

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