

United States Armed Forces following their graduation this year. Of these 23 enlistees, 11 are Army enlistees, 4 are Navy enlistees, 4 are National Guard enlistees, 2 are Air Force enlistees, one is a Coast Guard enlistee, and one is a Marine Corps enlistee. These young men and women have displayed an unmatched sense of bravery and courage in their commitment to defend and protect our nation. Thus, it is important they know that they have the full support of the United States House of Representatives, their communities, and the American people. It is the dedication of these individuals which reminds us who we are as a people, and that though diverse problems may lie ahead, the United States remains a shining example of freedom, strength, and perseverance on the world stage.

The service of these young men and women must not go unrecognized, and so I want to personally thank these twenty-three local graduating seniors for their selflessness and commitment to our nation by naming them here today: Oneil Daley, Antonio Allen Jr., Juan Machuca, Mario Esquilin, Henry Thomas, Dion Yu, David Colton, Corbett Pervenecki, Matthew Connelly, Laquann Pitts, Corey Boyce, Jose Ruiz, Kristi McMillion, Selena Harrison, Ty Torres, David Tarrant-Schneiderman, Angela Fernandez, Tristan Sperling, Andrew Williams, Tyler Stewart, Brandon Hall, Dylan Reinhardt and Alicia Williams.

All will be recognized on May 8th at the Our Community Salutes event in Boca Raton.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them and to all who defend our freedom by serving in the United States Armed Forces. That spirit of service and sacrifice is something we all can be proud of. For this very reason, it is my honor to recognize these young leaders here today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ROBERT BUFORD ACREE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Robert Buford Acree, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 85. Bob was a World War II veteran who served the United States of America honorably in Korea and began a family legacy within the United States Air Force.

Bob was born in Arkansas in 1924. He moved to Chowchilla with his family in 1937 and began to work in farming with his father when he was only 12 years old. He attended local schools and graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1943.

In 1945, thinking he was safe from the draft, Bob married Betty and continued working in farming. A year later, he was inducted into the Army. After completing basic training, Bob was assigned to the Army Air Corps and was sent to Aviation Engineering School in Spokane, Washington, for advanced training.

Upon completion of his training, Bob and roughly one hundred Army Air Corps replacement troops flew to Pusan, Korea. Bob then joined the 40th Aviation Engineer Squadron at Kempo Air Field, north of Seoul. Bob subsequently served in the squadron motor pool.

Bob returned to the United States in March 1947 and was discharged at Camp Beale. However, Bob decided to continue serving his country and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1948. He served for four years and was honorably discharged as an Airman Second Class in 1952. For his service, Bob was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal.

After his separation from the service, Bob returned to Chowchilla and to farming alongside his father. In 1949, Bob bought his own farm in the Dairyland area and farmed until 1961. Bob worked for the City of Chowchilla before beginning a long career with the Chowchilla Union High School District where he served with distinction as Director of Transportation from 1969 until his retirement in 1987.

Bob and Betty had two children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Bob passed along his dedication to service to his son who retired from the Air Force as a master sergeant and to two of his grandchildren who are currently on active duty in the United States Air Force.

In addition to being a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and servicemember, Bob was also an active member of his community in Chowchilla. He was a member of the Chowchilla Mason Lodge, Chowchilla Odd Fellow Lodge, Mariposa Odd Fellow Lodge, and Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a longtime member of the First Baptist Church and Life Member of Chowchilla VFW Post 9896 and American Legion Post 148.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Robert Buford Acree for his service and devotion to his family, community, and nation.

HONORING MS. BRITTANY
JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Brittany Johnson is the daughter of Kennedy V. & Jean S. Johnson. She is a native of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She is currently a student at the Mississippi School for Mathematics & Science where she maintains an "A" average. Prior to attending Mississippi School for Math and Science, she attended John F. Kennedy Memorial High School and Isaiah T. Montgomery Elementary School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

At Isaiah T. Montgomery Elementary School, Brittany was honored for having the highest grade point average from the first through sixth grades. While in elementary school she served as a Junior Beta Club Member and a Girl Scout.

In Junior High School, Brittany was recognized for holding the highest state testing scores for Language Arts, Reading, and Mathematics. She continued to maintain a 4.0 GPA. When she became a high school student, she was active in Future Business Leaders of America where she competed and placed first in district and second in state competitions.

She went on to compete in the national competition in Anaheim, California for Word Processing I and Senior Beta, she also competed at other competitions and the Drama Club. She was recognized by President Obama and Congressman THOMPSON on scoring advance on the subject area tests of Algebra I and Biology I. Brittany has maintained an "A" average and the highest GPA average during her tenure at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School.

Desiring a greater academic challenge, Brittany in her sophomore year at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School applied and was accepted to the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in Columbus, Mississippi where she is scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2015.

At the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science she is a member of the National Honors Society for High School Students, National Beta Club, Future Physicians of America, and Blu Diamonds Step Group.

She continues to maintain an "A" average in her courses of study.

Brittany is a dedicated citizen in her community. She volunteers in annual citywide clean-ups and is a former member of the Mayor's Youth Council and participated in it by working on numerous political campaigns.

She is an active member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, which is located in the city of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where she is a member of the Junior Usher Board, the Youth Choir, the Youth Praise Dance Team and serves as Secretary of the Sunday School.

After completing high school she plans on attending college where she will major in Biology, to pursue her dreams of becoming a Cardiovascular Surgeon. She lives by the quote: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing student for her dedication to education.

HONORING NORA RUPERT

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Broward County District 7 School Board Member Nora Rupert, a devoted teacher and mother and a dedicated community advocate. Her hard work improving our county's schools and bettering the futures of our children is an inspiration to education leaders in South Florida and across the country.

After Nora graduated from Florida Southern College and the Star Program at FAU for alternative education certification, she served as a substitute teacher with the School Board of Broward County and taught Language Arts and Reading at Piper High School for four years. She was elected in 2010 to serve as School Board Member for District 7 and has been a champion of education reform ever since. After adopting three children, she has gained invaluable experience advocating on their behalf through Exceptional Student Education and gifted issues in public schools. Finally, among many other organizations, Nora