

a real-world work experience opportunity with the West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District.

Alex attributes his passion for Heavy Equipment Operations to the mentorship of his instructors, Mr. Chris Wilson and Mr. Hibbs, who have instilled in him the values of discipline, hard work, and innovation. Their guidance has fueled his ambition to secure an apprenticeship with the International Union of Operating Engineers—a goal I have no doubt he will achieve.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, Alex J. Wilson exemplifies the very best of our young leaders. His work ethic, commitment to service, and ability to elevate others will undoubtedly lead him to success. I am proud to recognize Alex today and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

HONORING JOHN C. EGERTSON

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend John C. Egerton, County Administrator of Culpeper County, Virginia, on his retirement after a remarkable career in public service.

Mr. Egerton began his career in public service in 1986 as a planning technician, quickly advancing to the role of zoning administrator a year later. His commitment to leadership only deepened over time, culminating in his selection as County Administrator by the Board of Supervisors in April 2016.

For more than 25 years, Mr. Egerton has served as a steadfast leader and dedicated steward of Culpeper County's government. As County Administrator, he has overseen the daily operations of county departments, implemented the directives of the Board of Supervisors, and served as a vital liaison between the Board and state and regional agencies. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing initiatives that have strengthened the community and improved the quality of life for all residents.

Throughout his career, Mr. Egerton has been deeply involved in various organizations and committees, including the Town and County Interaction, Human Services Board, Chamber of Commerce, Piedmont Workforce Development, Career Partners, Airport Committee, Criminal Justice Board, E-911 Board, Public Safety Board, and the Joint Capital Planning Board.

Under Mr. Egerton's guidance, Culpeper County has achieved numerous milestones, including recognition for excellence in financial reporting and innovative programs that have fostered civic engagement and community pride. His commitment to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and collaborative governance has left a lasting legacy that will benefit Culpeper County for generations to come. As he embarks on this new chapter of his life, I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Egerton for his dedicated service and exemplary leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Egerton on his retirement and wishing him continued success and happiness in the years ahead.

HONORING TAMIKA HOLLEY 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, Tamika Holley was born on September 12, 1975, in Orlando, Florida, to Charlotte Gray and Bishop Gary Gray, both from Osceola County. She graduated from Osceola High School. She is the mother of three children, the grandmother of three beautiful granddaughters, and the extraordinary wife of 25 years to Bishop A.L. Holley.

For the last 20 years, Tamika has worked in the Marydia community, where she grew up. She has a passion for changing the lives of our youth and exemplifies outstanding qualities when working with at-risk youth. She has strong communication skills and can effectively interact with at-risk juveniles and their families. Her patience and empathy for youth help her understand the complex issues faced by the youth today. She supersedes crisis management skills with her ability to respond to and de-escalate potentially dangerous situations quickly.

Tamika has an associate degree in science in early childhood education, and she teaches a wide variety of activities designed to promote children's cognitive and social development before entering kindergarten. Some programs primarily focus on school and academic readiness, while her passion and love embrace the "whole child," which makes her approach to working with early childhood children so creative.

Tamika is also an active member of Kid Vision Network and the Florida League of Christian Schools. She also has experience working with children with special needs and teaching preschool and after-school. She's had the privilege of administrating a large childcare center for five years. She loves having the opportunity to guide and teach little minds. There is no better feeling than knowing you have helped to brighten a child's day and seeing their faces and expressions while they experience and learn new things.

Tamika worked at the Osceola County Children's Home for five years. She is currently working with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida, Marydia Branch, and is the caretaker of the Marydia Community Center, where she creatively hosts monthly activities for the community and the surrounding areas. Some of the events she hosts annually include the Community Friendship Dance, an Easter Celebration, a community picnic for Water Day, Back-to-School events, a Fall Festival, and a Thanksgiving community dinner and turkey giveaway. Other programs include the Senior Coffee House and Marydia Community Garden.

Tamika witnessed the incredible acts of kindness, resilience, and collaboration that make our neighborhoods unique. She has made a tangible difference in the lives of so many residents. Tamika has been the New Harvest Kingdom Covenant Church pastor for the past seven years following her father's demise.

HONORING MICHAEL ROBINSON

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 Emergency Medical Technician Michael "Mike" Robinson of the Medic Ambulance Service's Solano Division. I have named Mr. Robinson 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 and raised in Woodland, California, Michael pursued his passion for emergency services by earning associate degrees in Fire Science and Business before beginning his career with Medic Ambulance Service in 2012 as a Wheelchair/Gurney Van Technician. His dedication to serving his community and helping his patients led Mr. Robinson to quickly rise through the ranks to Emergency Medical Technician, officially becoming a certified paramedic in 2017.

Amid the national healthcare provider shortage brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Robinson stepped up to become a paramedic preceptor. In this role, he shared his years of experience and depth of knowledge with interns, supporting them in obtaining their paramedic licenses. In recognition of his outstanding service to our Solano County community, Mr. Robinson was bestowed the prestigious Stars of Life award by the American Ambulance Association in 2023.

Mr. Robinson is also a pivotal member of Medic Ambulance's emergency response team. A notable emergency in 2024 demonstrates Mr. Robinson's exceptional leadership while precepting an intern in the field. Dispatched with the intern to aid a citizen who had been shot in the chest, Mr. Robinson quickly assessed the patient had diminished lung sounds and was struggling to draw in oxygen. Under his steady guidance, the intern performed a needle thoracostomy, which immediately improved the patient's breathing and blood oxygen levels. Thanks to Mr. Robinson's decisive actions and leadership, the patient made a full recovery.

Beyond his work in the field, Mr. Robinson has played a crucial role in improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of Solano County's Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Robinson mentors interns and aspiring paramedics, contributes to company initiatives aimed at improving ambulance technology, and takes on extra shifts to support his colleagues. Additionally, he represents the Field Training Officers in the Medic Ambulance quality assurance program, ensuring high standards of patient care, and serves as a shop steward for the union.

Outside of his professional commitments, Mr. Robinson is a devoted father to his three children, Sandy, Abby, and Hailey. Michael finds joy in spending time with his family, enjoying outdoor adventures like camping and fishing, and passionately engaging in his favorite sport, hockey. Mr. Robinson is also deeply involved in his local church, where he has led youth group meetings and taught Sunday School classes for the past five years.

Mr. Speaker, Emergency Medical Technician Mike Robinson's expertise and dedication

have greatly benefited both his patients and Solano County's Emergency Medical Services. His commitment to our community and his leadership in training the next generation of paramedics exemplify the best of public service. I extend our community's gratitude for his years of dedicated service and find it fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE
CAPTAIN WAYNE PAVLIK

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Wayne Pavlik from the Euless Police Department on his 36 years of service to North Texas. Captain Pavlik began his public safety career at Sears Department Store, where he monitored security cameras and handled fraudulent checks before joining the Euless Police Department in 1989. He quickly rose through the ranks—promoted to Corporal in 1993, Sergeant in 1997, Lieutenant in 2004, and Captain in 2022.

His time with the Euless Police Department is both vast and varied, serving as a tactical team member, bike officer, and field training officer, commanding the patrol and criminal investigations divisions, supervising the Traffic and the Citizens Police Academy, and consistently demonstrating his expertise across all areas of law enforcement. In his role as Captain, he oversees critical jail operations and records, as well as 9–1–1 communications.

Captain Pavlik received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Texas at Arlington, where he was a Division I Collegiate basketball player, and his master's degree from the University of North Texas. He also graduated from the HEB Chamber of Commerce's Leadership HEB and the 41st Management College at the Institute of Law Enforcement Administration. Pavlik's education has been the foundation for his role as a Master Peace Officer and his status as a highly respected leader in law enforcement. He has received numerous commendations, including Supervisor of the Year in 2006 and the Certificate of Merit Award in 2003, while remaining active in fundraising for the Special Olympics and YMCA youth basketball.

I thank Captain Pavlik for his dedication to protecting and serving our North Texas community. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING NICOLE VICTORIA
MCLAREN 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, Nicole Victoria McLaren, Esq. is a first-generation American born to Jamaican immigrants. She is a proud alumna of Florida's public school system, graduating from West Orange High School, Florida A&M University, and the University of Florida's Levin College of Law.

She wholeheartedly believes, as Shirley Chisholm once said, "Service is the rent you pay for the privilege of living on this Earth." She built her career in public service, first as an assistant public defender and then as an assistant prosecutor for Florida's Department of Business and Professional Regulation, following the 2008 foreclosure crisis. During this time, she volunteered as the Orange County District 3 representative on the Orange County Membership and Mission Review Board and was later elected as an Orange Soil and Water Supervisor.

Nicole was honored and humbled to serve the residents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District as the legislative director for Congressman Darren Soto and, most recently, as a presidential appointee to the role of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development during the Biden-Harris Administration.

She is eternally thankful for the lessons she learned from her grandmothers, Dezerene Christian and Emelme McLaren, as well as her parents, Gary and Dell McLaren. Nicole is grateful for the continuous support she receives from her sister and brother-in-law, Dr. Shelly McLaren and Joseph Webster; her nieces, Ailani Simone, Alora Synclair, and Alaya Shayne Jolee Webster; her day-ones; her "Golden Girls"; her FAMU forever friends; her mentor, Colonel, USA Retired Myrna Amelia Mesa; and her mentees, whom she affectionately calls her kids, Renegade, Atlas, Dandelion, Velvet, and Jaguar.

She will eternally be grateful to Congressman Darren Soto and her extended Team Soto family for the opportunity to work alongside them to serve her neighbors.

Team Soto Forever (Team Soto Para Siempre).

HONORING BATTALION CHIEF
EMILY LO

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 Battalion Chief Emily Lo of the Davis Fire Department. I have named Chief Lo as the California's 4th District Public Safety Hero of the Year for Yolo County in honor of her 35 years of extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others, as she retires from firefighting.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Chief Lo immigrated to the United States in 1981. She earned an Associate of Science degree in Fire Technology from American River College and a Bachelor of Science in Fire Service Management from California State University, Sacramento. Chief Lo currently resides in Davis with her husband, Rob, and is a devoted mother to Austin and Lola.

Chief Lo began her career in 1990 as a firefighter with the Fairfield Fire Department before joining the Davis Fire Department in 1991. Over the next three decades, she rose through the ranks, earning a promotion to Fire Captain in 2002 and then to Battalion Chief in 2022. Her rise in leadership was historic—she was the first female firefighter and the first Asian American Battalion Chief in the Davis Fire Department's history.

Beyond her work on the front lines of fighting fires, Chief Lo has been a dedicated leader and advocate for her profession. She served on the Executive Board as Treasurer for Davis Firefighters Local 3494 for 25 years, making her the longest-serving female firefighter union officer in California history. As Co-Chair and a founding member of the California Firefighters Joint Apprenticeship Committee's Commission to Recruit Women for the Fire Service, she played a pivotal role in increasing diversity within the profession. Chief Lo was also an active delegate for both the California Professional Firefighters and the International Association of Firefighters, where she advocated on critical issues such as firefighter cancer risk, labor rights and retirement security. Additionally, she served as a delegate to the 2000 Democratic National Convention and has been a dedicated grassroots advocate for numerous local and state candidates.

Chief Lo's dedication extends beyond the firehouse. She has volunteered annually for the Davis Firefighter's "Fill the Boot" Thanksgiving Basket program, ensuring that Yolo County families have meals during the holiday season. She also worked alongside Thriving Pink, a nonprofit that supports breast cancer survivors, to help raise thousands of dollars through their annual crab feed.

Chief Lo's career has been defined by resilience, leadership and commitment to service. She has thrived in a male-dominated field, breaking barriers while earning the respect and admiration of her colleagues. Her humor, integrity and loyalty to her profession made her an inspiration to future generations of firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Battalion Chief Emily Lo for her extraordinary service, leadership and dedication to the Davis community. We thank her for her lifelong commitment to public safety and wish her a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHIMON AND
SARA BIRNBAUM JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center in Bridgewater, NJ. Through its wide range of services and diverse programming, the JCC works with the Jewish community and the Bridgewater community at large to preserve and strengthen Jewish identity. Over the past 25 years, members of all ages have had the opportunity to enjoy services such as fitness centers, educational classes, summer camps, and much more. I am honored to have such an incredible organization in the 7th Congressional District, and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth of the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center.