

National Guard from 1948 to 1950; the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1954; and the U.S. Army Reserves from 1954 to 1957.

He served during the Korean War as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was awarded combat and merit citations.

After discharge from the military, he earned both his B.A (1957) and Law Degree (1958) from Wayne State University.

Once admitted to the bar, he was an aide to Congressman John Dingell.

He also served as counsel to several Detroit-area labor union locals, and was a referee for Michigan's workmen's compensation department (1961–1963);

John Conyers was one of 13 U.S. Representatives who cofounded the Congressional Black Caucus in 1969 and helped create the CBC Foundation.

During his time in the House of Representatives he sat on the House Committee on the Judiciary where he rose in seniority to become the Ranking Democratic member from 1995 to 2007 and again from 2011 to 2017.

Mr. Conyers became Chairman of the Judiciary Committee from 2007 to 2011; and served as chairman of the House Oversight Committee from 1989 to 1995.

He was the longest-serving member of Congress, and in that capacity, he was the Dean of the House of Representatives from 2015 to 2017.

His longstanding credentials were sharpened by his work to establish equity and fairness for all.

In March 2016, Mr. Conyers and Representative HANK JOHNSON introduced legislation to protect consumers' access to civil courts entitled the "Restoring Statutory Rights Acts".

Mr. Conyers was a sponsor of the United States National Health Care Act (Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act), a bill he reintroduced each session until his retirement from the House.

Another prominent bill Mr. Conyers sponsored was the "Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act" in January 1989.

He also re-introduced this bill each congressional term in which he served.

H.R. 40 calls for establishing a commission to research the history of slavery in the United States and its effects on current society with recommended ways to remedy this injustice. Since 1997, the bill has been designated "H.R. 40".

Upon leaving the House, he passed the responsibility for H.R. 40 to me.

I introduced H.R. 40 in the 117th and each Congress thereafter.

My bill does four things: It acknowledges the fundamental injustice and inhumanity of slavery; It establishes a commission to study slavery, its subsequent racial and economic discrimination against freed slaves; It studies the impact of those forces on today's living African Americans; and the commission would then make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies to redress the harm inflicted on living African Americans."

John Conyers as a former "Dean" of the Congressional Black Caucus, also joined the American Sikh Congressional Caucus; Congressional Progressive Caucus; United States Congressional International Conservation Caucus; Out of Afghanistan Caucus (Co-chair); Congressional Full Employment Caucus; Congressional Arts Caucus; Afterschool Cau-

cuses; and the Congressional NextGen 9–1–1 Caucus.

John Conyers was a dedicated public servant who worked for the good of his constituents and the Nation.

I offer thanks to him and his family for the legacy he has left for those who continue to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the chair closed the tally as I was attempting to vote on Roll Call No. 217. I would have voted NAY on H.R. 8369, to preserve President Biden's ability to carry out decisions for our national security. The bill condemns President Biden for his policy adjustment on arms sales to Israel and would prevent both the Administration and Congress from slowing weapons transfers in light of credible evidence of human rights violations.

#### RECOGNIZING ERIK ORTIZ

### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Firefighter/Paramedic Erik Ortiz, of the Brooksville Fire Department. Firefighter/Paramedic Ortiz has worked for the City since November 2021. From day one, he has left an impression on those he works alongside, as this young man carries himself in a professional manner, is always upbeat, positive, and does not complain about anything. He is a member of the Local 4661, serves as Coordinator for our Community Outreach CPR Program, coordinates Supply/Restock for the department, and organizes the city's Fire Department Merchandise Program. While he still relatively young in his career, Firefighter/Paramedic Ortiz seems wise beyond his years and operates in a manner that brings great credit to himself, his family, the City, and the citizens he serves.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Firefighter/Paramedic Ortiz exhibits every day when he goes to work. He is a shining example of what it means to be a Brooksville First Responder. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Firefighter/Paramedic Ortiz has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING PRAYONG DEEYING AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Prayong Deeying was born in Surin, Thailand. He received a full scholarship, "Krome Pra-ya Dhumrong," from the Thai Royal Family to study fine arts at Silpa Korn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

After receiving his BFA in sculpting, he was employed by the United States Army as an art instructor and did freelance work as well. Prayong is recognized as an accomplished artist in Thailand. He was honored by having four life-sized sculptures placed on permanent exhibition in the Ancient City Park in Bang Poo.

Prayong moved to the U.S. in 1974 and received a master's in painting from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. After graduating, he taught art for 10 years at St. Mary's High School in Natchitoches. He received numerous juried art show awards. In 1985, he was one of 17 artists selected for Louisiana Limited Edition 1, a publication from a non-profit organization supporting the arts in Louisiana.

In 1987, he relocated to Orlando, Florida, where he worked as a preparatory artist and senior preparatory artist at Walt Disney World. As a cast member, he was an active VoluntEAR.

Once in Florida, he became close to the Thai community through his association with Wat Florida Dhammaram in Kissimmee. He has honored his parents' tradition of community service, as his parents and aunt and uncle donated the land to build the primary school and a Temple in their hometown of Surin by assisting in organizing ceremonies, fundraising, and supporting his fellow congregates.

In 1994, Phra Tepvaraporn, the founder of Wat Florida Dhammaram, and Phra Wijitdhammapani, the abbot of the Temple, honored him by requesting he act as president of the congregation, a role he continues to fill today.

From 2000 to 2003, he voluntarily sculpted, cast, and installed two 16-foot Giant Guards to grace the exterior of the Temple, sharing traditional Thai art with the community.

In 2014, he was recruited by the Asian-American Heritage Council to represent the Central Florida Thai community. He served a term as chair of that organization and continues to support the council by assuring Thai representation continues.

Since retiring from this role in 2007, he has continued his support of the Temple and the Asian-American community, as well as participating in several "Walks for Peace"—an event organized by Buddhist monks across the U.S. in which groups walk from Key West, Florida to Niagara Falls, New York.

Prayong lives in Ocoee, Florida, surrounded by friends and family, including his daughter Gibb, his son Michael, his granddaughters Faith, Grace, and Ellie, and his wife Cindy.

## RECOGNIZING RONIN MARASCO

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

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

Ronin has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Ronin, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ronin's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ronin Marasco on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

## RECOGNIZING OFFICER KENNETH KORCHAK

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Officer Kenneth Korchak, of the Port Richey Police Department. Officer Korchak started his career at the Port Richey Police Department as a part-time Telecommunicator. He had already attended and graduated from the law enforcement academy and was subsequently hired as a Reserve Officer in addition to his telecommunicator duties. Officer Korchak volunteered to work patrol whenever Patrol Supervisors requested coverage for a shift. His work ethic and proactive mindset resulted in him being hired as a full-time Officer. After being promoted, he volunteered for dual duties whenever Telecommunicator coverage was needed. Officer Korchak put the agency's needs ahead of his desire to work as a Patrol Officer. He also has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to professional development, as evidenced by his participation in coursework to continually refine his skill set. Officer Korchak is one of the most proactive officers in the agency, and this is reflected in agency's monthly statistical data.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Officer Korchak exhibits every day when he comes to work. He is a shining example of what it means to be a Port Richey Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Officer Korchak has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

## HONORING MARK ALAN BURROUGHS, SR.

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary life and legacy of former Denton Mayor, Mark Alan Burroughs, Sr. His recent, sudden passing has left a void in the hearts of many, but the imprint of his life has left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mayor Burroughs was not only a public servant; he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, esteemed attorney, and cherished friend. Born November 3, 1957, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mayor Burroughs' journey led him to become a pillar of the Denton community. As the second of seven children, Mayor Burroughs attended Klein High School in Klein, TX. He then attended Stephen F. Austin State University, in Nacogdoches, TX, honing the political and leadership skills the Mayor would later rely on by serving as SFA's Student Body President.

After earning his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1982, Mayor Burroughs briefly practiced ad valorem property tax in the Houston area, then joined a Fort Worth firm, working as defense counsel for federal contractors across the United States and as managing partner of Huke & Burroughs, P.C. In 1994, he partnered with Greg J. Sawko and established Sawko & Burroughs P.C. It was at this point that Mayor Burroughs' influence and leadership began shaping Denton's future that I honor today.

Beyond his legal practice, Mayor Burroughs devoted himself to a variety of civic endeavors, serving on numerous local boards and volunteering with several charitable organizations. Known for his active engagement and diligence on the boards he served, at the time of his passing, he was the sitting Board Chair of the Medical City Denton Hospital Board, Solutions of North Texas, Denton State Assisted Living Center Volunteer Services Council and the Denton Public School Foundation. His broad legacy of community leadership extended much further, heading the Greater Denton Arts Council and serving on the boards of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home, Denton Humanitarian Association, CASA of Denton County, DISD Adopt-A-School, State Bar of Texas' Pro Bono College, Denton Business and Education Coalition, the Denton Teen Court and as Past President and active member of the Denton Rotary Club and the Denton Chamber of Commerce. The Denton Chamber recognized his numerous impacts in 2016 with its highest honor, the Otis L. Fowler Award.

As engaged as he was with community organizations, it was in his role as a public servant that Mayor Burroughs truly excelled. He was elected and served three 2-year terms on the Denton City Council as a Member at Large, during which his colleagues appointed him Mayor Pro Tem. In 2008 he was elected Mayor of the City of Denton, serving from 2008 to 2014. In this capacity he effectively led a divided council to invest in not only City assets such as the Denton Regional Airport and Denton Municipal Electric, but also in the infrastructure and other needs of a community

that added over 30,000 residents during his tenure on the Denton City Council.

The reach of his public service extended beyond the city limits through his national and regional affiliations. He held memberships in the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities and Metroplex Mayors Association and served as Secretary for the Western Metroplex Mobility Coalition. Arguably, it was through his influence outside Denton that his impact benefited the city to the greatest degree. As Chair of the North Central Texas Council of Government Regional Transportation Council and service on the boards of TEX-21 Transportation Excellence, the North Texas Commission and DFW Partners in Mobility, he developed significant connections and influence as an advocate for the Phase I expansion of I-35E, which began in 2013.

Through all of his affiliations and accomplishments, Mayor Burroughs never took his privilege serve for granted, recognizing that the opportunity was provided by the people he was elected to represent. Above all though, Mayor Burroughs cherished his family. His love for his wife, Diana "Annie" McKee Burroughs, their children, Madeline and Mark Jr., and grandson, Greyson knew no bounds. His devotion to his family was evident in every aspect of his life.

As we mourn the loss of Mayor Burroughs, let us also celebrate the remarkable life and profound impact he had on our lives. Through his humor, diplomacy, and the legacy of love, integrity, and service, his inspiring spirit remains as a guide to a brighter future for generations to come.

## HONORING DR. YA LAN CHIEN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ya Lan Chien, a Taiwanese American who holds a Ph.D. from National Taiwan University, is a prominent figure in Florida's Taiwanese community. As the president of the Taiwanese American Association of Greater Orlando, she is deeply committed to fostering unity, community bonds, and cultural understanding.

Dr. Chien is also known for her altruism, serving as an executive member of the Florida Taiwanese Emergency Assistance Association for seven years. Additionally, she holds executive positions in the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women Orlando. Since relocating to the U.S., Dr. Chien has been a tireless advocate for cultural exchange and environmental stewardship. In 2019, she led Team Taiwan's adoption of South Econ Community Park, a project that not only enhances local green spaces but also serves as a gathering point for community engagement and cultural activities. Through her leadership, the park has become a symbol of the Taiwanese community's dedication to environmental and social well-being in Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

Dr. Chien's efforts extend beyond environmental initiatives. She is also passionate