

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting these veterans and helping fulfill our promises to them and their families.

RECOGNIZING PAM YOUNKER ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible individual who is a true pillar of the community, Mrs. Pam Younker, and congratulate her on her retirement from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

The daughter of a United States Marine, Pam is a longtime advocate for our military, as well as our local community, and our children. Pam has spent more than a decade with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, caring for families in their time of greatest need.

A rock of her community, Pam was recognized in 2018 with the Marietta Citizen of the Year Award, and again in 2024 with the Len Gilbert Award for her advocacy for Dobbins Air Reserve Base and Clay National Guard Center.

Pam served as Chair of the Honorary Commanders Association, a Cobb County Chamber of Commerce program connecting community leaders with military commanders. She remains committed to our nation's military, serving on the Military Appreciation Luncheon Committee, chairing Armed Forces Day for Leadership Cobb, co-chairing the Team Dobbins Committee, and is a Civic Leader for Air Force Reserve Command.

Pam regularly organizes deployment send-offs, welcome-home events, and Veterans Day parades, among other events, and has been crucial in preventing the historic Dobbins Chapel's demolition, securing its relocation to the Clay National Guard Center.

It is my honor to have worked closely with Pam Younker through the years, and an even greater privilege to call her a friend. I congratulate Pam on her well-deserved retirement and know she will continue serving her Cobb County community in the years to come.

HONORING MIMI CHAN FOR HER
CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL
FLORIDA DURING ASIAN AMERICAN
& PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Mimi Chan is best known as the model and martial arts reference for Disney's "Mulan," but her greatest impact lies in her lifelong dedication to empowering communities through education, culture, and service in Florida. A respected martial artist and advocate, she is a Master at the Wah Lum Kung Fu Temple in Orlando—the first kung fu temple in America, built by her father, Grandmaster Pui Chan, in 1980.

In 2023, Mimi spearheaded the passage of groundbreaking legislation mandating the inclusion of Asian American and Pacific Islander

history in Florida K–12 schools. As the director of Make Us Visible Florida, she built coalitions, collaborated with legislators, and mobilized community voices to ensure a more inclusive and accurate curriculum—helping shape a future where education reflects the richness of our shared history and strengthens our communities.

Mimi served on the Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force, contributing to strategies that address gun violence through cultural understanding, prevention, and youth engagement.

Through her leadership at Wah Lum, Mimi has preserved and celebrated Chinese culture across Florida. She produces some of the most dynamic Lunar New Year celebrations, featuring traditional lion dances, kung fu performances, and educational workshops. As an Asian American female role model, she has inspired generations to take pride in their heritage—ensuring that culture is not only honored, but also experienced, understood, and appreciated by people of all ages and backgrounds.

Mimi is an award-winning filmmaker whose documentary, "Pui Chan: Kung Fu Pioneer", has earned critical acclaim. She continues to amplify diverse voices through her podcast, "The Sifu Mimi Chan Show".

From martial arts to advocacy, education to community empowerment, Mimi Chan's legacy is one of action and impact. While most know her as the inspiration for a Disney heroine, her true power lies in her unwavering commitment to uplifting, educating, and inspiring her community.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF DR. SYLVIA GUERRA RIOS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Dr. Sylvia Guerra Rios, a dedicated educator and a pillar of the South Texas community.

For 48 years, Dr. Rios has been a steadfast advocate for students and teachers—as a classroom teacher, principal, curriculum leader, and ultimately, Superintendent of the Laredo Independent School District. She has spent her life improving the lives of others through education.

Since 2017, she has led LISD—serving over 21,000 students and nearly 4,000 employees—with distinction. Under her leadership, LISD has earned 11 National Blue Ribbon School honors, with three more schools recently nominated. These achievements reflect her unwavering focus on academic excellence and student opportunity.

A Hebronville native and proud public school graduate, Dr. Rios was valedictorian of her high school class. She went on to earn degrees from Texas A&I University and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Her professional rise mirrors the values she brought into every school—discipline, compassion, and vision.

Dr. Rios has also represented our region with distinction on the state stage and was inducted into the Laredo Commission for Women Hall of Fame in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Rios is not just an accomplished administrator—she is a role model and a servant leader. Her impact will be felt for generations.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I thank Dr. Rios and her family for their service and dedication. We wish her the very best in a well-earned retirement.

HONORING NIFF-TONE

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Niff-Tone, a family-owned business in Mentone, Indiana, celebrating 50 years in the building materials industry. Since its founding in 1975, Niff-Tone has exemplified American craftsmanship, customer dedication, and community spirit.

Established by the father and uncles of current owner Joe Secrist, Niff-Tone began as a modest garage operation and has grown into a leading supplier for commercial, agricultural, and residential construction. Its extensive product line includes steel, siding, roofing, windows, doors, insulation, and full steel building packages—most of which are American-made, with Indiana-produced steel backed by lifetime warranties.

At the heart of Niff-Tone's success is its unwavering commitment to service. Mr. Secrist, who began working with his father at age 12, upholds the founding principle: treat every customer like family. This philosophy drives the company's personalized approach, including direct consultations, site visits, and prompt issue resolution. Today, Niff-Tone serves over 5,000 customers and collaborates with about 10 manufacturers.

Beyond business, Niff-Tone actively supports its community—donating materials to schools and projects, and sponsoring local events like Miss Mentone, represented by Kinley Rowe.

As Niff-Tone marks this milestone, it remains committed to delivering dependable, American-made products and building strong, lasting relationships.

Congratulations to Niff-Tone on 50 years of outstanding service and I wish them 50 more years of continued success.

HONORING DON H. NGUYEN FOR
HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL
FLORIDA DURING ASIAN
AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Don H. Nguyen is the founder of DHN Attorneys, a law firm based in Orlando, Florida. With nearly 20 years of experience, Don has built a reputation as a trusted legal advisor to community associations, real estate developers, entrepreneurs, and small business owners across Central Florida. His practice includes representing downtown high-rise condominiums

and the premier golf community in Central Florida.

As a proud advocate for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, Don has helped shape and support a generation of business leaders in Orlando. His clients include Michelin-starred chefs, medical professionals, wellness entrepreneurs, and arcade operators—many of whom credit Don not just as their lawyer, but as a mentor and connector.

Don's commitment to community extends far beyond his legal work. He is a former vice president of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce, a founding member and former director of the Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association, and a past secretary of the Asian Real Estate Association of America's Greater Orlando chapter. In 2024, he was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the AACC. Don also serves on the Leadership Council of SALT Outreach, a nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals experiencing homelessness, and is a board director for the Conductive Education Center of Orlando (CECO), a school for children with motor disabilities.

Through his legal work, leadership roles, and civic engagement, Don is widely recognized as a leader actively shaping Central Florida's future and lifting up the communities he serves.

HONORING MY FORMER LEGISLATIVE AIDE, ISABELLE BOYD

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my former Legislative Aide, Isabelle Boyd, for her service to the people of the Third Congressional District of Mississippi. Isabelle joined my office in the summer of 2023, and was able to build out an impressive, communications program to keep my constituents abreast of important happenings in Washington, D.C., and across Mississippi. Isabelle ran our intern program which gave young people interested in government an opportunity to learn about the legislative process and gain valuable professional experience on Capitol Hill. Isabelle was also an integral part of our legislative team working on pro-life and pro-family policies, as well as religious liberty, arts and humanities, and disabilities.

I am honored to have had Isabelle Boyd in my office for the last two years. She has been an invaluable part of my team. I thank Isabelle for her service to the state of Mississippi. We wish her all the best in law school and beyond.

HONORING THE GRADUATION OF SETH CELLA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to rise with me to celebrate the graduation of Seth Cella from Fork Union Military Academy.

Seth Cella, born in 2007, is graduating with honors later this month. Raised by his father, Paul Cella—a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and national security entrepreneur—Seth comes from a proud, multigenerational legacy of military service. His grandfather is a former U.S. Marine. one great-grandfather served in the U.S. Army, and another in the U.S. Navy.

Despite early challenges, Seth emerged with a resilient and compassionate spirit. Seth faced academic barriers that were exacerbated by pandemic-era school closures and insufficient support from public education systems. By the end of his sophomore year, he was struggling both academically and personally—until he made a decision that would alter the course of his life: to attend Fork Union Military Academy. Seth served on the varsity swim team, mentored peers, and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant, becoming third in command of the entire Corps of Cadets.

Today, Seth graduates not only with academic honors but with an uncommon level of maturity, humility, and strength. He will attend West Virginia University in the fall of 2025 to study kinesiology, with interests in health sciences, athletics, and service.

HONORING THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, standing at Arlington National Cemetery, the weight of history surrounds you—rows of white headstones stretching endlessly, each marking a life dedicated to service. But among them, one site stands apart: the eternal flame at President John F. Kennedy's final resting place. As the flame flickers, unwavering, the words from his inaugural address echo in your mind.

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe in order to assure the survival and success of liberty."

President Kennedy spoke those words in 1961, but he could have said them today, or yesterday. More than a declaration, those words are a promise woven into the fabric of American history, upheld by the generations of men and women laid to rest around him. To put it simply, President Kennedy's immortal words encapsulate Memorial Day perfectly.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Memorial Day, a time to commemorate the valor and sacrifices of the brave men and women who laid down their lives in service to our nation. To recall those who enlisted in our armed forces and fought to preserve our American liberties, values, and way of life.

We remember the men who ran ashore the beaches of Normandy to end WWII; those who fought in the snows of Korea; the bravery of those who fought in the impenetrable jungles and unbearable heat of Vietnam; as well as the men and women who were called to serve in the aftermath of 9/11. America is the world's superpower, but our freedom comes at a cost that has included the lives of the brightest and boldest of our Nation.

It is only fitting that on Memorial Day, we find ourselves reflecting on those individuals who so bravely and instinctively risked their all in the face of severe danger. I am reminded of the poignant words of Navy veteran Jack Crawford, who, while serving aboard the USS *Yorktown* when it was sunk during the Battle of Midway in 1942, once stated:

"There aren't many things you can take out of this planet . . . but you can take with you, wherever you go, consciousness of duty faithfully performed."

That which we simply call 'duty,' a word we use freely and do not give the reverence it deserves—is the motto, way of life and heartfelt song of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guard members, who constantly and without hesitation put their lives on the line for our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women who have given their lives in service to this nation are—irrevocably—heroes. When their country called, they answered. No matter how they found their way to service, each took it upon him or herself to serve faithfully and to their fullest, while giving their last measure of devotion to our country.

We owe them more than just remembrance; we owe them gratitude, respect, and a promise to forever uphold the values for which they fought and died.

HONORING TAKEMASA ISHIKURA FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL FLORIDA DURING ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Takemasa Ishikura is the president of the Japan Association of Orlando (JAO) and has played a vital role in preserving and promoting Japanese heritage in Central Florida for over two decades. He first came to the United States in 1983 as a performer at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center. What began as a three-month engagement led to the founding of Maturiza, a professional taiko group that continues to perform weekly at the Japan Pavilion in Epcot, delighting millions of guests from around the world. Maturiza has also traveled extensively across the United States to entertain audiences at cultural events and festivals.

In addition to his performance work, Takemasa has dedicated himself to community cultural exchange through the Orlando Taiko Dojo, a nonprofit organization he founded to teach traditional Japanese drumming. His students, ranging in age from 10 to over 80, regularly perform at marathons, festivals, and local events throughout the region.

Beyond drumming, Takemasa has contributed to cultural education as principal of a local Japanese language school and through his leadership of JAO. Since 2000, he has helped grow the Orlando Japan Festival from a small gathering at a restaurant into a major annual celebration in Kissimmee, now drawing over 10,000 attendees. Festival proceeds support Japanese language education and have contributed over \$20,000 to disaster relief efforts nationwide, including California and Hawaii, as well as in Asian countries, including Japan and the Philippines.