

that certify officers are prepared to carry out their duties. Sheriff Ford is a native of Northwest Florida, and has honorably served Bay County as a law enforcement officer for over 25 years. He was elected Sheriff of Bay County in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford for his appointment to this commission and thanking him for his record of exemplary service protecting Northwest Florida.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF DOWNTOWN  
HOWELL, MICHIGAN

**HON. MIKE BISHOP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a small town in my district which was recently named a recipient of the 2018 Great American Main Street Award. Over the last twelve years, downtown Howell, Michigan has completely transformed from a community threatened by Michigan's economic downturn to one that is thriving and charging ahead into the future. With its historical charm and beautiful architecture, downtown Howell is full of local art galleries and quaint parks.

Chosen by a national jury of community development professionals, the Great American Main Street award recognizes communities whose successes serve as a model for preservation-based commercial revitalization. As a small town that is doing big things, Downtown Howell is setting itself apart as a great place for businesses, families, and everything in between. Great things are happening in the Comeback State, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to what's to come.

GINA RIVAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Gina Rivas for receiving the 2017 Image Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Each year the Arvada Chamber recognizes Arvada's finest men and women for their involvement and dedication to the community. As the principal of Arvada High School, Gina has gone above and beyond to portray a positive, kind and community minded image in Arvada. Every day she works to change the story of Arvada High School and improve the outcomes for her students, which ensures a bright future for our families and our community.

Congratulations to Gina Rivas for this well-deserved award, and I thank her for her contribution to our community.

COMMEMORATING PFC LEO J.  
POWERS AND 2LT ROBERT CRAIG

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two Medal of Honor recipients, PFC Leo J. Powers and 2LT Robert Craig, who will be included on the Ft. Wolters Medal of Honor Memorial in Mineral Wells, Texas on April 28, 2018.

Established in 2013, the Medal of Honor Memorial lies at the heart of the quiet Ft. Wolters Historical park. This memorial features stone columns currently features the names of sixteen Medal of Honor recipients who trained at Ft. Wolters inscribed upon them. These inscriptions share the stories of these heroes and the gallant actions they took to earn this honor. Later this month, two more individuals will be inscribed on this memorial, PFC Leo J. Powers and 2LT Robert Craig.

On February 3, 1944, PFC Leo was serving in the 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, who were heavily engaged with Axis Forces in the Battle of Monte Cassino. PFC Powers' company was assigned to seize the heavily defended Hill 175. The Germans suppressed Powers and his fellow soldiers by firing mortars and heavy machine gun fire. Unable to advance and casualties mounting, Powers crawled towards the enemy strongholds and destroyed them using hand grenades. After destroying the last of these posts, Powers took the surrender of four wounded Germans while unarmed. Almost a year later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt awarded Powers with the Medal of Honor on January 10, 1945.

Born in Scotland in 1919, Robert Craig emigrated with his family to Toledo Ohio. In 1941, Craig enlisted in the Army before WWII and becoming a citizen. By 1943, Craig commissioned as an officer and was a Second Lieutenant with the 15th Infantry Regiment, part of the 3rd Infantry Division. In the early morning of July 10, 1943, 2LT Craig stormed ashore with his unit in the Licata area on the Gulf of Gela during the Invasion of Sicily. Over the next twenty-four hours, an enemy machine gun wounded multiple officers in Craig's unit. He volunteered to find and destroy it. Shortly after, the platoon he led was counter-attacked by an enemy force that was three times larger. He used himself as a diversion to allow his men to reach cover along a hill crest. 2LT Craig's heroic actions and self-sacrifice inspired his men and rallied them to defeat the superior force. 2LT Craig was posthumously awarded our nation's highest honor on May 26, 1944.

We are blessed to live in a country with individuals like the ones honored at Ft. Wolters. Their actions embody our nation's greatest ideals. They proceeded without hesitation to put their country's needs, and more importantly, the lives of the men around them, before their own. Their stories of honor and sacrifice represent an important part of our nation's history.

It is with great pleasure and honor that I am able to share PFC Leo J. Powers and 2LT Robert Craig story with all of my colleagues in the House.

HONORING NORMA FULINARA  
PLACIDO

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Norma Fulinara Placido as she retires from 20 years of service as the President of the Filipino Community of Solano County.

Ms. Placido was born in San Felipe, Zambales, Philippines. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Philippine Christian University and taught at an elementary school in her hometown until she immigrated to the United States in 1971. There she joined her husband, Leonardo Placido, who was serving in the U.S. Navy. While her husband was stationed in San Francisco, California, Ms. Placido returned to school at Peralta College where she studied data processing. They later moved to Solano County where they raised their three daughters, Norielyn, Arlene, and Lena.

During her 20 year tenure as President of the Filipino Community of Solano County, Ms. Placido helped raise over \$170,000 to provide scholarships for Filipino-American students pursuing higher education. She also spearheaded major renovations of the Filipino Community Center. She oversaw and fundraised for the remodel of the original center and eventually the purchase of a newer and bigger building that was better equipped to meet the needs of the Filipino community. Finally, under her leadership, the Filipino Community of Solano County contributed eyeglasses, books, and much needed funds to the survivors of devastating natural disasters in the Philippines. Ms. Placido has led the organization with continued strength, humility, and fortitude. She has been a great asset to the lives of all Filipino-Americans in our community.

Ms. Placido also mentors other Filipino-Americans in our community, with an aim to nurture their talents. Additionally, she promotes political empowerment and has helped Filipinos seeking public office, assisting mayoral and city council candidates in Vallejo as their campaign manager.

Mr. Speaker, Norma Fulinara Placido deserves to be recognized today for her leadership and commitment to the Filipino Community of Solano County. I am proud to have such a motivated and charitable person living and working in our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

THE B IN BUSH, RAISING THE  
BAR—IN HONOR OF FIRST LADY  
BARBARA BUSH

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2018*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of truly great First Ladies in our Nation's history, Barbara Bush. As great as a First Lady she was, it pales in comparison to the kind of Mother, Wife, matriarch, and Grandmother she is. A great role model for all