

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