

TRIBUTE TO PAUL USHER FOR HIS  
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS  
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF MARION  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Usher on the occasion of his retirement. From 2008 to 2016, Paul has served as President and CEO of Marion General Hospital in Marion, Indiana. In his eight years as the system's President, Paul has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to superior patient care and ensuring Marion General Hospital's growth and success. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Paul's dedication to making Marion General Hospital a great place to work, practice medicine, and receive exceptional health care.

Before taking the role as President and CEO at Marion General, Paul had a long history of devoting his time to bettering the lives of Hoosiers and improving his community. Paul is a native of Marion, Indiana and graduated from Ball State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. Shortly after graduating he received a Certified Public Accountant certificate and quickly emerged to be a leader within the financial community. He became a member of both the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Indiana CPA Society. Paul's ambition and passion led him to continue growing in his role in the financial world and his expertise led him to the healthcare field. He became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), the nation's leading professional society for healthcare leaders, as well as a Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA), the nation's leading membership organization for healthcare financial management executives and leaders, which he has been a member of for nearly 44 years and previously served as President of the Indiana Chapter.

Though Paul has an extensive and impressive background, his most notable accomplishments are connected to his work at Marion General Hospital. For 34 years, he has been an integral part of making Marion General the successful organization it is today. Prior to taking the role as CEO and President in 2008, Paul served the healthcare system as Chief Financial Officer. Throughout his tenure at the helm of the longtime community institution, Paul has emphasized relationships as the hospital's key to success. This emphasis cultivated a culture of exceptional patient care and made it a wonderful place to work. In 2012, Marion General Hospital received the prestigious honor as a Fire Starter hospital from the Studer Group. A Fire Starter hospital is one which ignites the flame of excellence by embracing the foundational principles of working together, developing relationships, caring for one another and extending true compassion to others. Since its beginning in 1896, Marion General Hospital has grown immensely and because of strong leadership from people like Paul, the hospital continues to provide exceptional healthcare to the people of Grant County over a century later.

Paul's commitment to the highest standard of care and success as a leader has not gone

unnoticed; he has received numerous accolades. Most notably, Paul was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash (2016) for his exceptional leadership, devotion to his organization, and making significant contributions to the great Hoosier state. He also received the Stanley A. Pressler Award from the Indiana Healthcare Financial Management Association, the most honorable award bestowed by the Indiana HFMA chapter.

Paul has devoted himself to attaining the vision he set out for the hospital when he began his career with Marion General, and over the past several years he has achieved that vision. He leaves behind a strong legacy at Marion General Hospital and throughout the Hoosier community, especially Grant County. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I'd like to congratulate Paul on his remarkable career and extend a huge thank you for all of the wonderful contributions he has made to Marion General Hospital and the Grant County Community. I wish the very best to Paul and his wife, Marsha, as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING BEST BUY'S 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Best Buy's 50th anniversary. Through these 50 years, Best Buy has shown leadership, community service, and entrepreneurship in Minnesota and beyond.

Best Buy was started in 1966 by Richard M. Schulze. Mr. Schulze is a Minnesota native and former member of the Minnesota Air National Guard in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Schulze started Best Buy with four employees, less than \$11,000 in capital, and with the sole experience of selling electronics at his father's company. At that time the store offered albums, audio cassettes, stereo components, speakers and musical instruments.

In just four years Best Buy, then called "Sound of Music", accumulated \$1 million in annual revenue. Since then Best Buy has been growing its company by updating retail technology, expanding all over the country, expanding recycle efforts and providing teenagers with access to technology.

Best Buy has also been generous in its philanthropic work and diligent in its efforts to protect the environment. In 1994 the Best Buy Children's Foundation was established and that same year they raised over \$107,000. Since then they have had annual charities that raise millions of dollars in order to give underserved youth access to technology. Best Buy has collected and recycled over 1 billion pounds of e-waste and has decreased its carbon footprint by more than 25 percent since 2009. Overall Best Buy has given over \$50 million and over 140,000 volunteer hours to Minnesota non-profits.

Not only has Best Buy done extensive charity work but they also educate teens through their national Teen Tech Centers. These Teen Tech Centers are a space for teens to use new technologies like music and video productions, photography, design and programming. Through these Teen Tech Centers 1,800

teens have completed educational workshops and 94 percent of the attendees will continue their education post high school. Over the years, Best Buy has employed over 1 million people, including 10,000 Minnesotans, through its 1,600 North American stores and online sales.

Best Buy is North America's number one retailer of consumer technology and other related services. I wish Best Buy all the best in their future endeavors.

A CAREER OF SERVICE TO  
OTHERS

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ruth Flower, the 2016 recipient of the Coalition on Human Needs' Hero award for her outstanding work fighting against poverty and for peace and justice.

As a Human Needs Hero, Ruth is joining an esteemed group of individuals who go above and beyond to fight for the dignity and quality of life of all people. In her numerous interactions with my office, it was clear Ruth has a passion for helping others, and is a truly extraordinary advocate for those in need.

During Ruth's career as Associate Executive Secretary for Legislative Programs at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Ruth enjoyed meeting with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle and with a wide array of viewpoints. She would leave no stone unturned in her efforts to find the necessary resources for those who needed them most.

For example, in my Congressional District, Ruth's worked with me to dramatically improve the lives of students attending the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school, which is in desperate need of renovation. Ruth's advocacy helped build support in Congress and the Administration for funding for a new school. I am so pleased to say that after years of tireless efforts by many, including yours truly, students from the Leech Lake Reservation will no longer have to attend class in a drafty, unsafe, and hazardous pole building.

In addition to advocating for Native American concerns, Ruth led efforts to address a wide range of our shared priorities, including health care reform, affordable housing, federal budget priorities, civil liberties, campaign finance reform, and the challenge of poverty in the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and others in congratulating Ruth on her receipt of the Human Needs Hero award as we thank her for her tireless work at FCNL to improve the lives of all-too-often underrepresented segments of our society.

REMEMBERING WALTER BIALEK

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Walter J. Bialek—beloved family man, friend and religious mentor to many. Mr. Bialek passed from this life

on September 3, 2009. As we celebrate Flag Day, it is fitting to recall the contributions made by American citizens. Mr. Bialek's son, Joe, has requested recognition of his father's contributions to his community of Cleveland, Ohio. Thus, I submit the following recognition from Joe Bialek honoring his father. Mr. Bialek's memory beats strong in the hearts of his family and his son offers a moving tribute to his father:

"Walter Bialek grew up in the area of Saint Hyacinth in what is now considered a part of the Slavic Village neighborhood in Northeast Ohio. Born in a house next door to the convent that housed many nuns of the Order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, he always spoke very reverently of them about how much he appreciated the values they, along with his parents, helped to instill in him.

"Mr. Bialek graduated from East Tech High School in 1936 and earned a diploma with an emphasis in electricity. He was drafted into the Army-Air Forces in 1941 and served as a Staff Sergeant. At one time he was ordered off a troop truck headed for overseas combat in order to teach twin engine aircraft training to fighter/bomber pilots.

Through this he contributed greatly to the defense of liberty and the preservation of all those freedoms we enjoy today. After the war Mr. Bialek was offered a player contract from the Cleveland Indians baseball team but, on the advice of his father, declined it because he did not want to play on Sundays. He worked briefly for the Indians as a Territorial Scout (and kept the business card to prove it.) In 1950, he married Eileen C. Moran. Together they raised six children. Walter Bialek pursued an engineering career starting with Thompson Products—the T in TRW—and culminating in his retirement from the General Motors Chevrolet Plant in Parma, Ohio after 26 years of service. Throughout, he was active in the Third Order of Saint Francis.

"We join his family and friends in honor and remembrance of Walter J. Bialek, beloved husband of Eileen; beloved father of Mary, Patricia, Eileen, John, Alice and Joseph. He was also the adoring grandfather of Matthew, Chad, Katie, Kimberly, Timothy, Colleen, Tiffany, Nathan, Mark, John, John Jr., Daniel, Andrew, Elizabeth, Steven and Teresa.

"Mr. Bialek's devout life was defined by his deep dedication to family and friends, and his exceptional faith in the Catholic Church. His strong spirit, integrity, energy and good works have served to uplift the lives of countless individuals, families—and the communities in which he resided."

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTE BY  
MAIL ACT OF 2016

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Vote By Mail Act of 2016. The individual right to vote is the foundation of our government, and making sure that all Americans have the ability to exercise that right is critical to the democratic process. My home state of Oregon is a leader in innovative voting rights policy, and this legislation provides a pathway for the federal government to follow Oregon's model program.

Too many Americans around the country face extreme barriers to registering to vote and casting a ballot. Many voters often have work, family, or other commitments that make getting to polls and waiting in line on Election Day difficult or impossible. Many citizens with disabilities are physically unable to vote due to long lines, inadequate parking, no curb cuts, steep ramps, and large crowds. In 2012, 30 percent of voters with disabilities had difficulty voting, and more than 5,000,000 voters waited for more than an hour to cast a vote. Polling stations in rural jurisdictions tend to have higher costs per voter, smaller staffs, and limited resources. Additionally, transportation to the polls is often a difficult barrier for rural voters. Despite these impediments, many of these voters are not permitted to vote by mail in many states. Fortunately, a handful of states are addressing this problem, and three states currently hold elections entirely by mail. It's time to bring this policy to scale in all federal elections.

The benefits of voting by mail are numerous and well-documented. Voting by mail gives voters more time to consider their choices, which is especially important due to the expanded use of the initiative and referendum process in many states. Voting by mail is cost-effective. As shown in Oregon and Colorado, the cost of conducting vote by mail elections is generally one-third to one-half less than conducting polling place elections. Allowing all voters the option to vote by mail can reduce waiting times for those voters who choose to vote at the polls. Vote by mail also typically increases turnout in all elections, but can be particularly effective in increasing voter participation in special elections and primary elections.

The Vote By Mail Act of 2016 legislation would require states to mail ballots to all registered voters in federal elections, eliminating barriers to the ballot—saving states and local governments money and saving voters time and stress across the country.

Another crucial component of a modern voting system is making it easy, affordable, and accessible to register to vote, further multiplying the positive voter participation effects of a vote by mail system. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia introduced automatic voter registration legislation in 2015, and Oregon and California now automatically register their citizens to vote when they apply for a driver's license. Automatic, permanent voter registration has the potential to increase participation, protect election integrity, and reduce registration costs. This legislation would follow the Oregon example, register millions of eligible voters at little cost, and widely increase participation in American democracy.

There is no better time to seamlessly expand voter registration and provide more options for Americans to vote, and the stakes have never been higher.

ONE YEAR OF THE DANGEROUS  
IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, the President announced the

framework of the dangerous Iran nuclear deal. In the past year, Iran continues to grow more hostile, threatening American families and our allies in the Middle East, especially Israel by testing intercontinental ballistic missiles. What's more, Iran has ordered its military to produce ICBMs that are capable of reaching more targets—Europe and even the United States. And they hatefully chant "Death to America, Death to Israel!"

We should not make it easier for a rogue state to threaten American families and our allies by ignoring reality and offering more concessions to a regime which oppresses their great people. I appreciate that House Republicans have done everything we can to exercise oversight over the implementation of the dangerous agreement. This week, we passed legislation that would prevent the U.S. from purchasing heavy water from Iran and would deny the despots access to the dollar. We also passed the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, which holds Iran accountable for their ballistic missile violations and their human rights abuses against their citizens.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING IDAHO POWER'S 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Idaho Power on its 100 year anniversary.

For 100 years, Idaho Power has provided the electricity that fuels the economy, powers lives and makes southern Idaho and eastern Oregon more comfortable places to live.

Founded August 1, 1916, when five companies merged, Idaho Power initially served 18,000 customers. Today, the company has approximately 2,000 dedicated employees who serve over 520,000 customers in a 24,000-square-mile area. Idaho Power is one of a few investor-owned electric utilities with a primarily hydroelectric generating base.

One hundred years ago, Idaho Power relied solely on power produced by nine hydroelectric plants along the Snake River to meet customers' energy needs. Today, the company's generation resource mix comes from 17 hydroelectric power plants, three natural gas-fired plants and three jointly-owned coal-fired plants. The newest addition, Langley Gulch, is a natural gas-fired plant that began production in July 2012. Idaho Power also purchases renewable energy such as wind, solar and geothermal from independent power producers.

From fish conservation efforts to raptor protection to watershed management, Idaho Power has a rich legacy of caring for the land and rivers in its service area. The company also operates and maintains over 50 recreational facilities along the Snake River, providing outdoor activities to visitors from around the world.

Idaho Power supports the communities it serves through employee volunteerism, corporate donations and community sponsorships. The company also enables the success