

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

the 23rd Judicial District, which includes Roanoke, Roanoke County, and Salem. He served on the bench for more than a decade before retiring in 1996.

Like many that he met over the years, we will remember Judge Apostolou as a fine man and a very fair judge. We thank him for his service to our country in the United States Army and to the Roanoke community in the courtroom. We offer our condolences to his wife of 43 years, Brenda, as well as their children, Cynthia, Laura, and Jay, and four grandchildren. Our prayers are with the Apostolou family as they mourn this loss. May God give them comfort and peace.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR CARL T. CARROLL

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 civilian contractor Carl T. Carroll who gave his life while in service to our great nation on August 20, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Carroll died from injuries he suffered during a roadside attack in Iraq. Mr. Carroll was in Iraq for six months working for the Titan Corporation, where he was the Kalsu Site Manager with the linguist operation. Through his obituary, Mr. Carroll, a U.S. Army Veteran, was remembered by his colleagues at Titan as a man of conviction, character, and integrity.

Mr. Carroll retired in 2000 from Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania as a helicopter pilot instructor, earning the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4. He worked as a helicopter pilot for Geisinger Medical Center, Danville until he joined the Titan Corporation.

Mr. Carroll was a member of the Williamstown United Methodist Church, life member of the American Legion, and a life member of the National Rifle Association (NRA). He also served as a volunteer with the Williamstown Ambulance Association in Williamstown, Pennsylvania.

The Dimon Funeral Home's online condolences page included a comment from a former coworker. "I was impressed with Carl as a true gentleman the very first time we met," Robert Humphries wrote. "Even for those of us who knew Carl for only a short time, his passing leaves us all at a loss." Mr. Carroll was also remembered in a post written by a fellow veteran. "I knew Carl for a short time as we served together at the Eastern Army National Guard Training site," retired Master Sergeant (MSG) Robert Humphries wrote. "I knew him to be a man of strong moral conviction and dedication to not only duty, but to his fellow man."

Mr. Carroll was buried with full military honors at Williamstown Methodist Cemetery in Williamstown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Carroll is survived by his wife, Karen L. Hay Carroll; his daughter, Brandy M. Carroll-Duncannon; his two sons, Jason Carroll, and Justin R. Welker; and his brothers, David Carroll and Brian Carroll.

Mr. Carroll's service to our country will always be remembered.

IN HONOR OF TOM WAGNER, SUPERVISOR OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Wagner as he retires after 15 years supervising the White Mountain National Forest and nearly four decades with the United States Forest Service. We are grateful for his dedication to protecting one of New Hampshire's most prized assets: the White Mountains. Through his excellent stewardship of over three-quarters of a million acres that comprise the forest, he has ensured that all will continue to be able to enjoy this national treasure. In so doing, he also improved the lives of thousands in the Granite State who rely on the White Mountains for both their livelihoods and recreation.

I want to applaud Tom for his leadership and advocacy. During his tenure, Tom oversaw the acquisition of 15,000 acres to the White Mountain National Forest and brought numerous stakeholders together to update the long-term strategic plan for the forest. He has been an invaluable resource, and his continuous commitment to New Hampshire's iconic and precious environment is truly inspiring.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Tom for his many years of dedicated service to the Granite State. His achievements will continue to benefit our state and its incredible natural landscape. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Tom on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) JOSHUA ISAAC BUNCH

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 Specialist (SPC) Joshua Isaac Bunch who gave his life while in service to our great nation on August 6, 2004, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC Bunch was killed when Iraqi insurgents firing small arms and rocket-propelled grenades ambushed the Humvee he was riding in near Baghdad. SPC Bunch was assigned to the 91st Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

SPC Bunch, the son of Bill and Karen Bunch, grew up in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He graduated from North Forrest High School in 1999. He decided to join the U.S. Army in 2001. He was deployed to Iraq in 2004. Mrs. Bunch said her son wanted to serve in the Army because he wanted to do his part. "I'm very proud," Mrs. Bunch said. "I'm proud he did what was in his heart to do." Mr. Bunch said his son was a genuine person who was known for his kindness. "He had a good personality," Mr. Bunch said. "He would do anything for you."

At the time of SPC Bunch's death, Johnny Dupree was the mayor of Hattiesburg. Accord-

ing to the Associated Press, when he learned of the soldier's death, he ordered flags lowered to half staff at city buildings. Mayor Dupree also called for a day of mourning.

James Moore, a Hattiesburg businessman, asked the community to pay their respects by lining the streets from Moore Funeral Home to Highland Cemetery, the final resting place for SPC Bunch.

SPC Bunch's family was presented with his awards which include the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Members of the American Legion Post No. 24 presented the family with a Gold Star Banner which signifies the death of a family member who is killed in action.

SPC Bunch is survived by his parents, Bill and Karen Bunch; his sister, Michelle Cardin; his brother-in-law, Bobby; his nieces, Bella and Jacey Bain; and his nephew, Joey Lee.

SPC Bunch paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

LOCAL POLICE HEROES

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the heroism of six local law enforcement officers, who selflessly risked life and limb to protect their fellow citizens.

On Monday, June 22, 2015, a number of Pittsburgh police officers were dispatched on a call for shots fired shortly after 10 a.m. near the intersection of Knox Avenue and Orchard Place in the City of Pittsburgh's Knoxville neighborhood.

As the units were responding, calls came in reporting that this was an "active shooter" incident and the suspect was firing an AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle. The suspect moved around the neighborhood, shooting a male taxi driver on Rentz Way, firing shots at vehicles and into occupied homes near a children's day care facility, and carjacking a white Buick from Rochelle Street. As the reports continued to come in, all available units responded to the area in search of the suspect, with reports that the suspect had driven towards Brownsville Road.

Sergeant Kevin Faulds of the Allegheny County Sheriffs Office responded to the call for all available units. Turning onto Brownsville Road from Knox Avenue, he spotted the Buick on Brownsville Road and did a u-turn to pursue. As he made the u-turn, the suspect stopped his vehicle and fired his assault rifle from within the car, striking Sergeant Faulds' vehicle multiple times. Sergeant Faulds took cover and radioed in his situation. When the suspect began driving again, Sergeant Faulds again followed him. The suspect again stopped his vehicle and started shooting. One round went through the top of the windshield on the passenger side of the cruiser. The car's visor and windshield frame deflected the bullet down and towards Sergeant Faulds, ripping through the headrest of his seat inches from his head and shattering the back window. Sergeant Faulds maneuvered his patrol car behind a bus for protection. When the suspect stopped shooting and drove away, Sergeant Faulds pulled out and followed the suspect at a distance of 50 to 100 feet, all the while continuing to call in information on the suspect's location and his own.