

held the school record in the 4X100 meter for six years. CPT Miller graduated from high school in 1988. In 1993, CPT Miller graduated from Virginia Military Institute where he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant upon graduation and was transferred to the Michigan Army National Guard. In January 2005, CPT Miller volunteered with the 1–155th Infantry Regiment, McComb, Mississippi in order to deploy to Iraq. At the time of his deployment, CPT Miller was employed as an electrical engineer for Yazaki North America, Inc.

CPT Miller's father, Lowell Thomas, wrote about his son's death on a memorial website. "It was a night mission that they said was too dangerous for American soldiers and they called on the group of Iraqi soldiers he had been training for six weeks," Mr Miller wrote. "He didn't want them to go alone, so he went with them. He was a soldier's soldier. He always took care of his men and never gave a thought for his own safety."

CPT Miller was remembered by a fellow soldier on a memorial website. "My brother in arms, you were more than just an officer, more than just a soldier, and more than just a leader," Specialist (SPC) Rickland L. Scholz, II wrote. "You were a true friend. I will never forget the missions we had been on together nor the long conversations and sound advice that you have given me. You will never be forgotten and I will always remember the time in Egypt that we were able to have long discussions. Rest in peace now, my fallen brother."

During the funeral service, at the Swartz Funeral Home in Flint, Michigan, Eric Leszczynski, CPT Miller's supervisor at Yazaki North America, Inc., said he was a man who knew how to get his coworkers motivated. "If you gave him something to do, it would get done," Leszczynski said.

In September 2005, family and friends attended the burial service at the Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium Complex in Arlington, Virginia. During the service, an honor guard held an American flag over the urn containing CPT Miller's ashes. A folded flag was presented to his wife, Angela.

CPT Miller is survived by his wife, Angela; his daughters, Danielle and Alexandra; his siblings, Patrick and Jennie; and his parents, Lowell and Linda Miller.

CPT Miller's commitment to protect America earned him the Bronze Star medal, the Purple Heart medal, the National Defense Service medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

HONORING DR. KENNETH K. LEE

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Kenneth K. Lee, a combat-injured Operation Iraqi Freedom and Army veteran, who has been named by Disabled American Veterans (DAV) as its 2017 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year.

Dr. Lee, who deployed as the commander of the Army's Company B, 118th Area Support Medical Battalion, was injured in November 2004 by a suicide car bomber in Iraq. The ex-

plosion resulted in an open head traumatic brain injury and severe shrapnel wounds to his legs, leading to his evacuation back to the states, where he would later be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

While recovering from his injuries, Dr. Lee, a rehabilitation specialist, saw how long and difficult recovery could be, often leaving lasting changes. Dr. Lee, who resides in Brookfield, Wisconsin, is a volunteer physician at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, which the Department of Veterans Affairs and DAV co-host, so he was no stranger to using adaptive sports as therapy. Through his own recovery, Dr. Lee propelled himself into the world of adaptive sports to help him deal with the psychological and physiological effects that can often times cause an individual to hit bottom.

Within a year of Dr. Lee's retirement in 2013, he formed the Milwaukee Wheelchair Lacrosse team and is now the president of the Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association, which runs numerous adaptive sports programs.

On July 29, 2017, DAV National Commander David W. Riley presented Dr. Lee with the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year award at the organization's 96th National Convention.

In his statement, Riley praised Dr. Lee as a shining example of everything that is good about our nation and its veterans. He noted that the compassion Dr. Lee shows for other veterans and his work to help them find success is truly the hallmark of the award, and DAV is very proud of what he's doing for this community. Given the importance and therapeutic effectiveness of adaptive sports, it is vital to have experienced leaders like Dr. Lee involved and carving out a path forward.

Despite his injuries and the constant pain in his lower extremities, Dr. Lee speaks with gratitude about his time in the Army. He will tell you that he got a lot more from the Guard than he put into it, and that he joined the military with his eyes wide open and has no regrets.

Dr. Lee and his wife Kate currently live in Brookfield with their two children. In 2014, his daughter Leah earned a \$10,000 scholarship by volunteering for the DAV at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. On the same day that Dr. Lee was honored as DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, his son Jonathan earned the charity's largest scholarship of \$20,000, and was honored the same morning. They both hope ultimately to serve veterans as physicians through the VA.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE MADE BY MARINE CORPORAL DAVID SONKA

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and sacrifice made by Marine Corporal David Sonka.

Corporal David Sonka was a devoted son, husband, and Marine. He grew up in Parker, Colorado and knew at a young age he wanted to serve his country. Corporal Sonka enlisted in the United States Marine Corps immediately following his high school graduation in 2008.

He completed Military Police school, K9 School, and in 2012 was selected to become a dog handler for the Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where he was paired with his faithful canine companion, Flex.

On March 31, 2013, Corporal Sonka and Flex were deployed with Marine Special Operations Team 8223 to Farah Province, Afghanistan. While on watch during a meeting between Afghan military personnel and Marine Special Operations Forces on May 4, 2013, an Afghan soldier opened fire and fatally injured both Corporal Sonka and Flex. Corporal Sonka has since been recognized for his bravery and sacrifice. He received a Combat Action Ribbon, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Purple Heart. Additionally, the town of Parker, Colorado named their dog park after Corporal Sonka as did the MARSOC K9 Training Facility in Camp Lejeune.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than the one we owe our veterans. It is the heroic bravery and incredible sacrifices made by individuals like Corporal Sonka that have helped secure the freedoms that we as Americans hold dear. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my deepest gratitude to Corporal Sonka for his service and sacrifice for our nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Marine Corporal David Sonka for his sacrifice in defending the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN SOLDIER ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) BRIAN KEITH DERKS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Specialist (SPC) Brian Keith Derks who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on August 13, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC Derks was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was on mounted patrol in Baghdad. SPC Derks was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California, which was attached to the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team from Mississippi.

SPC Derks, a White Cloud, Michigan native, graduated from White Cloud High School in 2003. According to the Associated Press, SPC Derks was the captain of the Quiz Bowl Team and was credited for bringing the team to a national competition. Tony McHattie, one of SPC Derks' high school teachers, said he had an astute mind. "Consistently, Brian would buzz in before a question was even half done," McHattie said. "He just had vast knowledge in all sorts of areas."

According to the memorial website FindAGrave.com, SPC Derks played football and baseball in high school. SPC Derks was an active member of the White Cloud Boy Scouts Troop #1137. He became an Eagle Scout and briefly served as an assistant scoutmaster. SPC Derks enjoyed hunting, fishing, computers, and spending time with his family. SPC Derks' sense of humor always kept people laughing.

SPC Derks was determined to join the Army, so in order to meet the weight requirements, he worked to lose 100 pounds. Captain (CPT) Jarrod P. Wickline, an Army recruiter, said SPC Derks accomplished his goal. "He took that as a personal challenge," CPT Wickline said. "He lost the weight in three months. There is no doubt to me that by sheer willpower alone, he would be anything he wanted to be."

The memorial service was held at First Christian Reformed Church in Fremont, Michigan. SPC Derks was laid to rest at White Cloud Cemetery.

SPC Derks was awarded the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct medal, the National Defense Service medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, the Global War on Terrorism medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

SPC Derks is survived by his parents, Keith and Peggy Derks; sister, Sally Derks; maternal grandparents, Emery and Ester Wilson; paternal grandparents, Vernon and Evelyn Derks; and fiancée, Nikki Crans.

SPC Derks' sacrifice to protect the freedoms we all enjoy will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, 2017, I was not present for the recorded votes on roll call no 442, 443, and 444. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On Roll Call vote no. 442, H. Res. 500, on ordering the previous question, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Dept. of the Interior; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call vote no. 443, on agreeing to the resolution, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Dept. of the Interior; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call vote no. 444, on approving the Journal, I would have voted YEA.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAIL SAFETY MONTH AND RAIL SAFETY WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Rail Safety Month and September 24–30, 2017 as Rail Safety week, and to commend the efforts being made across our country to improve railroad crossing safety.

An accident involving a train occurs every 3 hours in the United States and California

ranks No. 1 in the nation in both trespassing and grade crossing deaths. Last year in California there were a total of 148 highway grade-crossing incidents, including 98 trespasser fatalities and 32 highway-rail crossing fatalities, all of which could have been avoided if both trespassers and drivers were taking the necessary safety precautions. There are more than 10,000 highway rail-grade crossings located within 52 counties and more than 400 cities in California to service the BNSF Railway, Union Pacific Railroad, other freight trains, and Amtrak passenger trains running through California.

September is historically back to school month for most children and college students. Many must cross railroad tracks to attend school and it is important to reinforce rail safety with both children and their caretakers. California Operation Lifesaver, the Federal Rail Administration, the California Department of Transportation, the California Public Utilities Commission and freight and passenger railroads are working together to improve railroad safety and educate children and adults about the dangers of not obeying the signs and signals around railroad property. The "See Tracks? Think Train" campaign by Operation Lifesaver and its federal partners aims to help reduce pedestrian and driver injuries and fatalities around railroad tracks by highlighting behaviors that put people at risk, and by conducting on-the-ground law enforcement trainings, safety presentations, and public awareness activities. Railroad operators, motor vehicle operators, and pedestrians will benefit from a combined effort by local, state, Federal, industry, and citizen efforts to promote safety around railroad tracks and crossings.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize September as Rail Safety Month and September 24–30, 2017 as Rail Safety week. I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending efforts being made to improve railroad crossing safety.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY MASTER SERGEANT (MSG) COATER BERNARD DEBOSE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army Master Sergeant (MSG) Coater Bernard DeBose. MSG DeBose gave his life while in service to our great nation on August 19, 2008, during Operation Enduring Freedom. MSG DeBose died in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, of wounds he received from small arms fire while conducting security force assistance operations. MSG DeBose was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 351st Infantry Regiment, 158th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East, Camp Shelby, Mississippi. MSG DeBose was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart medals.

According to the Associated Press, MSG DeBose, a State Line, Mississippi native, joined the Alabama National Guard in May 1983. He transferred to the Army Reserves in 2008. He was deployed in April 2004 to Af-

ghanistan, where he served as a communications specialist. It was his job to train Afghan police in the Kandahar region.

There have been many memorials posted in MSG DeBose's honor on Legacy.com, including one that appeared on September 1, 2012 from Master Sergeant (MSG) Maranda McCorvey. "As I sign this guest book, no words can explain the loss of a true soldier," MSG McCorvey said. "He was a leader, mentor, motivator, and trainer to many lives in and out of the uniform."

Rebecca Lewis of Moss Point wrote, "May God continue to watch over you and your family at this time," Mrs. Lewis said. "Deacon DeBose will certainly be missed by all of us including his Greater First Baptist Church in Escatawpa, Mississippi, under the leadership of Richard Young. Deacon DeBose was a great man and touched many hearts."

Christopher DeBose, MSG DeBose's son, wrote about the pain of losing his father in an August 30, 2012. "I pray that there is a military up in heaven," Christopher said. "I know Master Sergeant DeBose would be in charge of something. No matter what it is, I'm sure God will trust you with any task because he knows you will get it done."

Caronica DeBose-Jackson, MSG DeBose's daughter, paid tribute to her father in a September 6, 2012 post. "I hear your voice telling me to keep moving and live life to the fullest," Caronica said. "I will go on because that's what you would want. I will honor your life and legacy forever."

MSG DeBose is survived by his wife, Juanita, his three sons, Latravis DeBose, Christopher DeBose, and Broderick DeBose; and two daughters, Caronica DeBose-Jackson, and Nekeshia Raybon.

MSG DeBose demonstrated the qualities of an American hero. His 27 years of military service will always be remembered.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE JOHN L. APOSTOLOU

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I along with my colleague, Representative MORGAN GRIFFIN rise to honor the life of Judge John L. Apostolou, a native of Salem, Virginia Born on August, 16, 1930, Judge Apostolou passed away on Monday, August 21, 2017, at the age of 87.

Judge Apostolou was a widely respected member of the local legal community and well-known in the Roanoke Valley as a "law-and-order judge." He was loved by the bar because he was a lawyer's judge, one who would help a young lawyer learn the craft of practicing in the courtroom, and was always fair to everyone who came before him, whether they were represented by a lawyer or not.

Following his graduation from the College of William and Mary and the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, he worked in a private law practice and later worked as an assistant commonwealth's attorney in Roanoke. He also served as acting judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court on two occasions during the 1960s. In 1985, he began full-time service as a General District Court judge in