

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 DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. 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.