

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 KILI 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.

Mr. Burget is a devoted husband to Michelle Burget, a retired school psychologist, and a loving father to his daughter, Zoe. Outside of his professional life, Mr. Burget enjoys trav-

eling and spending time outdoors with his family.

Today, after 31 years of service in the New York State healthcare system, Mr. Michael Burget is entering a well deserved retirement. He will continue his military service in the Air

Force Reserves. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Burget on this incredible achievement and thanking him for his selfless service to our country and the people of Western New York.