

Luke Story, Nacole Sweeney, Hilary Trudell, Kevin Weldon, Lawren Wilcox, Temeka Williams, Emily Wood, and Amiee York.

These individuals have worked diligently over the past nine months to enhance the economic outlook of our great state.

They join the dynamic group of Leadership Arkansas' alumni, more than 600 strong, who have gone on to accept roles of great responsibility in the private and public sectors. I congratulate them on their achievement and am excited to see how they shape the future of the state of Arkansas and our great country.

**GI BILL ACCESS TO CAREER CREDENTIALS ACT**

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 22, 2019*

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the GI Bill Access to Career Credentials Act, which would allow Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) educational assistance to cover the cost of approved preparatory courses for professional license and certification exams. By covering these courses under the GI Bill, veterans and their eligible family members will have better access to the support they need to enter in-demand careers in health care, teaching, technology and other fields that may require government licenses and certifications. To ensure quality and accountability, courses eligible for reimbursement must be approved beforehand by their State Approving Agency based on current requirements in law.

For the past 75 years, the VA estimates the GI Bill has helped more than 25 million veterans and their families nationwide including the Marianas achieve their educational and career goals. During this time, Congress expanded the GI Bill to cover non-tuition expenses such as college admissions test fees, admissions test preparatory courses and exam fees for licenses and certifications. While the more than 5,700 GI Bill students across the country over the last year and half used their license and certification exam fees reimbursement benefit according to the VA, courses designed to help them pass these tests, such as a \$400 nurse licensing exam course offered by Northern Marianas College, are not reimbursable. Not all students pass these exams on their first attempt which is why the GI Bill must be updated so VA educational assistance covers both preparatory courses and reimbursement of test fees for licenses and certifications.

Around 20 to 30 percent of graduating seniors each year enter the military according to the Marianas Public School System. When these future veterans transition to civilian life, the GI Bill benefits they earned should help prepare them to succeed in an economy increasingly reliant on technical skills which often requires paying for various tests, professional licenses, and other credentials. The gentleman from Indiana, Mr. BANKS, is an original cosponsor of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which will help veterans and their eligible family members access the necessary credentials

to make their educational and career dreams a reality.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 22, 2019*

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on May 17, 2019 I was unable to vote due to my daughter's graduation. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 215; YEA on Roll Call No. 216; and NAY on Roll Call No. 217.

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF TERRY NORWOOD**

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 22, 2019*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Terry Norwood of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF).

Mr. Norwood, a native of Union County, Mississippi, was born on December 27, 1951. He was raised on a dairy and cotton farm in Rockyford, Mississippi now known as Etta, Mississippi. It was here that Mr. Norwood's love for agriculture sparked. In 1969, Mr. Norwood graduated from West Union High School and attended Northeast Mississippi Junior College. After his two years at Northeast, Mr. Norwood earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education and Agriculture Engineering from Mississippi State University. Mr. Norwood subsequently earned a Masters Degree in Agriculture and Extension Education.

On June 1, 1993, Mr. Norwood joined the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation as a Fieldman and Regional Manager. He remained faithful in his commitment to MFBF for 26 years. Under his leadership, there has been 5 Achievement Award winners, 5 Discussion Meet winners, 2 Excellent in Ag winners, and 3 Farm Women of the Year winners. Leadership is often measured by what that individual achieves but a true leader is measured by what his subordinates achieve. The amount of awards people received under his leadership speaks volumes of the man and leader Mr. Norwood is.

In March of 1977, Mr. Norwood married his better half, Debbie McNabb Norwood and have spent 43 years happily married. Together they have three kids, Franklin, Dr. Allison, and Jacob. Mr. and Mrs. Norwood own and operate Rockyford Farms and Rockford Sorghum Mill, where they have produced sweet sorghum syrup called "Moonlite Gold" for 39 years with no intentions of stopping anytime soon.

Mr. Norwood has selflessly served his community and state for years, and I wish him and his family many years of health and happiness.

REMEMBERING FATHER ANGELO CASERTA

**HON. WARREN DAVIDSON**

OF OHIO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 22, 2019*

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great man. Born in Piqua, Ohio, Father Angelo Caserta, was the oldest active priest in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He peacefully passed away last week.

Those who knew Father Caserta recall his talent for people, his comforting words, and his love for our community.

When asked about the secret to his longevity, Father Caserta said, "My secret is the good Lord. The Lord gets all the credit. I'm the only classmate surviving in my class. Not many average that milestone. It's a celebration of God's goodness. How He could choose someone like me and take care of me for 70 years while doing His work in the priesthood."

While I did not know Father Caserta personally, I know of his deeds by those who did, and the love he had for our community.

Madam Speaker, I honor Father Caserta's life of service, and extend my condolences to those who knew him.

**IN RECOGNITION OF TWO RIVER THEATER AND JOAN AND ROBERT RECHNITZ**

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 22, 2019*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Two River Theater on its 25th Anniversary and join its leadership, staff and Board of Trustees in honoring its founders, Joan and Robert Rechnitz.

Founded in 1994 by Joan and Robert (Bob) Rechnitz, Two River Theater continues to bring art, culture and vitality to the greater Red Bank community. Two River Theater is a premier regional theater, providing an outstanding educational and recreational resource for the greater Monmouth County area. Its efforts to introduce theater to a broader audience and represent the diversity of the communities it serves are commendable. Two River Theater remains dedicated to fostering new work and imaginative interpretations of classics, supporting the creative expressions of many leading artists. Its commitment to promoting the arts has contributed to the thriving cultural landscape of the community.

Joan and Bob's commitment to the arts and humanities extends beyond Two River Theater. The Joan and Robert Rechnitz Hall at Monmouth University promotes arts exhibitions and education and Bob continues to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Orchestra, among many other philanthropic endeavors. In addition to promoting arts appreciation and advancement, Joan and Bob are stalwart advocates of land preservation and conservation efforts as well as health care facilities and innovations, supporting the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, Monmouth Medical Center, Riverview Medical Center and many others. Their impact on the community is immeasurable.

Once again, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing the contributions and achievements of Joan and Robert Rehnitz and congratulating Two River Theater on its 25th Anniversary. The theater enriches the quality of life of Monmouth County and brings new visitors and artistic diversity to the community.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL  
KOSKOFF, ESQUIRE

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2019*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and deeds of Michael Koskoff, Esquire, a champion for civil and criminal justice who passed away on April 24, 2019. Michael resided in the state of Connecticut, where his law practice achieved the highest level of success for his clients in courtrooms all across America, because of his intelligence, creativity, and high ethical and moral standards.

Michael was a unique attorney. His family has been part of the trial bar over multiple generations, but also he was the scion of a family of stage performers. Some were actors, singers and musicians. His father, Theodore, was both his law partner and an accomplished cellist. "We're show people," Michael once explained. He won record settlements in Connecticut negligence and malpractice cases by coupling skills he had acquired in training to be a Shakespearean actor with a lifelong antagonism toward corporate greed. He also pioneered the use of vivid courtroom videos delivered in a documentary format.

For example, in 1979, Mr. Koskoff persuaded a jury in Danbury, CT, to award his client \$1.8 million in a wrongful-death case—Connecticut's first verdict of more than \$1 million in such a suit. In 1999, jurors awarded \$27 million for what he had demonstrated was a bungled heart operation at Yale-New Haven Hospital, which left a 29-year-old man permanently blind and brain-damaged. At the time, it was the biggest personal injury verdict in the state's history. In a medical malpractice case that became the subject of a book, *Damages: One Family's Legal Struggles in the World of Medicine* by Barry Werth, a couple represented by Mr. Koskoff settled for \$6.25 million in the early 1990s nine years after their baby, who had severe cerebral palsy and developmental disabilities, was born at Norwalk Hospital in Connecticut. (The child's twin brother had been stillborn there). In his book, Mr. Werth described Mr. Koskoff's courtroom techniques as "raw theater." "Koskoff liked to depend on his own 'visceral and instinctive reality' of what was happening in a courtroom—was a witness nervous? arrogant? appealing? unappealing?—to decide how best to keep the drama fresh," Mr. Werth wrote. "He also liked to keep the other side's experts off balance by not letting them know what to expect of him. If he met them, he might like them, and that would dull his attack."

Madam Speaker, in addition to his successful practice, Michael had a rich family life. He married Rosalind Jacobs in 1963 and had four children—two daughters, Sarah Koskoff, an actress and screen writer, Juliet Koskoff a law-

yer in New York, and two sons Jacob Koskoff a screenwriter who collaborated with his father on the feature film "Marshall," a rendering of a criminal trial Justice Thurgood Marshall handled as an attorney in 1941. His other son, Joshua, is a partner in Michael's firm who just last month prevailed in a groundbreaking case against the gun manufacturer Remington Arms—a case that was brought by the families of the victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting.

Madam Speaker, Michael Koskoff brought to life the promise of American ideals of fairness and justice for "the little guy." With all of his success though, he never "put on airs" with people he met. He was generous with his time and support for his colleagues in the legal profession, the arts, and political causes devoted to a better community and nation. His presence will be sorely missed by those who had the privilege to know him, including myself. However, it is safe to say his memory will never be forgotten.

I would ask the House to please join me in extending deepest condolences to Michael's wife Rosalind and his family for their loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE GORDON HELSEL'S RETIREMENT FROM THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2019*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Honorable Gordon Helsel's retirement from the Virginia House of Delegates. His extensive history as a military serviceman and a public servant exemplify his selflessness and dedication to our great nation.

In 1967, Gordon Helsel was drafted into the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam as an infantry soldier. Ten months into his tour of duty, Gordon was ambushed by North Vietnamese soldiers and sustained multiple injuries while returning fire on the enemy position. Gordon's injuries would require him to spend five months in recovery and rightfully earned him two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star. Gordon has been a steadfast advocate for veterans and a tireless supporter of our active duty military members and families. The Vietnam veterans' community has benefitted tremendously from Gordon's efforts and advocacy and has an unshakable bond with him and his family.

Since his military service, Gordon has pursued his dream of owning a business, purchasing the York Box and Barrel Manufacturing Company, Inc., which supplies containers for the region's seafood industry. He has helped many a seafood dealer and waterman throughout Tidewater Virginia. Anyone in the seafood processing or harvesting business has come across Gordon and his fantastic products. Consumers of seafood also greatly appreciate the preservation of quality that his products have provided to seafood lovers.

His service would continue at the local level where he served as city council member, Vice Mayor, Mayor, and Chief of Poquoson's Volunteer Fire Company. Gordon would eventually be elected to the House of Delegates in

2011, representing the 91st House District of Virginia. His efforts in serving his community on many levels has placed him as the quintessential servant leader in the eyes of folks through Virginia. His love of his country, Commonwealth and community shines through in everything that he says and does. His community loves Gordon and he loves them back.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognition of Delegate Helsel's retirement from the Virginia General Assembly. Words alone cannot express our gratitude for his lifelong service to not only his community but to his country as well. May God bless Gordon Helsel and his family as he enters his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KATIE PORTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2019*

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, May 20, 2019 due to a delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on roll call votes 218 and 219.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2019*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to my daughter's graduation from High School. Had I been present for roll call vote number 218, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1952, the Intercountry Adoption Information Act, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for roll call vote number 219, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and agree on H. Res. 106, Denouncing female genital mutilation/cutting as a violation of the human rights of women and girls and urging the international community and the Federal Government to increase efforts to eliminate the harmful practice, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for roll call vote number 220, On Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 389, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1500) Consumers First Act, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1994) Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, and providing for proceedings during the period from May 24, 2019, through May 31, 2019, and for other purposes, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for roll call vote number 221, On Agreeing to the Resolution on H. Res. 389, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1500) Consumers First Act, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1994) Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, and providing for proceedings during the period from May 24, 2019, through May 31, 2019, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."