her career with the Yolo County Sheriff's Office as a Records Specialist before advancing through multiple roles, including Correctional Officer, Bailiff, Transport Deputy, Detective, and Capay Valley Resident Deputy. In each position, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and a steadfast dedication to public service.

Beyond her law enforcement duties, Deputy Matsumura has been an advocate for strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and the community. She has been a familiar and trusted presence at local schools, attending festivals, back-to-school nights, and school board meetings to foster a

sense of safety and belonging. Her engagement in programs such as Read Across America has helped instill a love of literacy in young students, while her attendance at sporting events and FFA functions has underscored her investment in youth development.

Deputy Matsumura's service extends beyond schools, as she has played an active role in community-building efforts throughout our Capay Valley. She has participated in

Neighborhood Watch meetings, Esparto Chamber of Commerce and Town Hall meetings, and events such as National Night Out. Her work assisting local businesses in developing emergency response plans and her engagement with senior living meetings demonstrate a comprehensive commitment to public safety for residents of all ages.

Deputy Matsumura's career is one of selfless dedication and service at the highest lev-

els to our community and the Law Enforcement profession.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Reiko Matsumura's distinguished career and dedication to public service have left an indelible mark on our community. It is with great honor that we recognize and commend her for her invaluable contributions, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating her service today.