

has been instrumental in projects that promote economic growth, cultural enrichment and social well-being in Brooksville. One of Casey's most notable contributions is his unwavering support for local charities and nonprofit organizations. Through the Red Mule Pub, he has hosted and participated in numerous fundraising efforts, donating time, resources, and space to causes that benefit the less fortunate, veterans, first responders, and community programs. His generosity has directly impacted countless individuals and families in need, reinforcing the sense of unity that defines Brooksville.

Casey's leadership extends to mentoring and supporting others in the community. He is known for offering guidance and encouragement to young entrepreneurs, fellow business owners, and civic leaders. His ability to bring people together for a common cause has strengthened the bonds within Brooksville, fostering collaboration and goodwill among diverse groups of residents.

Above all, Casey Thieryung exemplifies what it means to be a Local Hero—not for accolades or recognition, but because he truly cares about his hometown and its people. His selfless dedication, unwavering passion, and boundless generosity have made an enduring difference in Brooksville. For these reasons, Casey is a deserving recipient of the Local Hero Award, and it is with great pride that we nominate him for this honor. It is clear Casey Thieryung has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE 6990TH & 6908TH SECURITY
SQUADRON (DOGGERS)—VIET-
NAMESE LINGUISTS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished service of two exceptional units of the United States Air Force—the 6990th & 6908th Security Squadrons and the contributions of the Vietnamese linguists (affectionately known as DOGGERS). These squadrons exemplified the very best of American dedication, vigilance, and sacrifice.

The 6990th Security Squadron, stationed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, played a critical role in safeguarding our national security. Activated in the 1960s, this unit specialized in signals intelligence, electronic surveillance, and cryptologic operations. During the Vietnam War and throughout the Cold War, the airmen of the 6990th monitored enemy communications, gathered vital intelligence, and supported combat operations with unwavering commitment. Their contributions were instrumental in ensuring the security of American forces and our allies across the Pacific.

Similarly, the 6908th Security Squadron, based at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand, carried out equally vital missions. This squadron operated under the United States Air Force Security Service. Its primary focus was communications inter-

ception, security, and support for operations critical to our nation's strategic interests in Asia. The men and women of the 6908th displayed exceptional skill and professionalism in an era when information dominance was key to preserving peace and deterring aggression.

Mr. Speaker, the work of these squadrons was often carried out in secrecy, without public recognition or fanfare. Yet their efforts were fundamental to the defense of the United States and the free world. Today, we pay tribute to their service and reaffirm our gratitude for their enduring legacy. May their example of quiet professionalism and steadfast duty continue to inspire future generations of Americans.

Today, I would like to recognize all the members of the USAF Doggers that served in the Vietnam War.

Richard Bini, Gregory Bonnell, Dean Brown, Jerry Clausen, Melvin Cole, Lowell Cook, Robert DeMay, Edward DeMayo, David Domyancic, Gary Fellenz, Michael Freeman.

Mark Graham, Dennis Gurtner, Tim Hamm, William Healy, Jim Hebert, John Hill, Benjamin Johnson, Perry Keeton, Marvin Marker, Paul McNulty, Lawrence Miller.

Larry Mills, Roger Morimoto, Carl Muellner, Robert Neiles, Buddy Newell, John Nicolai, Joseph Nolan, Ty Peters, Sandy Potter, Edgar Royce, Randolph Seitter.

William Sheldrake, John Slyman, Dennis Smith, Dale Sprosty, Casey Teliczan, Mark Thompson, Joe Turney, Joel Ware, Rick White, Michael Wright.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT MARK
METDKER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Metdker of Celina, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Mark has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

A native of Dallas, Mark graduated from Lewisville High School in 1975 as a star football and track athlete. He began his career working for the McKinney Fire Department and in the oilfield industry. From 1983 to 2007, Mark worked for the Addison Fire Department before being selected to serve as the Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal for the Celina Fire Department in 2008. He served in a variety of roles, including firefighter, arson investigator, and fire prevention captain. As a result of his contributions to the city and exceptional public service abilities, Mark attained the positions of Fire Chief, Chief of Police, and Director of Public Safety, before retiring in November 2023.

In addition to his public service, Mark has participated in many community service initiatives throughout North Texas. He previously served as a member of Collin College's Fire Science Program steering committee and the North Texas Council of Governments 911 Communications Commission. Moreover, Mark is a member of the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, Texas Police Chiefs Association, Collin County Fire Chiefs Association, Denton County Fire Chiefs Association, and the National

Fire Protection Agency. For his exceptional work, he has earned two Meritorious Service awards, the Career Achievement Medal, the City Builder award, and the Agency Best Practices award from the Celina Police Department and Fire Department. I would like to thank Mark for a lifetime of public service and dedication to our community.

It is an honor to bestow Mark with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING GAEL ALVAREZ
ACOSTA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gael Alvarez Acosta for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Gael has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Gael, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Gael's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Gael Alvarez Acosta on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING VERNON L. MICHAEL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Vernon L. Michael for his 40 years of outstanding Federal service both as a military member of the United States Navy, and as a civilian for the Department of the Navy (DON) Office of the General Counsel (OGC).

Mr. Michael enlisted in the United States Navy in July 1984 under the delayed entry program and began his active-duty naval career in January 1985. Upon completing basic training at Recruit Training Command, Orlando, Florida, he successfully completed Yeoman "A" School, graduating with honors, followed by his first duty assignment to the pre-commissioning unit for USS *Missouri* (BB 63) for which he became a plankowner. Over the next 23 years, Mr. Michael served in a variety of operational and staff assignments including sea tours aboard USS *Duluth* (LPD 6) and USS *Seattle* (AOE 3). Staff/shore assignments included Personnel Support Activity Detachment, San Antonio, Texas; the Office of the Secretary of Defense; the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition); and DON OGC. Throughout his naval career, Mr. Michael served in numerous leadership positions and was awarded multiple personal, service, and unit awards. He retired from active duty in August 2008 in the grade of Chief Yeoman (E-7).

In December 2008, Mr. Michael was appointed to the position of Special Assistant for Administrative Matters in DON OGC. In this role, he directly supports the General Counsel of the Navy (GC), a Presidentially Appointed, Senate-confirmed official, and the Principal Deputy General Counsel (PDGC). He is the recognized subject matter expert on all DON and Department of Defense administrative matters and functional areas to include oversight of correspondence and the electronic records programs, personnel and physical security, and protocol. Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Michael consistently exceeded expectations and provided unmatched support to nine GC's, seven PDGCs, and various other senior executives within the DON and OGC. For his contributions, he received two DON Meritorious Civilian Service awards.

For these reasons, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Vernon L. Michael as he retires from Federal service.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES A.
ROGERS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Charles A. "Charlie" Rogers has made through his work with Habitat Tampa Bay Gulfside. Charlie Rogers has been on Habitat's Board of Directors since July 2022. A life-long advocate for education and health, Charlie has brought that experience and passion to Habitat as we continue to find solutions for affordable homeownership in Pinellas and West Pasco Counties. Charlie is a key member of Habitat's work to build more affordable homeownership opportunities in West Pasco and Hernando Counties. He has assisted in organizing special build days with local elected officials and continues to make vital community connections to grow the affiliate's presence. Charlie has continued to build relationships with local government members and stresses the need for private and public partnerships. As Habitat's footprint continues to grow throughout its service area, Charlie Rogers will keep pushing the mission and the vision that everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

It is clear Charles A. "Charlie" Rogers has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT PASTOR ISIAH MOORE, JR.

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Isiah Moore, Jr., of Celina, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Pastor Moore has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, Pastor Moore attended Booker T. Washington High School and joined the United States Navy after graduation. He was honorably discharged in June 1971 with the rank of Seaman Apprentice. Pastor Moore earned his bachelor's degree in 1976 from Bishop College in Dallas and attended Perkins Theological and Christwell Ministry College. He began his career as a campus police officer at Bishop College and assistant manager at Winn Dixie before becoming a firefighter for the City of Dallas. Later, Pastor Moore served as the Senior Pastor of Samaria Baptist Church in Van Alstyne and St. Philip Baptist Church in Celina.

For nearly four decades, Pastor Moore has worked as a firefighter in North Texas and volunteer chaplain for the Celina Police Department. He is a board member of the Celina Police and Firefighters Benevolent Association, the Collin Baptist Association Board, the McKinney Area Ministerial Alliance Board, and many more. Additionally, Pastor Moore has worked with the Young Republicans in McKinney and campaigned for local judges in Collin County. For his outstanding contributions, Pastor Moore has received the 2021 Life Connected Award from the City of Celina and was recognized by his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, for 50 years of service. I am pleased to recognize Pastor Moore today for his exceptional leadership and longtime dedication to helping our community succeed.

It is an honor to bestow Pastor Moore with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

HONORING MS. LILA MAE STAR

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving mother, devoted grandmother, dedicated great grandmother, a culinary maestro, iconic entrepreneur and friend of longstanding, Ms. Lila Mae Star. Sadly, Ms. Star transitioned from labor to reward on April 2, 2025. A "Royal Celebration of Life", reflecting her remarkable 93 years and 11 months, was held on Saturday, April 19, 2025, at the Saint James AME Church in Columbus, Georgia.

The life of Lila Mae Star had its genesis with her birth to the union of the late Mr. Freeman "Bear" Goodwin and Mrs. Mary Luttrell Jones in Ellerslie, Georgia on April 17, 1931. She received her education at Longstreet School in Harris County.

Ms. Star's life was driven by her faith as she gave herself to Christ at an early age never ceasing her connection to the Church and her God. For more than half a century, she fellowshiped with the saints at Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, serving in a variety of capacities to include the Nazareth Missionary Society, Nazareth Early Morning Choir, the Benevolent Group President, and the Senior Usher Board.

The impetus for her life's work began when she was only 12 years old and working at the Seminole Diner and Coffee Depot for Mr.

Hatterfield. Her experience there kindled her dream of one day owning her own restaurant. That dream became a reality on August 12, 1963, when she opened the Royal Café. For almost six decades she and family members and other dedicated staff maintained a "destination" café, known for good homestyle cooking and frequented by a clientele, ranging from laborers, domestics, and factory workers to doctors, lawyers, judges and corporate executives. Ms. Star loved her customers and treated them all with respect, but from time to time she was known to have a "sharp tongue" for anyone she believed to be disrespectful to any of her customers. She was also known to have "favorites" such as her doctor, the late Dr. M. Delmar Edwards, who upon his arrival would be treated to his choice of fare—whether on the menu or not. The Royal Café was always the place where people who wanted good food could find it. Mrs. Lila Mae Star was an entrepreneur extraordinaire. Moreover, it was so appropriate that her "Royal Celebration of Life" was held at the historic St. James AME Church, which is located next door to the Royal Café, where she spent so many years of her remarkable life.

Not only did Ms. Star make a difference with the Royal Café, she also made a difference in the community by her involvement in civic and social clubs. It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." She paid her rent, and she paid it well. She was a proud member of the Jolly Matrons Social Club which has as its mission, sisterhood, service and fellowship. She was honored by The United Negro College Fund for her philanthropy. She received accolades from Mayors, Legislators, Members of Congress and the Columbus Ledger Enquirer newspaper. And she was loved by the community at large for her life of service.

On a personal note, Ms. Star and her family have been dear friends for many years. I was the family lawyer and was proud to have earned her confidence. She supported my career in public service and never told me what she thought I wanted to hear but always told me what she thought I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for the fidelity of her friendship and support.

Ms. Lila Mae Star was a great woman and accomplished many things in her life, but none would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of her family, to include her late children Sarah Porter and Leonard Goodwin; her daughter Carolyn Ross; her late granddaughter, Kimberly Porter; her great grandchildren and other extended family. The world is better because Ms. Star touched our lives.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian, and I, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, salute and honor the life and legacy of Ms. Lila Mae Star for her commitment to serving humankind through the power of love, hospitality and food. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Ms. Star's family and all those who mourn her loss during this difficult time of bereavement. I pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.