

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SERGEANT H.A. "BUCK" WENZEL
TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Buck Wenzel of Custer County, Colorado for his valuable service as a law enforcement officer and community leader for over 40 years and to wish him well in his retirement.

As a young adult, Buck served as a law enforcement officer with the Security Forces of the U.S. Air Force. Since 1977, Buck has served the Third Congressional District in various capacities as a community leader and law enforcement official at the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office and the Custer County Sheriff's Office. Buck graduated from the Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy in November 1978 and shortly thereafter served in a Patrol Division as a Patrol Deputy.

He was transferred in 1981 to the Investigations Division, where as a Detective he specialized in violent crimes. A few years later, he was tasked with creating a Field Training and Evaluation Program for all new recruit patrol deputies. Later, Buck served as an Instructor at the Law Enforcement Academy and as a supervisor for SWAT. Because of his exemplary service, he was promoted in 1988 and sent to the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command at Northwestern University in Chicago. He received the Kremlin Honorable Mention upon graduation.

In 2001, Buck was tasked with absorbing Colorado State University's Police Department and establishing a contractual Sheriff's Office Policing Division for the university. During his last 10 years of service at the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, he served as the Senior Operations Commander for the Operations Bureau partaking in duties such as daily and long-term planning of the Bureau and Divisions which included Field Training, SWAT, and 9-1-1. Several years later in 2007, Buck retired from the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office.

For his service, Buck has received innumerable awards and commendations including honorable mentions, sheriff commendations, and team commendations. Additionally, he received the 2005 National Alliance on Mental Illness Heroes in the Fight Award, 2005 Pueblo County Uniformed Officer of the Year Award, and 2014 Custer County Sheriff's Office Officer of the Year Award. Now retired from law enforcement, Buck continues his work as Mayor of Silver Cliff and as a Chairperson of the Custer County 9-1-1 Authority Board.

Madam Speaker, Buck has dutifully served his country and community for almost his entire life. He has more than earned his retirement. I wish him the best of luck in this next stage of life and look forward to seeing his future contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING AT&T CEO RANDALL
L. STEPHENSON ON HIS RETIRE-
MENT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate AT&T CEO Randall L. Stephenson on his retirement after an extraordinary career of service.

Mr. Stephenson began his career with Southwestern Bell Telephone in 1982 in Oklahoma. He served as the company's senior executive vice president and chief financial officer from 2001 to 2004, and from 2004 to 2007 he was chief operating officer, after which he took over as chief executive officer. He was also appointed to AT&T's board of directors in 2005.

Under Mr. Stephenson's guide, AT&T has committed \$550 million since 2008 to its signature philanthropic initiative, AT&T Aspire, which drives innovation in education to promote student success in school and the workplace. He also led AT&T's breakthrough "It Can Wait" campaign—an education and awareness program to reduce distracted driving. The program has amassed more than 40 million pledges of support. Additionally, in 2018, Warner Media unveiled an industry-first Diversity and Inclusion Policy for talent in front of and behind the camera.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Stephenson's contributions to the city of Dallas, state of Texas, these United States, and across the globe are truly immeasurable. Therefore, on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and Texas' 30th Congressional District, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Stephenson for reaching this milestone and wish him a fruitful retirement.

HONORING FRANCIS M. HAGER

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and fellow veteran, Francis M. Hager, who recently passed away at the age of 87 in Columbus, Indiana.

Early in his life, Frank chose a path of service to our country by enlisting in the U.S. Army. After completing his service, he went on to pursue a career in engineering and worked at Cummins Engine Company for 35 years where he designed and patented several innovations.

Frank was a pillar of the Columbus community and a faithful member of the St. Bartholomew Church. He trained altar servers for over 50 years, sang in the choir, delivered communion to nursing homes, and was a wel-

coming face to all members of the parish. Frank valued spending time with his family and served as a role model for future generations through his civic leadership and commitment to country.

The Pence family is lucky to have considered Frank a close friend. He was a generous person who will be remembered fondly and greatly missed.

May God rest his soul and bring comfort to his family and friends as we mourn his loss and celebrate Frank's life here on earth.

RECOGNIZING SSG JOHN W. JONES
(RET.)

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas's great veterans—SSG John W. Jones (Ret.).

John was born in 1918 and began his career of service shortly after the start of World War II. Prior to being wounded in combat in 1945 he served in the Army, Company G, 184th infantry, and completed many campaigns including Aleutian Islands, Eastern Mandates, and the battle of Okinawa.

John received numerous medals and awards for his service, including the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and a Purple Heart.

After returning home he married and had four children. He learned the auto body trade and worked for Bale Chevrolet in Little Rock Arkansas for almost 30 years before retiring.

John currently lives in Little Rock, Arkansas and is now a COVID-19 survivor.

John is a true American patriot, one of which all Americans and Arkansans can admire.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CPL RORY
PATRICK HAMILL

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today because my community has lost a leader, a mentor, a friend, and a father. Corporal Rory Patrick Hamill of the United States Marine Corps tragically passed away on May 1, 2020 at the age of 31.

Rory leaves behind not just a legacy of decorated service to his country, but also of leadership, compassion and a commitment to helping those in need. Rory deployed three times with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan before his medical retirement in 2012. During his time in service, Rory received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for valorous actions in direct contact with an enemy,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

two Combat Action Ribbons as well as many other awards, medals, and citations. Rory was also awarded the Purple Heart by President Obama for the many injuries he sustained during his deployments, including the loss of his right leg.

Upon his retirement from the Marine Corps, Rory found his calling in learning about himself and Post Traumatic Growth, which led him to a career in motivational speaking. Rory also volunteered with the Veterans Diversion Program at the Ocean County Prosecutors office where he acted as a mentor to veterans who had found themselves in the legal system as a result of their experiences while serving. Most recently, Rory was enrolled in an accelerated Masters Program in pursuit of a degree in Social Work at Monmouth University, where he worked to identify successful pathways for Post 9/11-era Veterans to reintegrate into their communities in New Jersey.

Rory's commitment to his community and to those struggling is best said in his own written words: "The more we share our pain, open up and discuss our mental health; the more power we take away from those same traumas that affect us, and the more we can begin to heal. In sharing my story, I have found purpose, catharsis, and humility. I have found my life's purpose in helping those who suffer as I used to. . . ." "This is what I live for. Helping my fellow brothers and sisters, showing them that there is a way to overcome any obstacle in their path; whether during service, or after."

Rory's impact on the veteran community was immeasurable, and his passing is a tragedy for our state and nation. It is now up to us to continue his legacy, to lift each other up and be there for those in our community that are struggling as Rory would have. My heart goes out to his family, his three children, and all of the friends who Rory touched through his work over the years. He will truly be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. RUTH
"RUTHY" HEBARD

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, with great pleasure, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Ruth "Ruthy" Hebard and her recent draft to continue her basketball career at the professional level, in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). On Friday, April 17th, Ms. Hebard was drafted by the Chicago Sky as their eighth overall pick.

Ms. Hebard played forward at West Valley High School in Fairbanks, Alaska where she was chosen twice as USA Today's Alaska Player of the Year, an incredible accomplishment. She led West Valley High to many state tournaments and when she graduated, became the first player in their school history to have her jersey retired.

After high school, Ms. Hebard went on to play at the collegiate level for the University of Oregon where, this year, she was selected for the First-team All-American. Ms. Hebard is the second unanimous all-American basketball player in program history. Throughout her collegiate career for the Oregon Ducks, Ms. Hebard played in 144 games, playing an average of 28.7 minutes per game, and scoring 16.4 points per game.

Additionally, Ms. Hebard has played on the U.S. National Team leading the team to many titles and awards. Madam Speaker, Ms. Ruthy Hebard is an inspiration to all Americans, especially young girls and all young people pursuing athletic success. I ask my fellow Members to congratulate Ms. Ruthy Hebard in her incredible accomplishments and wish her well as she continues on to the Chicago Sky.

RECOGNIZING THE LIVES OF
CHERYL AND CORRINA THINN

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Cheryl and Corrina Thinn, sisters and frontline workers who passed away in late April after battling the coronavirus.

Both Cheryl and Corrina served their communities for years, dedicating their lives to protecting the health and safety of the people on Navajo Nation, and selflessly continued their service on the frontlines of this ongoing public health crisis.

Cheryl served as a Navajo Nation juvenile detention officer and a Navajo Nation Emergency Medical Service member. She then went on to serve and care for her community through her work for the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation. She is survived by her son.

Corrina protected her community for 11 years as an officer with the Navajo Nation Police Department, eventually becoming a Senior Navajo Police Department Officer with the Tuba City District. She then earned a master's degree in social work and worked tirelessly to better the lives of Arizonans, working for health centers throughout the Navajo Nation as well as tribes throughout Arizona. Corrina is survived by two sons, a grandson, and a granddaughter.

My heart breaks for the loved ones of these devoted and compassionate frontline workers.

Pat and I are keeping Cheryl and Corrina's family, friends, and the entire Navajo Nation community in our thoughts as we continue to mourn their passing.