

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 a 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 Kornucopia'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