

as his stint as field representative for then California Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa in Sacramento in the 1990s, and his long-time work in organized labor. He joined SEIU 99 in Los Angeles in 2000 and remained with the organization until his selection as vice president of NUHW, which represents many Filipino and Filipina hospital workers.

Born in the Philippines on Sept. 11, 1949, Dr. Jay was very active in politics in his native country. A dedicated fighter for liberty and democratic rights, Dr. Jay was detained under martial law for being a staff member of the late Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. in 1972. He also actively campaigned for Eddie Villanueva during the Philippines presidential elections in 2009 and was president of Bagong Pilipino.

He brought his passion for serving his community back to the United States, where he was a leader, advisor or member of many Filipino American organizations including Justice for Filipino American Veterans, through which he lobbied for full compensation of Filipino World War II veterans in Washington and Sacramento.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jacinto "Jay" Valencia for his record of civic leadership, indomitable spirit and remarkable service and contributions to his community and to our nation.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
BENNIE F. BOWERS, JR.

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Bennie F. Bowers, Jr., a native of Benton Harbor, Michigan, who is retiring from the Michigan State Police after 25 years of impeccable service.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Lieutenant Bowers on his impressive and inspiring service record to the state of Michigan. His 25 years of steadfast community involvement have helped keep Michigan safe, and have made all of us from Southwest Michigan extremely proud. Lieutenant Bowers' renowned career includes protecting Michigan's citizens while posted at Michigan State Police's Battle Creek Post, Paw Paw District Headquarters and Regional Dispatch, Detroit Post, and most recently, the Metro Post. His selfless actions have made a real difference to folks within and outside of my district for decades. Lt. Bowers used innovative methods to enforce law. He was never satisfied with the status quo, and always worked to improve the communities in which he worked. He was respected by his peers and known as one to "lead by example."

Lt. Bowers' leadership is exemplified in his founding of the Michigan Youth Leadership Academy. Lt. Bowers recognized the importance of fostering discipline, respect, leadership, and teamwork in our youth. His efforts assisted in the reduction of youth crime and ingrained skills which those youth will carry with them for their whole lives. Lt. Bowers was also instrumental in the Michigan State Police Explorer Program, a program that works with youth interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Part of Lt. Bowers' legacy will be the youth he influenced to serve as Michigan's next generation of law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Lt. Bowers' inspiring commitment to our great state and my constituents. I applaud Bennie on a fine career and wish him the best of luck in his retirement and future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. BRIDGETT
CARPENTER FOR HER NOTABLE
SERVICES IN THE MISSISSIPPI
HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Bridgett Carpenter.

Mrs. Carpenter is a Registered Nurse and Clinical Nurse Specialist at Saint Dominic Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi and a Master of Science degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi's Medical Center.

Mrs. Carpenter is a member of the Association of Pediatric Surgical Nurses, National Association of Neonatal Nurses, and Society of Pediatric Nurses. She is a certified Pediatric Advanced Life Support regional faculty member as well as a certified Advanced Burn Life Support Provider. Mrs. Carpenter has worked at Saint Dominic Hospital for the past 23 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Bridgett Carpenter for her notable services as a Registered Nurse in the Mississippi health care community.

BEN CORDOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ben Cordova for his service to our community and the veterans of Colorado.

Mr. Cordova is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran, Commerce City business leader, and a tireless advocate for veterans' rights. He created the Ben Cordova Foundation dedicated to help service members. The foundation helps families navigate the state and federal veterans' services bureaucracy including education, VA health care and employment.

Mr. Cordova recently completed a 344-mile walk across Colorado in 44 days to bring awareness and support for his foundation. Despite his diabetes and neuropathy ailments he is set to begin a 2,745 mile journey across the country next February to raise money for veterans' services organizations. It is his goal to ensure every veteran, young or old, is aware of the help available to them nationwide.

I congratulate Mr. Cordova on his efforts to bring awareness to veterans' issues and extend my deepest thanks to him for his courage and service to our country.

HONORING BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROBERT T. JOHNSON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month 2012, I rise today to recognize an individual from the Bronx whom I admire greatly, the Honorable Robert T. Johnson.

Robert T. Johnson has been the District Attorney of Bronx County since January 1, 1989. His first election was a historic one, as he became the first African-American District Attorney in the history of New York State. He is now the longest serving District Attorney in Bronx history.

Mr. Johnson, a native New Yorker, was born in the Bronx. He is a product of some of the many great schools in our city, including James Monroe High School, the City College of New York, and New York University School of Law. He has dedicated much of his professional life to helping, protecting, and defending the residents of New York City, and has spent several years as both a criminal defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society, and eight years as a Bronx Assistant District Attorney. In August of 1986, he was appointed a Judge of the New York City Criminal Court, and was later promoted to Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, where he served until 1988.

Although Mr. Johnson has emphasized the prosecution of serious crimes, he has shown a great understanding of the many other factors that impact the criminal justice system. He has worked to reduce recidivism, to improve community outreach, to support drug rehabilitation as well as alternatives to incarceration, and to better deploy crime prevention strategies. He deeply understands that being a District Attorney is about more than just conviction rates—it is about solving the underlying problems that cause crime in the first place. Towards that end, Mr. Johnson has also worked to educate young people in the Bronx in order to help prevent crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Two recent examples of these efforts are the Youth Trial Advocacy Program (Y-TAP) and the Students Together Avoiding Risk (STAR) Program. Y-TAP provides high school students with an opportunity to develop debating and advocacy skills by competing in a moot court program under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys. Through the STAR program, staff from the District Attorney's Office provide 5th and 6th graders, along with their parents, with guidance on the repercussions and impact of gang participation, gun violence and drugs.

Mr. Speaker, after so many years of working to protect the residents of the Bronx, Mr. Johnson has earned the gratitude of more people than he could possibly know. Mr. Johnson is not only a highly respected prosecutor who enforces the law justly and fairly, he is also revered by a wide variety of communities throughout the Bronx. This is a testament to his judicious manner and evenhandedness, qualities that are paramount for a district attorney. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to someone who