

his well-earned retirement. A proud native of North Tonawanda, Mr. Yera has devoted 51 years to public service, making significant contributions to our Western New York community.

Mr. Yera's distinguished career began in 1973 when he enlisted in the United States Army, marking the start of his lifelong commitment to federal service. After serving on active duty, he joined the United States Army Reserve in 1986.

Following his military service, Mr. Yera began a career in immigration enforcement. In 1999, he started as a Border Patrol Agent with the Department of Justice and the former Immigration and Naturalization Service. His exemplary service led him to roles as an adjudicator and investigator. With the formation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, Mr. Yera became the Special Agent in Charge of the Buffalo Field Office, a position he held until 2012.

Since 2013, Mr. Yera has served as an Immigration Officer in the Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate at the Buffalo Field Office of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. In this role, he has been instrumental in maintaining the integrity of our immigration system and the safety of our nation.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Yera on his retirement and expressing our profound gratitude for over 50 years of unwavering dedication to our community and Nation.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
COACH CURT NEWSOME

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Emory & Henry College head football coach Curt Newsome, who stepped down from his position this summer. Coach Newsome dedicated his life to the sport of football, earning coaching positions at several academic institutions throughout his career.

Coach Newsome was born in Hampton, Virginia on October 29, 1958.

His pursuit and interest in a career in football was great. He decided to move to the opposite end of Virginia to play at the collegiate level at Emory & Henry College, now University. Coach Newsome played as a defensive tackle. Upon graduation, Mr. Newsome began a coaching career at Ervinton High School in Nora, Virginia.

During a 16-year time span, the high schools of Ervinton, Kecoughtan, and Heritage benefitted from Coach Newsome's leadership and drive. He received praise and recognition from fans, players and fellow coaches, resulting in his 1998 selection as the AP and VHSL Virginia State Coach of the Year.

The coaching journey did not end there. His hard work caught the attention of Virginia universities and their football programs. Coach Newsome landed a coaching opportunity at James Madison University in 1999.

In 2004, he helped JMU reach the FCS National Championship game, where they would defeat Montana 31–21. This victory became JMU's first NCAA Division I-AA championship.

From 2006 to 2012, Coach Newsome worked for Virginia Tech football as an offensive line coach under Hall of Fame coach Frank Beamer before returning to JMU.

In 2014, Coach Newsome became head football coach for his alma mater, Emory & Henry. In his first season, Coach Newsome was named Old Dominion Athletic Conference Coach of the Year as he compiled an 8–2 record for the Wasps that season.

Coach Newsome compiled six winning seasons during his Emory & Henry tenure as head coach and oversaw the team's transition from NCAA Division III to NCAA Division II.

His lifelong commitment to Virginia football and the players he coached is well documented, serving various coaching roles at the high school and collegiate levels.

I wish my fraternity brother in Beta Lambda Zeta, Coach Newsome, well in his retirement. I thank him and Southwest Virginia thanks him for his contributions to the game of football in our region.

HONORING ELLEN CORBETT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, to recognize former California State Senate Majority Leader, San Leandro Mayor, and East Bay Regional Parks Director, Ellen Corbett, on the occasion of her passing on Friday, August 9, 2024, at the age of 69.

Born in Oakland in 1954, Ellen was raised in San Leandro. She attended Chabot College, California State University, Hayward, and the University of California, Davis, earning a bachelor's degree in political science before earning her law degree from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law.

Ellen began her career as an attorney, community college professor, and civic activist before seeking public office in 1990 on the San Leandro City Council. Four years later, in 1994, she became San Leandro's first-ever directly elected female mayor.

In 1998, Ellen was elected to the State Assembly, representing California's 19th district in the chamber until her term expired in 2004. In 2006, she began her time at the California State Senate, representing District 10 until 2014. Ellen continued to blaze trails in the Senate as only the second woman ever to serve as the California Senate majority leader for 4 years.

Under her tenure, Majority Leader Corbett authored over 160 bills that were signed into law tackling issues faced by everyday Californians. Those issues included infrastructure for public schools, expanding EV charging, child safety, marriage equality, and the California Homeowner Bill of Rights.

Continuing her career in public service, Ellen was elected to the East Bay Regional Parks District Board of Directors, representing Ward 4 until her passing. In this position, she was a fierce advocate for accessible open space. Serving as President of the Board, the Parks were in her capable hands during the first year of the pandemic.

Throughout her life and career, Ellen was a tireless advocate for the communities she rep-

resented. She was a fierce environmentalist and a serial breaker of glass ceilings. Ellen was a person of consequence with a genuinely meaningful public service career. Our communities will deeply miss her presence. We send our deepest condolences to her son Ryan, as well as her other surviving family, friends, and former staff who were lucky to have her as their boss and mentor.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
ARTHUR O. EVE, JR.

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of Arthur O. Eve, Jr., a remarkable individual, affectionately known to the people of Buffalo, New York, and beyond as "Champ."

As the beloved son of New York State Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve and an educator, Lee Constance Eve, life lessons in civic responsibility, faith, and a strong work ethic were taught early by his family.

A standout football player who earned all-Catholic honors during his time at Canisius High School and shined on the field at the University of Texas at El Paso, Champ turned his athletic talent, natural leadership, and teambuilding skills into an opportunity to inspire and mentor countless young people through coaching at Calvary Baptist Church, Hutch Tech High School, and Buffalo State University.

In his professional positions within a juvenile detention center and Educational Opportunity Center, Champ dedicated himself to empowering those in need. At Buffalo's Municipal Housing Authority, Champ transformed the agency and set a national standard for compliance and inclusion, which led to the BMHA being recognized as a "high performer" by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Champ was a leader and respected voice on issues impacting Buffalo's Black community, serving as President of the Black Student Union during his time at the University at Buffalo, and was the founder and President of the Unity Coalition, widely recognized as one of the strongest organizing units in the State of New York.

As Deputy Commissioner of the Erie County Board of Elections and Vice Chair of the Erie County Democratic Committee, Champ supported democracy through his work, impressing upon others the power of a vote to express one's values and shape our future. A man of great faith and devotion, Champ was an active member of Elim Christian Fellowship under the leadership of Bishop T. Anthony Bronner.

Transcending his passion for the community was his love and devotion to his family. He leaves behind his father Arthur O. Eve, Sr., beloved wife Kim, nine children of Arthur III, Shiana Denise, LaNeesha, Eric James, Louis, Ashley, Melzetta, Bobby, and David Paul, and eight grandchildren Caiden, Rylee, Cailee, Kendall, Ari, Lucian, Maliha, and Lux, shared through their blended family, siblings Leecia, Eric, Malcolm, and Martin, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

As we remember Arthur O. Eve, Jr. we grieve the loss of a beloved friend, celebrate a life well lived, and find solace in knowing that his legacy of service lives on.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PACIFIC DEFENSE SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVE ACT OF 2024

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Pacific Defense Small Business Incentive Act of 2024, which would allow small businesses in the Pacific Insular Areas to become more active participants in the defense industrial base. Specifically, my legislation would authorize an incentive payment equal to five percent of a Department of Defense contract to prime contractors who subcontract to a small business concern in the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, or American Samoa.

Providing access to defense contracts is critical, especially as the United States continues to execute its Indo-Pacific strategy, promoting a free-and-open region and defending Pacific Island interests. Empowering our small businesses located at the forefront of the Indo-Pacific will not only streamline defense projects and initiatives but will also spur local economic growth in our U.S. Pacific Insular Areas.

My bill, the Pacific Defense Small Business Incentive Act, seeks to bridge the gap between Pacific-based entrepreneurs and prime contractors throughout the United States by incentivizing strategic partnerships. Continued defense buildup in areas like the Marianas further necessitates the need for local business participation. This bipartisan legislation provides an impetus for contracting like the Indian Incentive Program authorized by Congress in 1988, which has been considerably impactful for Native American and Native Hawaiian small business concerns.

The DOD Office of Small Business Programs under the Biden Administration has emphasized that America's small businesses are "essential to U.S. national security" and the "heartbeat of the U.S. economy". I could not agree more but add that Pacific small businesses are indeed America's small businesses.

The gentlelady from American Samoa, Ms. RADEWAGEN, is an original cosponsor of the bill. I urge all my colleagues to consider this crucial legislation and the elevation of Pacific small businesses in defense contracting.

CELEBRATING BOBBY STEPHEN'S ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENT

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bobby Stephen's Annual Saint Patrick's Day event in Manchester, New Hampshire. Since its inception in 1978, this

cherished tradition has brought together the community in a celebration that goes beyond mere festivity. Over the years, Bobby's event has become a cornerstone of charitable giving in our state, raising funds to support educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth throughout New Hampshire.

The origins of this event can be traced back to Bobby's restaurant, the Vault, where a small gathering of friends and patrons first came together to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. What began as a modest celebration has evolved into a significant fundraiser, drawing hundreds of attendees each year. Through the Bobby Stephen's Fund for Education, the proceeds from this event have provided scholarships to New Hampshire citizens, enabling them to further their career goals through postsecondary education. Bobby's unwavering dedication to this cause has made a tangible difference in the lives of countless students and their families.

As we mark the grand finale of this event in its "sunset" year of 2024, it is fitting to reflect on the enduring legacy that Bobby's Saint Patrick's Day celebration has created. Across four decades this event has not only raised over \$500,000 in scholarships, it has also fostered a deep sense of community among its participants. The funds raised have empowered students, supported educational advancement, and reinforced the values of generosity and service that Bobby has championed throughout his life.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to extend my gratitude to Bobby Stephen for his exceptional commitment to our community. We thank Bobby for his tireless efforts and for creating a tradition that has touched so many lives. As this event comes to a close, its legacy will continue to inspire us all to join together in support of our youth and the future of our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SGT. GORDON F. LEE

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago I learned with great sadness about the passing of Sgt. Gordon F. Lee, a retired officer with the Easton Police Department who passed away on Monday, August 19, 2024, at the age of 46. During his time at the Easton Police Department, Sgt. Lee served with the K-9 unit, trained new officers and recruits as instructor and was a member of the department's SWAT Critical Response Unit. Before that, he honorably served with the U.S. Marine Corps. Sgt. Lee retired from active duty with the Easton Police Department in February of 2024.

Sgt. Lee dedicated his life to helping others, putting his own life on the line to protect and serve the community he so much loved. His determination and hard work made him an outstanding leader, an excellent teacher and invaluable friend and mentor to so many in the Maryland police community and beyond.

I would like to express my sincere condolences to the Lee family and the entire Easton Police Department. The Eastern Shore is forever grateful for Sgt. Lee's commitment and dedication.

CELEBRATING MICHAEL A. BURGET'S RETIREMENT

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Michael A. Burget, who is entering a well-deserved retirement after three decades of exemplary service in the New York State healthcare system. With his deep passion for public service, Mr. Burget has made an indelible impact on the lives of countless individuals in Western New York.

Born and raised in Buffalo, Mr. Burget graduated from St. Mary's High School and earned his nursing degree from Erie County Community College. He later earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Administration from the State University of New York at Brockport.

In 1987, Mr. Burget began his military career as he enlisted in the United States Naval Reserves. For six years, he served as a hospital corpsman and a fleet corporal. Mr. Burget then joined the United States Air Force Reserve, serving with distinction for 29 years and rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During his 35 years of military service, Mr. Burget has been a tireless advocate for ensuring active military and veterans have access to essential mental health resources. He established the first-ever mental health unit at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, a mental health awareness training program for service members returning from deployment. At the station, Mr. Burget led annual resilience trainings to over 1,100 reservists. Further, during his deployment in Landstuhl, Germany, Mr. Burget provided vital counseling services to injured soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Burget's outstanding service has earned him numerous military honors. He has been awarded with the Meritorious Service Medal, Air and Space Commendation Medal, Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air and Space Longevity Service Award, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol), and Air and Space Training Ribbon.

In addition to his military service, Mr. Burget has dedicated 31 years to the New York State healthcare system, demonstrating his commitment to providing exceptional patient care. He began his career at Rochester Psychiatric Service in 1993, where he served as a registered nurse and Admissions/Discharge Coordinator. Mr. Burget later took on roles as the Interim Chief of Service, Treatment Team Leader, and acting Chief of Adult Services, ensuring patients received the highest standard of care. He then served as the Clinical Manager for Behavioral Health at Erie County Medical Center, where Mr. Burget was instrumental in overseeing critical mental health services.

In 2016, Mr. Burget joined Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center as the Director of Network Practice Administration. In this role, Mr. Burget managed a vast network of healthcare providers, expanding Roswell Park's cancer care services to rural and low income communities across Western New York and the greater region.