

The street maintenance budget of \$69,000 in 1954 has grown to \$1.5 million this year.

Flickinger said one thing he's proud of is talking City Council into approving a policy that set a minimum fund balance of 10 percent. It was passed in 2008. That means while the city has a nearly \$18 million budget this year, it won't touch almost \$1.8 million of that. It's a sort of built-in rainy day cushion.

"They didn't have to do that," he said of council's action.

Fred Maurer has known Flickinger most of his life. They were both born in 1952, a few days apart. They attended St. Augustine's school together.

Maurer spent more than 21 years as a city councilman.

"Ray is very methodical, very thorough, very capable," he said. "He doesn't care to get into the politics [of his elected office], he's more nuts and bolts. He's one of these people who just stays focused on what needs to be done."

VOTES NEEDED

While Flickinger, a Democrat, never faced Republican opposition in the 10 times he had to seek re-election, Maurer laughed that there was one year Flickinger had to work at getting votes. In the 1980s, voters passed a charter amendment requiring the city finance director have a degree in municipal financing and a number of years experience in the field.

Maurer swears that "and" was supposed to be an "or." Flickinger did not have a municipal financing degree. He'd spent about 10 years or so, while in office, working on his bachelor's degree in accounting from Kent State University. But the ballot authors had intended to honor his experience.

With Flickinger's job hanging in the balance, an amended amendment had to be put on the very next ballot.

"I think that's the one and only time Ray actually had to campaign," Maurer said. The issue passed.

HITTING THE ROAD

When Flickinger retires at the end of this month, his assistant, Jeremy Flaker, will take over. He'll have to run in 2019 if he wants to keep the job. Judge said Barberton will face new financial challenges ahead, and he'll miss the "level of comfort" that comes from having Flickinger at his side.

"He's lived through tough times before. He's weathered storms and kept on top of them," Judge said. "And he has a lot of institutional knowledge. I'm going to miss his insightfulness, his ideas."

"But I told him I've got his number and I know where he lives," Judge quipped.

That information might not do the mayor a lot of good.

Flickinger and his longtime girlfriend plan to sell their home and hit the road in a motor home, starting with a stay in Colorado to visit his son, Eric.

He'll be back here from time to time to visit his two daughters—Amy in Wadsworth and Emily in Grafton—but he's not planning on any permanent residence for the foreseeable future.

"We're going to be nomads. I can honestly say I don't know where I'll be living, but Barberton will always be home," he said.

Like his father before him, he loves boating and fishing. But unlike his father, he's getting out at the age of 65, with plenty of time to do more of both.

"Like I said," he repeated, "it's just time."

ANISSA ULIBARRI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anissa Ulibarri for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Anissa Ulibarri is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anissa Ulibarri is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anissa Ulibarri for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S 10TH ANNUAL CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th annual César Chávez Day of Celebration at Eastern Michigan University. This annual observation allows for the recognition of the campus' diversity and the life of Mr. Chávez.

Born in Arizona in 1927, César Chávez was the child of hardworking Mexican American migrant laborers. He spent most of his early years in migrant camps with his parents, attending school sporadically and serving the United States for two years in the Navy. Once he returned, he joined together with Hispanic farmworkers in states including Arizona and California to bargain for better working conditions for American workers. Mr. Chávez's work as a leader of the movement implemented institutional change that would forever alter the American workplace. Changes included union recognition as well as the creation of the United Farm Workers of America, which remains a prominent union today. César Chávez's lifetime of hard work inspired millions and opened the doors for workers across our nation.

Since 2009, Eastern Michigan University has participated in a César Chávez Day of Celebration, inviting local students, university faculty, and community members to commemorate his life's work and its influence today. The University's event includes poetry reading by local middle schoolers, keynote speakers, mariachi music, and a procession to the César Chávez Fountain located on campus. César Chávez Day is an important opportunity for residents of southeastern Michigan to come together and discuss the doors that he opened for students and workers as well as to discuss ways to continue to serve under-

served student populations both at Eastern Michigan University and in local K-12 schools. It is my honor to join Eastern Michigan University in today's celebration, and it is my hope that this event will continue to take place in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Eastern Michigan University as they celebrate their 10th Annual César Chávez Day of Celebration. This event allows for important conversations to take place as we celebrate Mr. Chávez's contributions to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF ERIC MARTIN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life and career of Eric Martin. Eric, a longtime Buffalo native, will celebrate his retirement from Grand Slam Productions where he worked diligently as an MC and promoter for over 40 years.

Eric Martin's life was centered around family. As the youngest child of five siblings, he had a close relationship with his mother, Shirley Martin. Her saying "let your actions match your looks" was instrumental in forming his outlook on life.

His journey in the music industry started at the young age of 16 first working with "The Exotics" a well-known soul group in the Western New York area. In a continuation of his passion for music Eric worked under the direction of Freedom Train and when he was 18 started spinning records at Sylvester's Night Club on Fillmore Avenue. Some notable events from Eric's early career include MC'ing a Maze and Beverly Concert, a Phyllis Hyman show at Shea's Performing Arts Center, and a Juneteenth festival concert. In addition, Eric has worked with artists such as S.O.S Band, Atlantic Starr, and Loose Ends.

However, Eric's career did not come without its challenges. In his commitment to his passion for music Eric served the city in a variety of other jobs in order to continue his work as a promoter. His hard work has been seen in 22 years with the Buffalo Board of Education, 20 years at Dunlop Tires, 6 years with BFNC and 4 years with Big Brother Big Sister. Eric discusses the challenges posed by minority promoters within Buffalo saying that "Buffalo's a very tough market, a lot of establishments aren't open to black promoters." This has made it even more difficult to gain a foothold in Buffalo's event and nightlife scene.

Despite these challenges Eric Martin retires from a dynamic career in the music industry with renewed hopes of bringing his love of music to a new generation through his wife Tracy and their three children Erica, Eric, and Aaron. His dream being that Buffalo will one day be able to establish a major music festival.

Mr. Speaker, I am inspired by Eric Martin's remarkable commitment to pursue his passion for music. I'm honored to celebrate his retirement and hope that he continues to be a driving force in the great city of Buffalo.

EVA VANG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Eva Vang for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Eva Vang is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Eva Vang is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Eva Vang for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN WASEM

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Wasem, a veteran and distinguished physician in my district who passed away last month.

John Richard Wasem graduated from Decatur High School in 1941 and then went on to serve in the United States Army in Germany during World War II. Upon his return, John earned his degree from the National College of Chiropractic in 1952 and worked as a chiropractor in the Decatur area for decades.

Ask anyone in the Decatur community, and they would say that Dr. Wasem is most remembered for his years of attending the Decatur Annual Community Thanksgiving Luncheon. For 65 years, Dr. Wasem was a familiar face at the event, which honors those who enrich the community and who have given generously of themselves to make Decatur a better place to live. He was a living example of what makes Decatur special.

The annual luncheon is an opportunity to give thanks for blessings. Dr. Wasem was certainly one of those blessings. Without his attendance, I am positive that this year's event won't be the same. I am grateful for his many years of dedication he has shown the community.

He was an inspiration to those that knew him. His legacy at the Decatur Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon will be remembered by many. I know he will be deeply missed. My prayers are with his wife, Alice, their children and many grandchildren during this difficult time.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 168
DEDICATION**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Legion Post 168 as they dedicate their Post in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Justin L. Vasquez for his service to our country in the United States Army.

Justin Vasquez was born in Rocky Ford, Colorado and grew up in Manzanola, Colorado until he joined the Army in August 1997. Mr. Vasquez was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Carson, Colorado. He was Killed In Action in Baghdad on June 5, 2005, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. SSG Vasquez was deployed twice during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His friends say he will be remembered for the morale he brought to his unit, for his love for his family, and dedication to his work. Ultimately, he paid the highest price in service to our Nation.

I believe that America's brave men and women in uniform are the nation's greatest assets. They have made incredible sacrifices for our country and deserve our utmost thanks and honor for their service and sacrifice.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than the one we owe our veterans. They and their families should be commended. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to the Vasquez family and my gratitude to all the Veterans of Post 168 for their service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the American Legion Post 168 as they dedicate their post in memory of SSG Justin L. Vasquez.

THE FIRST IN FREEDOM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Fallen American hero Marc Lee Allen who was KIA August 2, 2006. He inspired his Brother In Arms Chris Kyle to write his book, American Sniper. Last week on March 20th would have been Marc's 40th birthday. The graveyards are filled with magnificent selfless heroes like Marc. The ones who have given That Last Full Measure for all of us over the years. He was the first Navy SEAL to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His Brothers In Arms knew him as a strong patriot, a fierce competitor, a loving husband, and a faithful Christian. I include in the RECORD this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

THE FIRST IN FREEDOM
By Albert Carey Caswell

The First
The First In Freedom
The First in light
In every war,
in every battle,
in every fight,
there are always those who must be the first
to die

Which brings such heartache and tears of
sorrow to loved ones' eyes
Whose brave hearts must burn bright
Who we all need this night
So all at speed, so all in sight
Those brave hearts who fight the fight
Who bring their light
Who evil must fight
Who leave all they love to over evil rise
above

And lie down their most precious lives.
As up in Heaven the Angels cry
And don't ask why?
All in their most patriotic hearts comprised
And for all their Brothers In Arms ready to die

As did you Marc all in your most magnificent heart comprised

As realized
Was such a heart of gold
To all our children must be told
To carry with us as we grow old
And for you Marc,
Heaven a place so holds
When, in that moment of truth be told
As it was you Marc who gave us the proof
with your lessons of gold
All in what is in a hero's heart to know
And so, made up of so
As into the line of fire you'd go
All in that Selfless Book of America's Who's
Who to know

Who but for the greater good gave all they could

That last full measure,
for surely there can be no greater treasure
As you became the first Navy SEAL in this war to lose your life,

And oh how Marc your loved ones and Brothers will miss you so,

But, they will hear you on the wind
And when they awake they will feel your presence next to them,
as overnight watching over you they have been.

And when there comes a gentle rain,
you will feel our Lord's tear wash down upon you to ease your pain

Until, one day up in Heaven together you will all again

And you won't have to cry no more

The first to fight

The first to die

With tears in eyes we now ask why?

As like you Marc its upon our faith we must rely

Sadly, because Freedom is not Free

But, only bought and paid for by you and all of these

Who are the first to die

Could we?

Would we?

In the moment of truth would we up to new heights so rise?

SEALED with a kiss

And now we lay your sacred body down to rest

We pray for you and your family our Lord to bless.

At Ease my son,

for you are one of America's Best

Who are The First In Freedom,

who all of us bless.

Amen.

IVY VICORY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ivy Vicory for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.