

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT TEDDY PEINADO

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Frank "Teddy" Peinado of Aubrey, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Teddy is a true American patriot who has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Since he was young, Teddy held a strong passion for military history. He attended Texas A&M University as a member of its prestigious Corps of Cadets. Teddy graduated from Texas A&M with a bachelor's degree in construction science and later earned his master's degree in construction management. For over 30 years, he worked in the building industry and supervised the construction of over 11 million square feet of office space. In 2010, Teddy founded Peinado Construction, the largest industrial contractor in the Dallas-Fort Worth area with offices in Houston, College Station, and San Antonio. Peinado Construction specializes in industrial, data center, and office construction projects to deliver stellar results for clients.

For his outstanding work and entrepreneurship, Teddy received Texas A&M's Aggie 100 award in 2017 and 2018. He was recognized as the 2017 Hispanic Businessman of the Year by the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of the United States Hispanic Business Council. Additionally, Teddy is a passionate advocate for education. He established the Teddy Peinado Endowed Scholarship in Commercial Construction and the Peinado Industrial Tilt-Wall Construction Endowed Scholarship for Texas A&M students. As a strong supporter of our nation's veterans and first responders, Teddy actively works with Carry the Load, Helicopters for Heroes, 22 Kill, and Sons of the Flag. I am proud of the work he has accomplished for our community, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Teddy with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT 160TH RECRUIT CLASS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 160th Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 13 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an ex-

tensive and demanding 24-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed nine weeks of EMT training and eleven weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 160th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 160th Recruit Class:

Breckan D. Coleman  
Jose A. Cruz Morales  
Ryan P. Devine  
Jeffrey M. Early  
Robert V. Eickenhorst  
Kristin M. Irons  
Joshua R. May  
Xavier Pia Delgado De Molina  
Jake M. Rininger  
John-Scott Ruhren  
Joseph J. Tulko  
Ryan A. Wagner  
Jacob M. Wildesen

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE CHAVEZ RICO

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michelle Chavez Rico for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Michelle has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Michelle, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Michelle's hard work, determination, and perseverance at

Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Michelle Chavez Rico on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING JANET THOMPSON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janet Thompson, whom I have named a 2024 Woman of the Year because of her excellent work in our community. Woman of the Year recognizes women who contributed significantly to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Jan was born and grew up in Illinois. We have been married for nearly 50 years, and we have two wonderful sons and three beautiful granddaughters. Jan attended Indiana University and California State University, Chico, where she received her bachelor's degree in nursing. She also attended Sonoma State University, where she received her master's degree to become a family nurse practitioner.

During her 32 years as a registered nurse at St. Helena Hospital, Jan has worked to give the utmost patient care in our community. Throughout her career, Jan also served as a nurse at Mercy General in Sacramento. In Washington, D.C., Jan worked as a family nurse practitioner at Sibley Memorial Hospital and taught nursing at Georgetown University.

Jan has also generously volunteered her healthcare services to people across our congressional district. She has provided care to patients at Ole Health, administered physicals for student athletes in Napa and St. Helena, and served on the board for hospice care in Lake County. Her devotion to providing excellent care shows her compassion for and commitment to the people she serves. I have heard from many people in our hometown of St. Helena that they have woken up in the hospital and felt instantly comforted and relieved that she was there as their nurse. These stories are illustrative of her lifelong commitment to helping others.

Not only has Jan been an incredible community servant, but she has also been a dedicated and passionate partner to me and is always there for our district. When Jan and I first got together, she was the driving force in encouraging me to go back to college and complete my degree. She has instilled in our family the value of education as well. Without Jan's constant support, I would not be who I am today.

Simply put, I could not do public service without her. She is an important part of our team, and someone who is indispensable in our district.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Jan for her excellent service to our community. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as a 2024 Woman of the Year.

## HONORING VERA HALL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Vera Hall. Vera has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Vera is a native of Jefferson County, Mississippi. She is the mother to Christian Halle. Vera is a graduate of Jefferson County High School, Alcorn State University and Emory University. She has done further study towards a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree at Louisiana State University.

Vera is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church and was a pastor of two churches in Clinton and Jackson, MS. Vera also served as a campus minister for Wesley Foundation Director for over 12 years at Alcorn State University and Jackson State University. Vera is currently a member of Mount Pleasant UMC in Fayette, MS.

In 2011, Vera formed Innovative Performance Construction Company, LLC (IPC), a licensed General Contractor Firm with Federal Certifications, located in Jackson, MS. IPC is a woman owned construction company and has successfully completed several hundred projects and has received numerous awards and recognition.

Vera's Awards includes: WJTV Remarkable Woman of the Year 2024 Nominee; Mississippi 2020 and 2021 Small Business Person of the Year; Featured on the cover of the Mississippi SBA Resource Guide and the only female contractor with the honor; 2019 PTAC Small Business Growth of the Year Award; 2018 SBA Emerging Leaders Award; ABC National Safety Award; and ABC Local Chapter Merit Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Vera Hall for her outstanding work and dedication in and throughout the 2nd Congressional District.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALMA S. ADAMS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 154; YEA on Roll Call No. 155; YEA on Roll Call No. 156; YEA on Roll Call No. 157; and YEA on Roll Call No. 158.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, due to a family illness, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, April 29, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 153 and YEA on Roll Call No. 154.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WILEY NICKEL**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I was ill and unable to vote on Roll Call Numbers 164–171 on April 30th. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 164; NAY on Roll Call No. 165; YEA on Roll Call No. 166; NAY on Roll Call No. 167; YEA on Roll Call No. 168; NAY on Roll Call No. 169; YEA on Roll Call No. 170; and NAY on Roll Call No. 171.

## RECOGNIZING MERRIMACK SENIOR CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Merrimack Senior Center on its 50th Anniversary. Since 1974, this establishment has gathered seniors across the town of Merrimack and beyond to enjoy local speakers, educational workshops, and trips to concerts or plays throughout New England.

Serving nearly 200 seniors, the senior citizens club offers a centralized space to build community, play games, socialize, and create true friendship.

The Merrimack Senior Club offers meaningful services for seniors as well, including safety presentations from local police and fire departments and a discounted restaurant meal program in partnership with Meals on Wheels.

Furthermore, the club offers philanthropic opportunities to its members. Working with community organizations and leaders, the club provides a \$1,000 annual scholarship to a local high school student and gathers donations for local food banks.

I commend the Merrimack Senior Center for its many years of community-oriented service and look forward to its continued work to bring seniors together throughout the Merrimack area over the next 50 years.

## RECOGNIZING DANE JANIS ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Dane Janis of Lorain, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Dane's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2028. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most chal-

lenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Dane brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2028. While attending Marion Steele High School, he participated in orchestra, L.E.O Club, National Honor Society, and was on the honor role. Throughout high school, Dane was involved in tennis, earning his varsity letter. I am confident that he will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dane Janis on his offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Dane will excel during his career at the Naval Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

## RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE MARK E. JOHNSON

**HON. MARK TAKANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the decades of dedicated service that the Honorable Mark E. Johnson has given not only to his country, but to his community.

Johnson spent 28 years of his life in the United States Army, rising through the ranks due to his impeccable service and endless perseverance. In this period, Johnson received an astonishing 30 awards and decorations, including the Combat Action Badge and Bronze Star.

After retiring at the rank of Colonel, Johnson embarked upon a new challenge, bringing his love of public service to the legal profession. Johnson worked in the private sector and as a Deputy Public Defender for the Riverside County Public Defender's Office to ensure everyone had access to a vigorous defense.

He went on to serve as a judge for the Riverside County Superior Court, ruling thoughtfully in over 200 jury trials and presiding over many of the most significant cases in our community.

Above all, Johnson worked at every point in his storied career to serve other veterans. Johnson labored endlessly to ensure no one who sacrificed for our nation would fall through the cracks. He developed the Riverside County Veterans Treatment Court to help address the service-related health issues too many of our veterans face.

The Honorable Mark E. Johnson has done more for our veterans, our communities, and our Nation than can ever be repaid. I stand today to ensure his work is never forgotten.

## RECOGNIZING MIYA S. ATENCIO

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miya S. Atencio for earning the