Gatto, Dennis L. Hansen, Rickey Hardy, Robert J. Harrigan, James E. Harris, Jerry Hendershott, Michael J. Higgins, Robert M. Hinton, William N. Hobday, Robert C. Holliday, Robert H. Honzik, Jeffrey C. Isenhart, Hobie T. Jackson, Robert C. Keller, Arthur E. Kent, Harold F. Kern, James W. Keyser, Edward F. Kneip, Terry W. Knowles, Raymond J. Kolasinski, William R. Kot, Leonard Kukulka, Dennis J. Kwait, Paul T. La Falce, Donald F. Lundy, Denise M. Lynch, Wayne T. Macejak, John W. Mason, Douglas M. Massier, John A. McAndrews, Jr., William E. McCabe, Stanley J. McGraw, Terrence McLoughlin, Robert J. Mizgata, James C. Mladic, William J. Mladic, William T. Morrison, Othos E. Morrow, Richard J. Mrozinski, Jr., Steven F. Munz, Michael F. Napadow, Gary W. Nielsen, John J. Orlando, Thomas W. Osowski, George J. Palka, Joseph P. Palm, Brian A. Pate, Gregory L. Patras, William Perrill, Michael L. Pfeffer, Joseph W. Pisterzi, Trainimair C. Platte, Jr., James C. Prorok, Winston C. Rasmussen, Jack C. Rauscher, Sylvester Roach, John J. Rogan, Adrienne L. Rubinkowski, Terrence P. Ruettiger, Gerald L. Sandretto, Bruce A. Scariano, David Scariano, Donald A. Schoenfielder, Robert J. Schutte, William B. Sebrell, Lynetta Smith, Joseph J. Sowinski, Charles W. Speake, Raymond W. Stetz, Ronald W. Stevenson, Dennis D. Story, Douglas A. Strasburg, Donald J. Tira, Joel R. Tira, Robert J. Tracy, Michael B. Troth, James J. Utz, Maximo Valdez, Peter A. Van Merkestyn, Stanley Vaughn, Gregory J. Vickner, Thomas J. Wadman, William H. Webb, Richard K. Wilken, Jerome J. Wojtena, and Thomas M. Woods.

FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY COMPENSATION FUND

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, during the consideration of the Fiscal Year 2027 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, the House was scheduled to vote on an amendment to eliminate the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund. I opposed the proposal, and even though it was ultimately not offered, we must oppose any similar effort to do so in the future.

In 1941, more than 250,000 Filipino soldiers responded to President Roosevelt's call-to-arms in the Philippines and elsewhere and fought bravely for the U.S. and our allies during World War II. They endured the horrors of the Bataan Death March and wartime prison camps. They waged a relentless guerrilla campaign and eventually rejoined American forces that eventually returned to the Philippines. Filipino soldiers ultimately paved the way for the liberation of the Pacific and the end of the Second World War.

After sacrificing for our country, many returned home from the war only to be denied the benefits promised for their service. Because of the Rescission Acts of 1946, most Filipino World War II Veterans did not receive compensation on par with United States veterans for their service.

To help right this wrong, in 2019 Congress passed and the President signed into law legislation that created the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund. It set up one-time payments to eligible Filipino veterans who aided American troops during World War II. Filipino veterans who were United States citizens were eligible for a one-time payment of $15,000, and veterans who are non-citizens were eligible for a one-time payment of $9,000.

Despite efforts to make a payment to every possible beneficiary, many Filipinos struggled to obtain the documentation needed to prove their eligibility given the many decades that passed since World War II. The federal government has held onto these funds to allow these veterans who fought for our Nation every chance possible to prove their service and receive a payment in the final years of their lives, to ease any hardships they may have and to pay off a small part of the debt owed to them for the benefits they earned, yet were taken away from them.

Rather than close this program, we should redouble our efforts to help those who struggled to obtain the document to prove their service. We must help and not again abandon these Filipino veterans, most of whom are now in their late 90s or over 100 years old.

I strongly urge all my colleagues to oppose this misguided effort.

HONORING THE GENERATIONS WHO FORGED OUR LEGACY OF FREEDOM, PUERTO RICO'S ETERNAL PLEDGE

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truth that Puerto Rico has lived for more than a century: freedom is not inherited. It is forged. Forged in sacrifice, in courage, and in the lives of men and women who answered every call this Nation made, with unmatched devotion and without hesitation. This coming Memorial Day, as our people prepare to gather at the Morovis National Cemetery under the theme ''Freedom Forged by Our Heroes,'' I express our eternal gratitude to those who purchased our freedom with their lives, and our solemn pledge to be worthy of it.

For more than a century, Puerto Rico has sent its sons and daughters to every theater of American conflict. In World War I and World War II, tens of thousands served with distinction, carrying the flag of this Nation across every theater of war. In Korea, the 65th Infantry Regiment, the Borinqueneers, forged a legacy that could not be ignored: two Korean Presidential Unit Citations, more than 2,700 Purple Hearts, and the Congressional Gold Medal, authorized by this body in 2014 and formally presented in 2016. Among them stood Private First Class Fernando Luis García of Utuado, who threw himself upon an enemy grenade on September 5, 1952, so his fellow Marines could live. He became Puerto Rico's first Medal of Honor recipient. His name became a standard.

In Vietnam, Private First Class Carlos James Lozada of Caguas and Specialist Héctor Santiago-Colón of Salinas each gave their lives to save their comrades—Lozada by holding his exposed position under withering fire so his platoon could withdraw, Santiago-Colón by shielding a grenade with his body—both awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. Two men, two moments, one unbreakable thread of sacrifice.

That thread did not end there. Sergeant First Class Pedro A. Muñoz of Quebradillas, a Green Beret, was killed on January 2, 2005, after his Special Forces patrol encountered enemy fire in Shindand, Afghanistan. Sergeant First Class José A. Rivera of Barranquitas, an 82nd Airborne paratrooper, was killed on November 5, 2003, when his patrol came under fire in Mumuhdyah, Iraq.

And recently, Puerto Rico mourned Major Ariana G. Linse Savino—a proud daughter of Puerto Rico, a 31-year-old Air Force pilot, Chief of Current Operations of the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, killed in the line of duty on March 12, 2026, in western Iraq. Governor González Colón awarded her the Governor's Medal for Valor and Patriotism—the first time in history that honor was given posthumously. Regarding her family: Puerto Rico embraces them, and will forever carry her memory.

For generations, Puerto Rico's fallen rested at the Bayamón National Cemetery, a ground made sacred by the heroes it received. When Bayamón reached its capacity and closed to new interments, Puerto Rico did not leave its veterans without an answer. The Morovis National Cemetery rose to carry that sacred trust forward, extending the same dignity deeper into the heart of the island, closer to the communities that have given the most. Nestled in the mountains of Puerto Rico, Morovis stands as living proof that our commitment to those who serve does not expire. No hero of this island will rest forgotten, and no family will carry their grief without the full honor their loved one earned.

From the frozen hills of Korea to the skies above Iran, Puerto Rico has answered every call, in every generation, without fail.

Freedom Forged by Our Heroes is not a phrase chosen lightly. It is a truth written in sacrifice, carried across generations, and honored in Morovis, Bayamón, and all across Puerto Rico.

HONORING THE MEMORY AND SERVICE OF ERWIN J. KORCZYNSKI

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Erwin J. Korczynski of Chicago, Illinois. Erwin was a United States Marine Corps veteran, commercial airline captain, and Civil Reserve Air Fleet pilot who passed away on January 5, 2011, after a battle with prostate cancer.

Erwin Korczynski was born on March 30, 1942, and raised in Chicago, where he attended Lane Technical High School and later Northern Illinois University. During the Vietnam War, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps alongside his identical twin brother, Edwin. After their discharge, both brothers were hired by Eastern Air Lines, beginning careers that would eventually draw them into support roles during two American wars.

Through his work with Evergreen Airlines, Erwin became part of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, a partnership between the Department of Defense and the commercial aviation industry that augmented Military Airlift Command

capacity during wartime. During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, CRAF pilots moved 400,000 troops and 335,000 tons of cargo over 165 days, what has been called the greatest airlift in history. Erwin flew 35 sorties in support of those operations, the same number, by extraordinary coincidence, as his twin brother Edwin.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I want to share our gratitude for Erwin's service to this country, in uniform as a Marine and in the cockpit as a civilian pilot who kept flying into harm's way long after his discharge.

REPORT ON WORKPLACE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TRAINING

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, per House Resolution 480 and Committee on House Administration Resolution 119–13, the Chief Administrative Officer has informed the Committee that all current Members of the House have completed the required training for 2025.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND GEORGE PHILLIP SHOULTZ, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heart that is heavy beyond measure, and yet overflowing with gratitude to a gracious God, to honor the life, the ministry, and the enduring legacy of a man I have been blessed to call my friend, my brother, my teacher, and my faithful companion for more than fifty years—the Reverend George Phillip Shoultz, Jr., of Columbus, Georgia. A home-going service to celebrate his remarkable life will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, when I think of George Shoultz, I do not think of his many accomplishments, though they were many. I think first of a friend. I think of a brother. I think of the man who, more than half a century ago, sat in the same Sunday School class with me at the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church, and who one day, by God's providence, would rise from the pew beside me to stand at the front of the classroom as my Sunday School teacher. That is who George Shoultz was to me. He was the friend who became the teacher. The brother who became the shepherd. The companion who walked with me on every road I have ever traveled in public life.

Mr. Speaker, George was born on November 14, 1951, in Savannah, Georgia, the fourth of six children born to George Phillip Shoultz, Sr., and Cora Bell Shoultz. From his earliest days, he understood the meaning of hard work and family responsibility. Even as a young man at Tompkins High School, he worked to help support his family—a quiet sacrifice that would come to define his character. After graduation in 1969, he managed a Burger King and worked at Joe's Picnic, and he went on to study Accounting at Savannah State College, where, in a Sociology class in 1970, he met the love of his life. Miss Betty L. Martin. On July 29, 1972, George and Betty were joined in holy matrimony—a union that would last a lifetime and bless this world with three children. George, III, Brandi, and Geoffrey, and four beautiful grandchildren who were the very light of his eyes.

Mr. Speaker, George Shoultz was a businessman of rare vision. He climbed the ranks at Heykow, Inc., from a local store in Savannah to becoming a regional buyer and district manager. In 1975, he arrived in Columbus, Georgia, to serve as Managing Partner of the iconic Sol & Harry's menswear store. And on January 1, 1983, through grit, faith, and sheer determination, he and his family purchased that beloved institution outright. For more than four decades, G. Shoultz & Company has clothed the men of Columbus with dignity and distinction. He was named Outstanding Business of the Year by the U.S. Department of Commerce in 1983, and Regional Retail Minority Entrepreneur in 1985. But ask anyone who walked into his store, and they will tell you—George did not just sell suits. He extended credit when a young man could not afford one for a job interview. He prayed with customers who were grieving. He turned his clothing store into a ministry of dignity.

Mr. Speaker, our friendship was forged in the house of the Lord. For more than twenty years, George and I worshiped together at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia. We sat in the same pews. We sang from the same hymnal. We sang and travelled with the choir. We bowed our heads in the same prayers. We sat in the same Sunday School class, week after week, year after year, opening the Word of God together. And there came a day when the Lord raised up our beloved George to teach that very class—and I, who had sat beside him as a fellow student, now sat as his student. He taught the Scriptures the way he lived them: with reverence, with humility, with conviction, and with a love so deep you could feel it in every word he spoke. I am a better man because George Shoultz shared with me the Word of God. I am a better servant of people because of what I learned saw in George.

Mr. Speaker, our bond was woven through every chapter of our lives. He trusted me as his attorney, as I had the honor of representing him and his family in matters of business and matters of life. He trusted me with his counsel; I trusted him with my soul. There are not many men in this world whom you could trust unconditionally. George Shoultz was such a man. We watched each other's hair turn gray, and we thanked God for every gray strand of it.

Mr. Speaker, when I first stepped into the arena of public service in 1976, seeking election to the Georgia State House of Representatives, George Shoultz was there. He was a young businessman then. I was a young lawyer. And he stood beside me—not because he had anything to gain, but because he believed. He believed in the calling. He believed in the work. He believed that representation mattered. And from that very first campaign, in 1976, all the way through every election I have ever waged—every State House race, every State Senate campaign, every single congressional election from my first run in 1992 to this very day—George Shoultz was there. Not for a season. Not for a cycle. For a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, during my very first campaign for the United States Congress in 1992, George Shoultz served as my Transportation Coordinator—the man who organized and directed our fleet of volunteer drivers to take me from town to town as I campaigned to become the congressman from the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia. And he dispatched them by phone from his counter at Sal and Harry.

And how we would talk politics, Mr. Speaker. How we would talk. On the phone late into the evening, over coffee in Columbus, on the church steps after Sunday service, at the back counter of Sol & Harry's with a customer waiting—George had a mind that was sharp as a blade and a heart that was tender as a child's. He understood the long arc of the moral universe, and he believed, as Dr. King believed, that it bends toward justice. But he also knew that it does not bend on its own. He believed it must be pulled, prayed over, and pushed by faithful hands. His hands were among the most faithful I have ever known. He served as Captain of the Dimon Precinct for Mayor Bill Feighner. He worked tirelessly for Councilman Nathan Suber. He stood with Reverend Jesse Jackson, and on the night this Nation elected Barack Obama as President of the United States. George Shoultz and I wept together as men who had lived to see what our fathers and mothers had only dared to dream. In 1991, he joined the bus ride through Forsyth County—an act of moral courage that I shall never forget so long as I draw breath.

Mr. Speaker, above every title George Shoultz ever earned in business or in civic life, he wore one with greater pride than all the rest: servant of the Most High God. Ordained to the ministry in the late 1990s, Reverend Shoultz served Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in nearly every capacity a man can serve—as Deacon, as Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent, as Chairman of Transportation, as Chairman of Mission, as overseer of the church's radio ministry that carried the Word of God across the airwaves of Georgia on JOY FM and FOXIE 105. He served in the Inspirational Choir, the Evangelism Ministry, the Benevolence Ministry, and the Stewardship Ministry. He also served as Associate Pastor of Spirit, Truth, and Liberty Ministries International. There was no task too small, no hour too late, no soul too lost for Reverend Shoultz to serve.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once preached words that could have been written about my friend George Shoultz:

> ''Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.''
>
> —Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr., February 4, 1968

Mr. Speaker. that was George Shoultz. A heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. He never sought greatness, and yet greatness found him—because he gave himself away in service to others, day after day, year after year, for a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, there is a particular ache that comes when you lose a friend you have