

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

his discharge in July of 1973. He left the Air Force as a highly decorated pilot, earning 23 Air Medals, 2 Air Force Commendation Medals, and numerous other awards for his service during the Vietnam War.

In 1975, Judge Allen earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida, and he was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1976. From 1976 to 1987, he maintained a private law practice in the Columbus area. At that time, Judge Allen and I were two of only four black lawyers in town.

Judge Allen continued to break barriers when he began serving as a Columbus Recorder's Court Judge for one year before assuming a position on the State Court for Muscogee County in 1987. In 1993, he was appointed to the position of Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge. He was re-elected in every election since his appointment, until he retired from the bench in 2013.

Judge Allen's diligent judicial service has also been mirrored by his extensive involvement with the local and state communities. In conjunction with his professional accomplishments in the Air Force and on the bench, Judge Allen served on a number of boards and commissions, most notably as Chairman of the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and received many awards and accolades for his service. Judge Allen's contributions to the Columbus area and the state of Georgia even earned him recognition from the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer as one of "100 People to Remember for the Century." Additionally, on April 3, 2021, Judge Allen was inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall Fame for his distinguished service in the Air Force, as well as his decades of contributions to the legal field as an attorney and jurist.

None of Judge Allen's momentous accomplishments would have been possible without the enduring love and support of his late wife Victoria; his former wife Maureen, children John Jr., Geoffrey, and Kevin; and grandchildren, John III and Carson.

A true Georgian devoted to serving his great state, Judge Allen embodied Georgia's state motto, "Wisdom, Justice and Moderation." Judge Allen was a man of great integrity who set a high standard of values that made for a strong foundation of character in himself and in others. He was indeed a trailblazer, and he used his extensive knowledge and experiences to mentor other professionals he met along the way.

On a personal note, I am grateful to have known Judge Allen and counted him as a dear friend. His wise counsel and sage advice have contributed immensely to my success and have been a guiding light for me as I serve in Congress. For that I will always be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Judge John D. Allen and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, colleagues, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that all will be consoled by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JANET
BASZILE

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Janet Baszile, who passed away peacefully in December of 2024. Born on January 18, 1939, in Royal Oak Township, Michigan to Willa Mae and Mamon Dean, she was the fourth of five daughters. Janet also sharpened her natural love of adventure and nature when she followed in her sisters' footsteps and attended Green Pastures Camp, the only camp in Michigan for Black children.

Ms. Baszile attended Eastern Michigan University, where she pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She earned a B.A. in Education in 1961 and in 1962, she married Barry Baszile and moved to Los Angeles. She began her eighteen-year career in the Los Angeles Unified School District by teaching kindergarten and third grade at Woodcrest Elementary School. She taught until 1980, when she retired to become a full-time mother.

Ms. Baszile lived on the Palos Verdes Peninsula for more than 53 years, where she loved the natural beauty and gorgeous views. She was a dedicated community volunteer who drew strength from service. She served on the boards of Community Association of the Peninsula, Torrance Cultural Art Center Foundation, Providence Trinity Care Hospice, Palos Verdes Art Center, and the Los Angeles International Visitors Council. Janet was a Founding Member of the Affinity support group for the Volunteer Center, in South Bay-Harbor-Long Beach, where she was honored as a Legend of the South Bay. When she wasn't volunteering, Janet enjoyed gardening, golf and travel. She was a world traveler, most recently having traveled to Ghana.

Janet is survived by her two daughters, Natalie and Jennifer, her sons-in-law, Warrington and Malacai, and her three grandchildren, Hyacinth, Chloe, and Caleb. She is also survived by her sisters, Marion, Gloria, and Carol, her brother-in-law, Charles Baszile, and many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

HONORING BEN LARRY 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, Ben Larry is the director of human resources for SkyWater Technology in Florida. Ben has been a human resources professional for 34 years. Born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, Ben earned a Master of Health Services Administration from the University of Kansas. Ben also earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Tougaloo College. Ben is a Veteran of the United States Navy.

In addition to his role in human resources, Mr. Larry is recognized as a dedicated advocate for workforce development and community relations/involvement in Osceola County,

especially for underserved students and communities. He has given several SkyWater career opportunity presentations to the faculty, staff, students, and parents at a STEM elementary school, a STEM middle school, a STEM high school, and other middle and high schools across Kissimmee to get kids interested and excited about careers as engineers and technicians in the semiconductor manufacturing industry.

In 2022, Ben partnered with NeoCity Academy to create an internship program for NeoCity Academy students. The idea is to give students exposure to working at SkyWater and in the semiconductor industry as engineers. SkyWater continues to hire three to four NeoCity Academy students each summer to work on meaningful and impactful projects.

Beginning in 2021, Mr. Larry and other SkyWater leaders partnered with Valencia College to help enhance Valencia's mechatronics and robotics curriculum and helped them create their Associate of Arts program in semiconductor engineering. Ben and the SkyWater leaders also helped Valencia create their mock clean room. Mr. Larry also partners with Valencia College to offer internships for Valencia's mechatronics and robotics student graduates. This has resulted in SkyWater hiring three graduates to date from Valencia's programs as full-time technicians. In addition to Valencia College, Mr. Larry partners with the University of Florida, the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida, and Florida Polytechnic University to hire students for internship opportunities. These internships have allowed SkyWater to hire five graduates from these institutions as full-time engineers and technicians.

From a community relations and involvement perspective, Mr. Larry and other SkyWater employees have participated in over 15 Osceola County community events over the past four years. Three Kings Day, Viva Osceola, and Juneteenth, to name a few. Mr. Larry serves on the board of Career Source Central Florida, representing Osceola County. He is also a 2023 graduate of Leadership Osceola. Lastly, Mr. Larry is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

HONORING OFFICER MATTHEW
BOWEN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Officer Matthew Bowen of the Vacaville Police Department. I have named Officer Bowen as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County in honor of his ultimate sacrifice to our community, tragically losing his life in the line of duty. Officer Bowen exemplified the highest ideals of law enforcement—service, integrity, and sacrifice—and his devotion to protecting our community will never be forgotten.

Born in Walnut Creek, California, Officer Bowen was active in his church and the Boy Scouts of America, where he became a senior leader of his troop and achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. His commitment