

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

hundred years, the volunteers of the La Porte Little Theater are worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the La Porte Little Theater as volunteers gather to celebrate its 100th Anniversary and the magic of storytelling this Sunday, February 23, 2025.

130TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY
OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Our Lady of the Lake University's 130th anniversary. A true San Antonio institution, the university's dedication to public service extends further than the classroom, uniting generations of students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Since 1895, Our Lady of the Lake has been a true Jewel of San Antonio's Westside. Established by the Sisters of Divine Providence, the school was created with the intention of serving the community in all aspects of life. Throughout the school's 130 years, it has held true to its traditions, while constantly innovating to ensure its position as a preeminent institution of higher education. Whether it was teaching grade school students at the turn of the twentieth century as a parochial school, providing individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds with access to higher education, or implementing community-based social service programs, Our Lady of the Lake has continually shown San Antonio and beyond that it is built on a commitment to service of all.

Now, in 2025, Our Lady of the Lake is a university that embraces its history to continually drive academic excellence and community development. As a leader in numerous academic disciplines, the university attracts students from throughout the United States and the world. Across Our Lady of the Lake University's three campuses, more than 75 undergraduate and graduate programs, and successful athletic programs, the university has positioned itself to inspire current and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize an educational legacy defined by success, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to service.

HONORING DR. LANCELOT GOODEN
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, Dr. Lancelot Gooden is an executive administrator and visionary leader with over two decades of experience in education. He holds a bachelor's degree in industrial mathematics, a master's degree in math education, and a Doctor of Education in adult and community college leadership. Since 2022, he has served as the pro-

vost for the Osceola and Poinciana campuses of Valencia College, where his leadership has profoundly impacted Osceola County, Florida. Dr. Gooden's tenure in Osceola County is marked by his commitment to academic excellence, student success, and community impact.

He is a member of the boards of directors of Hope Partnership and the Osceola County Education Foundation. He also serves on the boards of the Osceola Chamber, HCA Poinciana Hospital, and the National Science Foundation Engine Broadening Participation and Regional Engagement Advisory Board. He is a champion of community engagement. He actively works to strengthen partnerships between Valencia College and local organizations. His leadership demonstrates a commitment to fostering educational opportunities and community impact in Osceola County. He also focuses on developing innovative STEM education and workforce training programs to support the region's economic growth and resilience.

Dr. Gooden firmly believes in providing accessible, high-quality educational experiences for all learners, particularly students from low-income and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. He is the eighth of 12 siblings and the son of Clive Gooden and the late Candace Gooden. He is the proud father of two exceptional children, Matthaeus and Céline Gooden, and is married to his wonderful wife, Kutina Gooden. Through his visionary leadership and dedication to community engagement, Dr. Gooden continues to inspire positive change and transform lives in Osceola County, leaving a legacy of academic and civic excellence.

HONORING DETECTIVE MICHAEL
NAKAHARA

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 Michael Nakahara of the Lake County Sheriff's Office I have named Detective Nakahara as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Lake County because of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Born in Japan and raised in Hawaii by his parents, Scott and Susan Nakahara, Detective Nakahara graduated from the Hawai'i Preparatory Academy in 2014 before attending the San Joaquin Delta College P.O.S.T. Academy in 2021. He joined the Lake County Sheriff's Office later that year and, through his hard work, was assigned to the Major Crimes Unit in February 2024. In addition to his investigative duties, Detective Nakahara serves as an Explorer Advisor for the Lake County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post, mentoring young people interested in careers in law enforcement. His contributions to the department were recognized in December 2024 when he was awarded the Lake County Sheriff's Office Community Service Award and Sheriff's Citation.

Detective Nakahara demonstrated his skill while working on Lake County's first-ever fentanyl homicide case. Beginning in February 2024, he partnered with Sergeant Jeffrey Mora to investigate the tragic death of 17-year-old

Illeanna Frease, a Native American youth. Despite this being his first major case, as well as his first homicide case, Detective Nakahara tackled the investigation with tireless resolve. Over several months, he authored numerous reports and search warrants and conducted extensive interviews, allowing the evidence to guide him to the truth. His tenacity led to the arrest and charging of a suspect with second-degree murder who will face a jury trial this March. This case garnered widespread support from the Native American community at both the local and state levels and underscores the critical role Detective Nakahara plays in bringing justice to victims and their families.

Beyond his law enforcement duties, Detective Nakahara is an engaged member of our Lake County community. During the 2024 football season, he volunteered over 100 hours as an assistant coach for the Youth Varsity Kelseyville Chiefs in the Kelseyville Chiefs Youth Football League. His efforts helped instill values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal integrity in young athletes while strengthening the bond between the Sheriff's Office and the local community.

Mr. Speaker, Detective Michael Nakahara embodies the highest ideals of law enforcement—courage, dedication, and an unwavering pursuit of justice. Our citizens of Lake County and the Sheriff's Office can depend on him to protect and serve with honor and integrity. It is my privilege to recognize and commend Detective Nakahara for his outstanding contributions, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him today.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE JOHN D.
ALLEN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of a loving husband, doting father and grandfather, dedicated public servant, and my friend of longstanding, Judge John D. Allen. Sadly, Judge Allen passed from labor to reward on February 16, 2025. A celebration of his life will be held on February 21, 2025 at St. Mary's Road United Methodist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Judge Allen was born on January 17, 1943, to the union of Daniel and Beatrice Allen, in racially segregated Columbus, Georgia. It seemed like all the odds were against him of one day becoming a Superior Court Judge. Despite the lack of Black role models in the law as he was growing up, Judge Allen kept education as his main priority. He graduated from Tuskegee University in 1966 with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

A distinguished cadet in the ROTC, Judge Allen was commissioned into the Air Force in 1966 as a 2nd Lieutenant Pilot. By the end of his Air Force career, Judge Allen had attained the rank of the Captain and flown over 280 combat missions across Southeast Asia wherein he took out enemy anti-aircraft positions and made the battlefields safer for an untold number of American troops and our allies. He then went on to serve in Tampa, Florida as an academic and flight instructor until