

HONORING DR. TRACY MACINTOSH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tracy MacIntosh is a leader in the field of medicine, serving as the associate dean for access, belonging, and community engagement at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine, as well as an associate professor of emergency medicine.

With her educational background, which includes a master's degree in science, a master's degree in public health, and a medical degree from Yale School of Medicine, Dr. MacIntosh brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her roles. Her dedication to medical education is paralleled by her unwavering commitment to promoting health equity and eliminating health disparities.

As a practicing emergency physician, Dr. MacIntosh applies her clinical experience to improve the health and well-being of her patients in Kissimmee. Her dual focus on clinical excellence and medical education allows her to deliver compassionate care while inspiring the next generation of healthcare providers, both in the classroom and at the bedside. Dr. MacIntosh is a passionate mentor to students, residents, and community youth, encouraging them to pursue careers in healthcare and provide care to improve quality and outcomes for every single patient. She leads the UCF College of Medicine in its mission to train future physicians and scientists dedicated to ending healthcare disparities.

She also spearheads many innovative medical educational outreach programs in Osceola County. For example, the Future Healthcare Leaders Program provides local high school students with hands-on clinical experiences in the hospital. She has also partnered with the Osceola School District's Special Programs, teaching and inspiring local students from families experiencing housing insecurity and offering students the opportunity to use ultrasound technology.

Her commitment to creating immersive opportunities for elementary, high school, and college students extends to clinical and mentoring programs at the UCF College of Medicine so they can successfully pursue professional healthcare careers and improve health equity for all of us.

HONORING DETECTIVE KELSEA NELSON

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 Detective Kelsea Nelson of the Santa Rosa Police Department. I have named Detective Nelson as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Sonoma County because of her extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

Detective Nelson was born in Southern California but has called Sonoma County home since she was four years old. Her family resides in Santa Rosa, and her partner works in

victim advocacy, serving many of the same vulnerable populations she does. She earned an Associate of Arts degree in Humanities from Santa Rosa Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with an emphasis in Law and Society from the University of California, Davis.

Detective Nelson began her career with the Santa Rosa Police Department in 2016 as a Records Technician. She transitioned to a police officer role in 2018 and took her current assignment as a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Detective in 2023. In addition to her investigative duties, Detective Nelson serves her department as a drone operator, honor guard member and defensive tactics instructor. She has also volunteered as a Crisis Line Counselor with Verity, Sonoma County's sexual assault crisis support organization.

Her outstanding work on a missing juvenile case exemplifies her dedication to protecting the most vulnerable. In May 2024, she led an investigation into a missing juvenile case, utilizing the National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) resources to track a suspect across multiple states. Her swift and strategic efforts, in coordination with federal and local law enforcement, led to the safe recovery of the juvenile and the apprehension of the suspect, who now faces multiple state and federal charges. Detective Nelson's exceptional work earned her the NCIC 2024 Success Story of the Year award, a testament to her skill, dedication, and relentless pursuit of justice.

Detective Nelson's work shows her selfless dedication and service at the highest levels to our community and the Law Enforcement profession.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we recognize and honor Detective Kelsea Nelson for her outstanding service. Her tireless dedication to justice and public safety makes our community a better and safer place. We congratulate her on this well-earned recognition and thank her for her continued service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SANDY OPPENHEIMER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional constituent from my district, Mr. Sandy Oppenheimer. As a United States Navy World War II Veteran, a newspaper editor, a volunteer, and a marathon runner, Sandy has found ways to serve his country and his community. He continues to inspire all generations.

Eighty-two years ago, Sandy served bravely aboard the heavy cruiser USS *Salt Lake City* (CA-25) during some of the most famous battles in history like the Doolittle Raid, Battle of the Coral Seas, and the Battle of Midway. He was there when the flag was raised at Iwo Jima. Today, he is one of only three remaining survivors of one of the Navy's most storied ships.

Sandy was born September 1, 1925, in New York City. This year (2025), he will turn 100.

His father was a World War I Veteran, who died when Sandy was just 11, and left four young boys—at the height of the Depression—alone with their young mother. She went

to work, and the older boys watched the younger boys. All four boys went on to serve in our Armed Forces, in the Navy, the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.

After WWII, Sandy attended New York University on the G.I. Bill, graduated with a degree in accounting, but went into journalism. He began a long career in journalism as the United Press International bureau chief in Guam. After a few more stops, he moved with his wife Mary and two young children, in 1954, to Levittown, and spent more than 50 years with the Bucks County Courier Times. He served as its editor for many of those years, writing the reader-favorite front page column, "Good Evening", which he signed with only his initials.

Sandy still remembers the day President Kennedy was assassinated, and sending people to find and stop the trucks that were just heading out with that day's edition, and pulling his team together to put out a new edition with the terrible news.

He also feels great pride when contacted by best-selling authors like Erik Larson, and Hall of Fame reporter Claire Smith, thanking him for giving them their first job.

He was an active volunteer and board member in many community organizations. Sandy was one of the earliest presidents of the Bucks County Free Library, and helped start it on its path to what it is today.

Sandy and Mary, who passed away five years ago, were charter members of the Bucks County Road Runners, and ran marathons throughout the country. Recently, Sandy was honored as the first recipient of the Newtown Library Company's Honorary Runner award at their annual 5K. He was surrounded by members of the news media who remembered working for him and members of the running community, happy to see him again.

Sandy still reads three newspapers every day from cover to cover. He appreciates the work of reporters getting a good story out to the readers and knows the importance of informing the community of the important issues we face every day.

We thank him for his service to our country and our community.

RECOGNIZING LEONARDO MENDOZA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leonardo Mendoza, a distinguished law enforcement professional and United States Air Force veteran, for his decades of service to our community and our Nation. With over 23 years of dedicated service in immigration enforcement, operations leadership, and national security, Mr. Mendoza has been an integral part of protecting our country through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Mr. Mendoza developed a foundation in discipline, leadership, and mission execution early on, serving six years in the United States Air Force before joining ICE. In his current role as a Detention and Deportation Officer, he leads the development and execution of national training programs at ICE's Enforcement

and Removal Operations (ERO) Academy. Throughout his career, he spearheaded the creation of a nationally standardized On-the-Job Training Program enhancing field training effectiveness, designed and implemented a national Train-the-Trainer program aligned with strategic objectives of the Warrant Service Officer Program, and supervised the Criminal Alien Program (CAP) team increasing arrest efficiency and enforcement actions against high-priority targets. Additionally, he played an instrumental role in securing a search warrant in collaboration with an Assistant U.S. Attorney that led to the seizure of heroin and firearms from an aggravated felon.

Mr. Mendoza's leadership played a crucial role in developing collaborations between Department of Homeland Security leadership, field operations, and private sector partners. His work has improved our national security and operational readiness within ICE. Beyond his technical and strategic contributions, Mr. Mendoza has served as a dedicated mentor, guiding the next generation of law enforcement professionals toward excellence.

Leonardo Mendoza's long career has made our country safer and our law enforcement professionals stronger. I thank Mr. Mendoza for his distinguished service to the United States, and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

HONORING FRED ROBINSON 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, Fred Robinson enlisted into the United States Marine Corps at 17 during the Vietnam War. Fred was the Vitas Healthcare Veterans liaison covering Seminole, Orange, and Osceola counties from 2012 through 2021.

Fred is a national and regional mentor for We Honor Veterans. He was the first Florida Vitas Healthcare Veterans liaison to achieve Level V accreditation from WHV, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It invites hospices, state hospice organizations, hospice-Veteran partnerships, and VA facilities to join a pioneering program focused on recognizing the unique needs of America's Veterans and their families. Fred is also certified in CE training for the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC). This project is both a national and international initiative to improve palliative care. Fred's collaborations with the Osceola Council on Aging, Veterans organizations, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and community health fairs provide vital information to attendees by debunking the myth of hospice, educating Veterans and community families on end-of-life care, and informing them about resources and benefits that many are unaware of so they can make informed decisions on how they want to be cared for at the end of their life.

Some of Fred's achievements include being named Orlando Business Journal's Veteran of Influence 2019, being a National Partner to

the 50th Commemoration of Vietnam Veterans out of the Pentagon since 2013, being named the Orlando Mayors Veterans Advisory Council Hero of COVID 2021, receiving the HFUW Mission United Inaugural Game Change Impact Maker Award 2021, being in the Florida Governors Veterans HOF Class of 2021, being named the OCMVAC Inaugural Veteran of the Year 2023, and receiving the 1st Baptist Church Academies Patriot of the Year Award 2023. Fred volunteered as the co-chair of OCMVAC from 2018–2023 and became the chair in 2023. He has also been a OCMVAC member since 2013, the VP of CMSGT R. Hall, Jr., Tuskegee Airman Central Florida Chapter since 2019, and a member of Congressman Soto's Veterans Advisory Board since 2014. Additionally, he has been a member of the Heart of Florida United Way Mission United Council since 2020, is a member of the HFUW Mission United Veteran Council, and has been a member of the VA Patient Experience Council since 2022.

HONORING ROGER LUTZ, III

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 Station Leader Roger Lutz, III of the Napa County Fire Department. I have named Mr. Lutz as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County because of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Born in San Luis Obispo and raised in Napa County, Mr. Lutz has dedicated his life to protecting and serving his community. After graduating from St Helena High School, Mr. Lutz pursued studies in Fire Science at Santa Rosa Junior College before earning his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification from Napa County Junior College.

Mr. Lutz began his fire service career in 1992 as an Explorer at the Deer Park Napa County Fire Station before becoming a Volunteer Firefighter in 1993. Over the years, he advanced through the ranks to become the Station Lead, a role he has held for over a decade. In addition, he has served as an Engine Boss for more than 20 years, leading critical fire response efforts across the region. Throughout his dedicated service to the community, Mr. Lutz has also maintained full-time employment at his family's company.

Mr. Lutz has been on the front lines of numerous fires. These include the Topanga Fire, Tubbs Fire, Glass Fire, Valley Fire, and most recently, the Eaton Fire. His leadership and expertise have been instrumental in mitigating these devastating wildfires and protecting lives and property.

In addition to his exemplary fieldwork, Mr. Lutz has played a key role in shaping the next generation of firefighters. Through his mentorship, he has guided many of his peers into successful careers in the fire service. His influence and dedication to professional development are reflected in his work on multiple committees within the Napa County Fire Department, including the Equipment Committee, Adhoc Committee, Radio Communications Committee, and Training Officer Committee.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Lutz is known for his tireless work ethic, humil-

ity, and compassion. His colleagues and community members regard him as a leader who leads by example, never seeking recognition but always putting the needs of others first. His selflessness and dedication make him not only a respected firefighter but also a cherished friend and role model to all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, Station Lead Roger Lutz, III embodies the highest ideals of public service and leadership. His decades of dedication to the fire service and our community have left an indelible mark on Napa County and beyond. It is with great respect and appreciation that we recognize his contributions and honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LA PORTE LITTLE THEATER

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to recognize the La Porte Little Theater and its 100th Anniversary as community members gather to celebrate this weekend on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at the La Porte Little Theater in the City of La Porte, Indiana.

The La Porte Little Theater began with an advertisement in the local LaPorte Herald Argus newspaper to gauge interest in a community theater club. The La Porte Little Theater was founded on November 11, 1925, when twenty-five community members convened the first official meeting at the local YMCA, which was considered home base for the theater for many years that followed. Early on, the club presented one-act plays in the La Porte High School Auditorium before purchasing the St. John's Lutheran Church building at the corner of 3rd Street and A Street in 1954, where it remains today. Getting the theater ready for showtime was truly a community effort, with Mr. Roy Kaber performing all the electrical wiring, Mrs. Haskell Rosenthal donating the main stage, and Ms. Julie Blankschein Hilbish's family donating the velvet curtains.

Today, the La Porte Little Theater is a 200-seat community theater that aims to provide quality theatrical experiences to Northwest Indiana audiences and actors. Over the last century, the La Porte Little Theater has presented plays, musicals, mysteries, dramas, and comedies, in efforts to bring our region together through art, dance, song, and expression. It is because of the generations of dedicated volunteers who contributed their time, efforts, and talents that the La Porte Little Theater continues to serve as a beacon of creative expression for all in LaPorte County and Northwest Indiana. Through the years, the committed Board Members and volunteers of the La Porte Little Theater have selflessly dedicated their time and efforts to provide opportunities to youth and adults on stage and behind the scenes. From sidesplitting comedy to thoughtful commentary on modern society, hundreds of volunteers have contributed their skills and talents to bring stories to life on stage. Through hundreds of thousands of hours of rehearsal, tens of thousands of costumes, thousands of handmade sets, hundreds of stories brought to the stage, and one