

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 Fomecor 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