

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."

HONORING THE LIFE OF JON
DOUGLAS STEWART

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Jon Douglas Stewart.

Doug was born and raised in Chicopee, Georgia, and graduated from Gainesville High School before earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory University. He later graduated from Emory School of Law and was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1962. Doug practiced in both state and federal courts throughout Georgia, and in 1968, he began working at the Gainesville-based law firm, Stewart, Melvin & Frost, where he was a loyal partner for 50 years. As partner and senior litigator, Doug handled litigation ranging from commercial contract disputes to domestic relations cases and everything in between.

Doug was known as a steadfast leader and mentor in our community, serving in many capacities and dedicating his career to teaching and investing in the next generation of lawyers. From 1981 to 1982, Doug served as President of the State Bar of Georgia. He then spent the next decade sitting on the Georgia Bar Foundation's Board of Trustees, serving as both President and Vice President between 1983 and 1993. Towards the end of his tenure as President, Doug was honored with one of the State Bar's highest accolades—the Distinguished service Award—in recognition of his service, professionalism, and integrity. Just last year, Doug was honored with the Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Award—the State Bar's highest honor.

As an active member of Gainesville First United Methodist Church, Doug took great joy in mentoring young leaders through teaching Sunday school classes and serving as Chairman of the Administrative Board. He lived out his passion for music by singing in the church choir and participating in local theatre and musical productions.

Jon Douglas Stewart leaves behind an honorable legacy of integrity, leadership, and service. He will be greatly missed by many, but he will always be remembered for his incredible impact on countless lives across Hall County and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY
AS GBS/CIDP AWARENESS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of May as GBS/CIDP Awareness Month 2019 and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the CIDP and MMN communities through cosponsoring the Medicare IVIG Access Enhancement Act.

The bill Act would provide much-needed assistance to Medicare patients suffering from two rare diseases, Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP) and Multifocal Motor Neuropathy (MMN). These debilitating conditions are the result of a pa-

tient's own immune system attacking their motor nerves, leading to compromised mobility and reduced quality of life.

Patients are frequently treated with intravenous immune globulin (IVIG), a plasma-derived medicine that can significantly improve health outcomes for these vulnerable patient populations. Given the mobility challenges associated with CIDP and MMN, treatment in the homes is the preferred site of care for many patients.

I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation by becoming a cosponsor. The establishment of a home infusion option for patients with CIDP and MMN will help promote therapy adherence, enhance quality of life and promote positive health outcomes for beneficiaries with CIDP and MMN.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR I
VETERANS FROM COVINGTON, OH

HON. WARREN DAVIDSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the contributions and sacrifices of brave World War I soldiers from Covington, Ohio, and its surrounding areas.

These soldiers fought with the U.S. Army's 148th Infantry Regiment, 37th Buckeye Division. In October of 1918, they fought in the muddy fields of Belgium in the great battle of Ypres.

Topping their trenches, the 37th faced a hailstorm of bullets, bombs and poisonous gas. Undeterred, they pressed the attack, penetrating enemy lines. These brave soldiers gained their objective and forced their foe into a headlong retreat. At least nine servicemen from the Covington area were killed or died in military service during the war, including: Orville Bazill, J. Lowell Boyer, Albert B. Cole, Lloyd W. Cornor, Oscar P. Kindell, Edward S. Knight, Arlie Carl Nicholas, Roscoe Rogers, and Fred Siler.

At least fifteen more were wounded, most of whom served with the U.S. Army's 148th Infantry Regiment. Madam Speaker, we must never forget the sacrifices of those who have gone before us. I rise today to honor these brave Ohioans, and to commemorate the newly erected World War I Monument in Highland Cemetery in Covington.

HONORING REX CAFÉ AND
BAKERY

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rex Café & Bakery in McAllen, Texas, and all of its distinguished employees. Rex Café & Bakery was founded by Rogelio Guerrero over 70 years ago in 1947, and I could not be happier to have such a talented group of individuals create jobs in the Rio Grande Valley.

Rogelio was born in Camargo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, on February 3, 1908, and moved to McAllen in 1918. Rogelio was a World War II

Veteran who served as a construction equipment mechanic in the United States Army. Rogelio was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Three Bronze Stars and the Philippines Liberation Medal with One Bronze Star as well as many other awards for his service. He was also an active member of the American Legion, served as a member on the advisory board of La Piedad Cemetery, and treasurer of Woodmen of the World.

Rogelio left his legacy to his nephew Baldemar Guerrero, Sr., who in turn left it to his son Baldemar Guerrero, Jr. The Guerrero family's determination and hard work has left a lasting impact on South Texas. Most customers have visited frequently for years to enjoy coffee, baked goods, comfort food, among many others delicious meals and treats. This, along with the top of the line customer service provided by its loyal staff, have made Rex Café & Bakery a pillar of our community.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to represent the hard-working individuals of Rex Café & Bakery and its founder, Rogelio Guerrero. Their success is a shining example of what the 15th District of Texas has to offer.

IN HONOR OF GABE LIPMAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Gabe Lipman of Norwich, Connecticut. For 35 years, Gabe has dedicated herself to the education of our state's children as an art teacher in the Norwich Public School District. Thanks to her, generations of students have learned the value of art in our lives and discovered their own creative talents.

Throughout her professional life Gabe has worked to improve the circumstances of others. While that work was rooted in the classroom, it was by no means confined to it. Empowering her fellow teachers through late-night contract negotiations, serving as a contributing member of the Norwich Arts Center, and volunteering in the community have been a central part of her career. After a lifelong commitment to a single course, it is worth reflecting on the value of this undertaking.

Art and education, taken together, are a virtuous combination that elevate our children. Using this combination with her dynamic and engaging teaching style, Gabe has steadily enlarged the cultural opportunities for her students. Every one of us has had a teacher that has had a profound impact on our life's direction. For all the students who were lucky enough to be in her classroom, Gabe was one of those teachers. The ripples Gabe has cast across the community will never be completely comprehended. But I can assure you this, they are extensive and will continue moving outwards for years and decades to come bringing exuberance and brilliance wherever they land.

Colleagues, I ask you to please join me in extending your gratitude to Ms. Lipman for her commitment to our nation's youth. I thank Gabe for her 35 years of service, and wish her best of luck in the next endeavor.