

reflects a deep respect for the sacrifices of his fellow service members and a genuine desire to enhance their quality of life.

This nomination is not only a tribute to Donald's profound commitment to his fellow citizens but also a recognition of the entire Veterans of Foreign Wars community in Limestone County. His selfless dedication embodies the highest ideals of service and citizenship.

For his dedicated service to this nation and his community, I am honored to award Donald Lynn McDonald with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

**CONGRATULATING DAVE TITUS ON  
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE ST.  
PAUL POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dave Titus on his retirement from the St. Paul Police Department. Dave began his service with the St. Paul Police Department in 1994. He served in the Operations Division (patrol), as a field training officer (FTO), and on the Special Weapons & Tactics (SWAT) Team. Dave served as President of the Saint Paul Police Federation from 2001–2019 where he advocated to improve working conditions, officer pay and supported the implementation of body cameras. He also served as President of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and was twice appointed by the Governor to the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training. He continued his law enforcement career as an Inspector with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office for over five years.

I'm proud to have worked with Dave on various pieces of legislation including the Public Safety Officer Support Act, Invest to Protect Act and the Protect Local Law Enforcement Act. In addition, he has been a tireless advocate for the Social Security Fairness Act.

I'll always appreciate Dave's advice and counsel on law enforcement and public safety legislation and look forward to continuing that partnership in his new role as Deputy Director of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association.

Thank you to Dave for serving and protecting our community.

**STOP CAMPUS HAZING ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 2024*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as we debate H.R. 5646, Stop Campus Hazing Act, important legislation to address hazing on our college campuses, I include in the RECORD a letter of support for H.R. 5646 signed by parents who lost their children to hazing.

MARCH 7, 2024.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS, We are writing to communicate the importance of the Stop Campus Hazing Act (S. 2901, H.R. 5646), a bill

that will save lives. When our children/spouse started college we were filled with pride and excitement for what the future would bring. Never did we imagine that sending them to school meant we would never see them alive again. Instead of celebrating their graduation, we will spend the rest of our lives grieving their loss, because our loved ones were killed or seriously injured as a result of hazing.

Hazing is often thought of as a harmless bonding experience, but the reality is hazing threatens students' health and safety due to its intimidating, harassing, and often violent nature (StopHazing Research Lab, 2020). The National Study of Student Hazing found that more than 55% of college students involved in clubs, teams, and organizations experience hazing at colleges and universities throughout the U.S. These acts can cause serious psychological, emotional, physical injuries, and death. Over the past two decades, the number of identified hazing tragedies and deaths has escalated at an alarming rate.

Since 2015 Julie and Gary DeVercelly, whose son Gary DeVercelly, Jr. died as the result of a fraternity hazing ritual in 2007, have been tirelessly advocating for federal legislation that would require institutions to take action to prevent hazing incidents. We join them in urging you to support the Stop Campus Hazing Act, a bill that will help prevent other families from experiencing the loss we have endured. The Stop Campus Hazing Act requires the inclusion of hazing incidents as Clery Act crime statistics in Annual Security Reports; a publicly available transparency report that shares institutional hazing policies and identifies organizations that have violated them; and a comprehensive research-based educational programming on hazing for all stakeholders.

Our families' tragedies were preventable, and the more time that goes by before federal legislation is passed, the more young people will be harmed and killed by hazing. The time is now—we urge you to support this bill in honor of our loved one and the countless others who have been harmed.

Please contact Matthew.Golden@Mail.House.gov in Representative Lucy McBeth's office or Max.Hurst@Klobuchar.Senate.gov in Senator Klobuchar's office to co-sponsor the Stop Campus Hazing Act. Visit the StopHazing website to learn more or contact the Executive Director of Clery Center, Jessica Mertz, with questions (jmertz@clerycenter.org).

Thank you,

Patricia Strong-Fargas, (parent of Kristin High—died 9/9/2002 at California State University, Los Angeles); Karim Saafir, (spouse of Kenitha Saafir—died 9/9/2002 at California State University, Los Angeles); Mark Warren & Freada Warren, (parents of Clay R. Warren—died 9/21/2002 at Texas Tech University); Leslie & Michael Lanahan, (parents of Lynn Gordon Bailey ("Gordie")—died 9/17/2004 at University of Colorado Boulder); Debbie & Greg Smith, (parents of Matthew William Carrington—died 2/2/2005 at California State University, Chico); Julie Greaves DeVercelly & Gary Louis DeVercelly, Sr., (parents of Gary Louis DeVercelly, Jr.—died 3/30/2007 at Rider University); Julie & Tim Griffin, (parents of Brett Joseph Griffin—died 11/8/2008 at University of Delaware); Julia K. & H. Scott Starkey, (parents of Carson Leonard Starkey—died 12/2/2008 at California Polytechnic State University); Marie L. Andre, (parent of George B. Desdunes—died 2/25/2011 at Cornell University); Robert G. & Pamela E. Champion, (parents of Robert Darnell Champion—died 11/19/2011 at Florida A&M University); Dionne & Steven Williams, (parents of Jauwan Mikal Holmes—died 4/20/2013 at Virginia State University); Debbie & Danny Debrick, (parents of Dalton Debrick—

died 8/24/2014 at Texas Tech University); Cindy & Gary Hipps, (parents of Tucker W. Hipps—died 9/22/2014 at Clemson University); Theron J. & Kimberly A. Burch, (parents of Nolan M. Burch—died 11/14/2014 at West Virginia University); Sandy & Tom Coffey, (parents of Andrew Coffey—died 11/3/2017 at Florida State University); Daphne Beletsis and Yvonne Rainey, (parents of Alex Beletsis—died 6/20/2018 at U.C. Santa Cruz); Kathleen & Wade Wiant, (parents of Collin Wiant—died 11/12/2018 at Ohio University); Flavia Tomasello & John Tsialas, (parents of Antonio Tsialas—died 10/24/2019 at Cornell University); Jolayne Houtz & Hector Martinez, (parents of Sam Martinez—died 11/12/2019 at Washington State University); Eric & Linda Oaks, (parents of Adam Jeffrey Oaks—died 2/27/2021 at Virginia Commonwealth University); Shad & Cory Foltz, (parents of Stone Justin Foltz—died 3/7/2021 at Bowling Green State University); Tracey & Kirk Hazelwood, (parents of Thomas Lofton Hazelwood—died 10/18/2021 at University of Kentucky); Thomas & Mary Pat Santulli, (parents of Danny Santulli—critically injured 10/19/2021 at University of Missouri).

**RECOGNIZING SHARECARE**

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the staff of ShareCare for thirty years of dedicated service to the Leelanau community.

ShareCare is a volunteer service organization that provides assistance to senior citizens across the Northern Michigan community, with services ranging from yard clean-up to simply calling and checking in. Their staff is renowned for their kindness and willingness to help anytime, anywhere.

ShareCare's volunteers drive their own vehicles to provide transportation for those seniors who do not have it, and will assist with errands such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, or paying a visit to loved ones. Volunteers assist caregivers as well, often giving them a much-needed break in their constant responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the committed and compassionate staff of ShareCare for thirty years of incredible service to the Leelanau community. I wish them all the best and commend them for their steadfast support of our senior citizens.

**HONORING MARK PINO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Mark Pino is a Florida native with four decades of experience as a journalist, storyteller, and public servant.

A University of South Florida graduate, Mark is the first in his family to complete college. He is proud of his Cuban and Spanish heritage.

He was born in Tampa, and throughout college, he worked in a garment factory where many employees were Cuban transplants. Their struggles and stories kept him grounded as he focused on a journalism career that began in 1982 with West Hernando News. He worked at papers in the Virgin Islands and Ocala before coming to Osceola County in 1996 when he joined Orlando Sentinel as assistant Osceola County editor and columnist. He also served as an ex-officio member of the editorial board.

Mark was the Sentinel's Polk-Osceola bureau chief. He chronicled the region's growth, captured its history, and provided critical insights as an influencer on policy. Through his written words, he also attempted to educate and inform readers with fairness and integrity.

An award-winning journalist, Mark's work earned him recognition for his ability to document and interpret the evolving landscape of Osceola County.

In 2009, Mark transitioned from journalism to public service, joining the Economic Development Department of Osceola County. His efforts focused on creating new job opportunities and contributing to the County's economic growth. He shifted to public information and communications, where he continued to document the good work of the Board of County Commissioners and communicate initiatives aimed at improving the lives of residents.

Mark's passion for storytelling incorporates photography and video. He is an award-winning photographer. His dedication to capturing the essence of Osceola reflects his commitment to his community.

Mark and his wife of 40 years, Marie, have three children. Their achievements are his greatest source of pride.

RECOGNIZING DONALD GENE JOHNSON WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald Gene Johnson, of Groesbeck, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His pledge to champion values of support and sacrifice exemplifies American patriotism.

Born in Texas, Donald received his draft notice in October 1965 and joined the Army to serve during the Vietnam War. He underwent basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado, before being deployed to the front lines in Vietnam. While overseas, he carried out critical operations vital to his unit's success, such as establishing forward base camps and managing supply runs. His efforts were essential in maintaining the operational effectiveness of his fellow soldiers under challenging and often perilous conditions.

One fateful night, while stationed at a listening post outside the perimeter, Specialist Johnson and three other soldiers were struck by a mortar round. Despite being severely injured, he remained composed and took actions that saved lives under extreme adversity. For his extraordinary courage and selflessness in the face of danger, he was awarded the Purple Heart, a testament to his bravery and dedication.

After returning to Texas, Donald channeled his entrepreneurial spirit into building a suc-

cessful Pepperidge Farm franchise in Houston. Upon selling the business, he returned to Limestone County to operate a cattle ranch, applying the same dedication and hard work that characterized his military service. His commitment to his community remained strong; he drove a school bus for the Groesbeck Independent School District, serving as an inspirational mentor to many young people. Additionally, he worked as a jailer at the Limestone County Jail, where he continued to positively influence lives through his mentorship.

Donald's military honors include the Purple Heart, the Rifle Sharpshooter qualification, the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. These accolades reflect his commitment to excellence and the sacrifices he made during his service.

He is part of a remarkable family legacy of service; his four brothers, Charles, Foy, Edwin, and Cecil, also served in the military, each risking their lives for their country. This collective dedication underscores their character and commitment to the Nation.

I am honored to award Donald Gene Johnson with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His life of service and dedication embodies the spirit of American patriotism, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to his country and community.