

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

to service led him to Arizona State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, preparing him for a career dedicated to public safety.

Officer Bowen joined the Vacaville Police Department in 2023 after serving with distinction as a Police Officer for the City of Concord. In both departments, he was celebrated for his kindness, humor, work ethic, and unwavering calm under pressure. Colleagues and community members alike remember him as a compassionate officer who treated everyone with dignity and respect.

On Thursday, July 11, 2024, Officer Bowen was initiating a traffic stop when he was struck by a vehicle, tragically losing his life in the line of duty. His selfless dedication to protecting others, even in the face of danger, is a testament to his courage and commitment to public service.

Officer Bowen is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and their two young sons, Mason and Everett. In the wake of his passing, condolences poured in from across the country, with community members sharing heartfelt memories of his kindness and dedication. He was remembered as an inspiration to others, a person who encouraged those around him to be better, and as a compassionate soul who went beyond the duties of his profession to support those in need.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Bowen's bravery, compassion, and unwavering commitment to his community embody the very essence of public service. His loss is deeply felt, but his memory will endure as an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues, and we honor Officer Matthew Bowen's legacy of courage and sacrifice. He will never be forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
JANET MARTIN, 'MAYOR OF
ARMITAGE'

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janet Martin on concluding an iconic career with the Chicago Transit Authority.

For the last 29 years, Janet has worked for the CTA across the Red, Purple, Yellow, and Green lines. But it is her work at the Armitage Brown Line station that has earned Janet acclaim amongst Chicagoans across the city. Known as the Mayor of the Armitage Brown Line Station, Janet's warm demeanor is well known amongst all riders. Throughout her career, Janet has gone above and beyond, befriending commuters and making sure that everyone has a friendly, helping hand, whether they are Chicago natives or visitors to the city.

Janet has truly led a life of service and plans to continue this work even in her retirement. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service and warmth Janet has provided during her entire tenure. Our Mayor of the Armitage Brown Line station will surely be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS
NELSON PERRY

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2025

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a man who exemplified the American spirit—Thomas Nelson Perry, a dedicated veteran, successful businessman, and steadfast community leader. On January 24, 2025, Thomas went home to be with the Lord, leaving behind a legacy of service, integrity, and devotion to his family and country.

From an early age, he demonstrated a commitment to service, joining the Air Force Reserves while still in high school before enlisting in the United States Army. Rising to the rank of staff sergeant, he served as an instructor at the Army Signal Corps School in Fort Gordon, Georgia, and played a role in history by monitoring the Soviet Union's launch of the first-ever satellite, Sputnik.

After his military service, Thomas applied his technical expertise as an electrician before transitioning to sales, where his talent and tenacity led him to secure a historic contract with NASA while working for Smith Corona. He later built a successful decades-long career with Monsanto, serving as a sales manager in the Astroturf and Fome-cor divisions. It was during this time that he met his beloved wife, Mary Lou, with whom he built a life full of love, adventure, and family. Together, they welcomed their son, Brandon, while living in Atlanta before retiring to Galveston.

Thomas's retirement years were no less impressive. An avid sailor, he explored the Gulf of America aboard his beloved vessels, the Gloria Del Mar and later the MV Mary Louise. Even as age made sailing more difficult, his commitment to service never wavered. He dedicated his time to charitable work with Lighthouse Charity Cooking Texas, served his community with pride, and remained actively engaged in local Republican politics, always bringing his sharp wit, deep patriotism, and unwavering sense of justice to the causes he held dear.

Later in life, Thomas moved back to Atlanta to be near his grandson, John, cherishing the time spent watching him grow and sharing in his love of sports. His legacy of faith, family, and service will continue to inspire all who knew and loved him.

May God bless the Perry family during this time of mourning. We honor the life of Thomas Nelson Perry—his dedication to his country, his commitment to his community, and his enduring love for his family. His impact will not be forgotten, and his legacy will live on for generations to come.

HONORING LEIA PEREZ 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, Leia Perez, celebrated for her couture cake designs, has

achieved widespread recognition for her exceptional craftsmanship through her award-winning bakery, Candyland Designs.

Her work has been featured in prominent magazines, and she has made several television appearances regarding her work. Leia's dedication to excellence has earned her numerous prestigious accolades, including an NAACP award and the Military Order of the Purple Heart award, recognizing her profound commitment to philanthropy and community impact.

Holding a B.S. in Business Management & Accounting from Case Western Reserve University, Leia actively contributes her expertise by serving on the executive boards of several nonprofit organizations. Her unwavering dedication to giving back is reflected in her partnerships with Make-A-Wish bakers, the Osceola NAACP, the Kissimmee Main Street Program, Team Kareem Memorial Foundation, Kiss Kormucopia's Community Shared Agriculture program, and the Black Empowerment Community Council. She also consistently donates a portion of her profits to No Kid Hungry, ensuring her impact extends far beyond her business. Leia's passion for philanthropy goes beyond financial contributions—she strives to create joy and lasting memories. As the founder of the Wedding Wish by Candyland Designs Foundation, she grants dream weddings and provides mental health support to couples facing life-altering challenges.

Through initiatives like free Wellness Workshops, offering yoga, meditation, and art therapy, Leia empowers her community by promoting self-care and connection. Her heartfelt mission is to provide hope, joy, and support to those in need—work that she holds closest to her heart.

HONORING CANINE OFFICER
MURPH

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 Canine Officer Murph of the Vacaville Police Department's K-9 Unit. I have named Canine Officer Murph 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 on July 4, 2020, Canine Officer Murph began his law enforcement career in 2021. Paired with his partner, Officer Chad Hudson, the two quickly became the senior K-9 team of the Vacaville Police Department's K-9 unit. Canine Officer Murph has been expertly trained to assist in the apprehension of criminal suspects and the detection of narcotics. Canine Officer Murph has facilitated numerous arrests, assisted nearly every department within the agency, and worked numerous hours in the line of duty.

Canine Officer Murph is also heavily involved in the Vacaville Police Department's mission of community engagement. When Canine Officer Murph was not actively patrolling, he and his partner conducted canine demonstrations to showcase their unique skillset and abilities to the public. Of these demonstrations, Canine Officer Murph's favorite engagements are with elementary school students in