

the Arkansas Air National Guard as Chaplain for the 189th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base.

David has been an invaluable member of my team for nearly a decade, demonstrating his dedication and commitment to public service. He currently serves as my deputy district director and military and veterans' affairs representative, as well as the assistant pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Little Rock and as chaplain for the 777th Aviation Support Battalion for the Arkansas Army National Guard, all roles in which he has excelled.

Since 2015, he has played a crucial role in the service academy nomination process for Arkansas students and assisted thousands of his fellow veterans, helping them navigate complex casework and ensuring they receive the support they deserve. His work has not only benefited those individuals but has also had a significant impact on Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District.

David holds an impressive resume, with an undergraduate degree from Concordia University and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Liberty University.

He also shares my love for the great outdoors and loves visiting our national parks, as you can see pictured here, with his lovely wife, Megan, and their four children: Milo, Ike, Ames, and Etta.

It has been a pleasure getting to know David and watching his family grow over the past 10 years. I look forward to many more years of continued friendship.

While his absence from our office will be greatly felt, we wish David well on this next endeavor of service to our country. He will undoubtedly make a positive and faithful impact in his new capacity with the Arkansas Air National Guard.

#### HONORING MARICELA GARCIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maricela Garcia, whose distinguished career we celebrate today.

Maricela will soon retire as the CEO of Gads Hill Center after 12 years of transformative impact.

A fellow Guatemalteca, Ms. Garcia immigrated to the U.S. in the 1980s seeking refuge from the civil war.

In her country, Garcia founded Casa Guatemala to support newly arrived refugees and cofounded Women for Guatemala to build solidarity among women in the U.S. and Guatemala.

Maricela's impact has been felt across the State of Illinois. In addition to her years at Gads Hill Center, she has led the Illinois Coalition for Refugee Rights and the Latino Policy Forum. Her work has empowered countless families, especially Black, Brown, and immigrant families, pro-

viding them with education, resources, and hope.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District and the Guatemalan community in my district, it is my great honor to commend Maricela Garcia for her exceptional leadership.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Her legacy reminds us of the strength, resilience, and contributions of immigrants in building a better future.

Su legado nos recuerda la fuerza, la resiliencia y las contribuciones de los inmigrantes a la hora de forjar un futuro mejor.

Congratulations.

#### HONORING DEBBIE REZNIK

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Debbie Reznik for 30 years of distinguished service to our communities, especially working to address homelessness.

It is well known that Debbie has a standout philanthropic career. She has changed systems, strengthened sectors, and launched life-changing programs.

What is lesser known is her legacy as a champion for young leaders.

I met Debbie at the age of 19, having just been promoted to a leadership position in a Chicago nonprofit, and she made a commitment to me then to support me that day and has honored it every single day since. Twenty-one years later, I am who I am standing here in Congress in no small part because of Debbie.

While Debbie is stepping down from her position at the Polk Bros. Foundation to pursue new adventures, we know that she will continue to be a tireless advocate for a more just and loving society.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my great honor to commend Debbie Reznik for the lives changed and the impact made through her service to our communities.

I congratulate and thank Debbie.

#### HONORING REVEREND WALTER "SLIM" COLEMAN

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Walter "Slim" Coleman, whose transformational leadership and powerful legacy has shaped the political and spiritual consciousness of so many. There is so much we have won in Chicago and across the Nation that would not be possible without the witness of Reverend Slim Coleman.

A retired United Methodist pastor, Reverend Coleman and his wife, Emma Lozano showed us how to truly love our neighbors when they opened the doors of Adalberto Memorial United Methodist Church in Humboldt Park to provide sanctuary to Elvira Arellano and many other undocumented immigrants fighting their deportations. They laid the groundwork for Chicago to declare itself a sanctuary city.

As a movement builder across several decades, his work with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Students for a Democratic Society, and, eventually, the Rainbow Coalition

showed us how to build multiracial, multicultural solidarity movements that center our mutual liberation.

He laid a foundation of solidarity for both Chicago's first Black mayor, Harold Washington, and Chicago's most recently elected mayor, Mayor Brandon Johnson, to take up their positions on the fifth floor of city hall.

□ 1015

As an organizer, Reverend Coleman showed us what people power can do. Whether through his work to establish local school councils throughout Chicago, register thousands of voters in the 1983 mayoral election, or build coalitions around housing, education, and jobs, his life and his legacy will continue to be a light in dark places, reminding us that "a united community will never be defeated," "un pueblo unido jamas sera vencido."

To his wife, Pastora Emma Lozano, she is loved: I am with her. Pastor Coleman may have preceded her in his homegoing, but she is not alone.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my privilege to submit this commendation in the RECORD to honor the life and the legacy of Reverend Walter "Slim" Coleman.

May Pastor Coleman rest in power. May he rest in power.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Illinois will provide a translation of her remarks to the Clerk.

#### RECOGNIZING SAM SIMMERMAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sam Simmermaker, who is retiring this week after 64 years with White River Broadcasting in my hometown of Columbus, Indiana.

Sam grew up in Pulaski County and graduated from Indiana University in 1954. He started his radio career in Goshen and later covered the Indianapolis Indians for WTTV. Sam joined WCSI on January 1, 1960, and over the past six decades, he has covered generations of high school athletes.

Receiving multiple awards, including the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Hall of Fame, Sam and his trademark "holy cow" will be truly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and wish Sam the best of luck in his retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING ED JENKINS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I recognize Ed Jenkins, who was named Indiana Teacher of the Year.

An Indiana native, Ed teaches English at Franklin Community Early College, a high school in my district. Those who know him say that Sam is dedicated to his students and passionate about instilling a love of reading.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ed for his work to grow our next generation of leaders.

## RECOGNIZING MIKE BUCKLEY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I recognize former fire Captain Mike Buckley.

Mike served the Rushville Fire Department for 32 years, retiring as captain in 2017. He later worked for the Indiana State Police as a motor carrier inspector.

I recently met Mike and learned of his cancer diagnosis at a benefit in his honor at Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department. I am so proud that that community is supporting him in this challenge, and I am grateful to have met him.

God bless Mike and the entire Buckley family.

## RECOGNIZING EMMA MCLEISH

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I recognize Franklin County college student Emma McLeish, who recently received the American Red Cross' Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders.

Last year, Emma used her Red Cross training to help save lives twice. In July she unexpectedly helped deliver a neighbor's baby, and then in October she saved a man suffering from cardiac arrest.

Emma is a true hero, and it is my honor to recognize her today.

## 108TH RUNNING OF THE INDIANAPOLIS 500

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, this weekend is the 108th Running of the Indianapolis 500.

Beginning in 1911, the first Indy 500 was unlike anything the world had ever seen, with 40 qualifiers fighting a 500-mile race for an overall total purse of \$27,000. Eighty thousand spectators came out to watch Ray Harroun drive into victory, and a tradition was born.

The Greatest Spectacle in Racing has evolved over the last century, but its time-honored traditions keep racing fans coming back every Memorial Day weekend, like I will this weekend.

This weekend promises to be no different, hosting hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world.

I wish all this year's drivers the best of luck, and I am glad to say: This is May.

## OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the state of our southern border is a travesty, and this administration refuses to face the facts. I am here to repeat what we all know and what we have all said: Border security is national security.

We have seen over 7.8 million illegal aliens cross over since President Biden took office, bringing chaos, crime, and terror into our country.

It is time to take a real action: Build the wall. Grow the Border Patrol, and reinstate the policies that we know work.

## RECORD-HIGH INFLATION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, inflation under this administration continues to hit record highs.

We are all paying the price for this administration's mistakes. In April, the average Indiana household was paying \$948 per month more than they were in January 2021. Everything, from

electricity to rent to groceries, costs more under this administration.

Numbers don't lie, and the Democrats can't keep pretending everything is okay.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the Biden administration to quit ruining the American middle class.

HONORING HEMET POLICE CHIEF  
EDDIE PUST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Hemet Police Chief Eddie Pust on his retirement after serving the city of Hemet for over 27 years.

Police officers spend their lives putting service before self, striving to make a positive change in their community, and Chief Pust embodies that through and through.

Chief Pust began his career with the city of Hemet Police Department in 1996. After the police academy, he started as a patrol officer. During his career, he worked a number of assignments including 16 years in SWAT, until eventually being appointed as the 18th police chief of Hemet Police Department.

In addition to his 4-year tenure as police chief, he also served for 10 months as the city of Hemet interim city manager.

After almost 30 years as a pillar of leadership in the Hemet community, Chief Pust has displayed accountability, strength, and compassion during his service.

In every rank and position Chief Pust held, he was incredibly committed to tackling the issues that improved the safety and quality of life for the residents he served.

On behalf of the people in Hemet, Jacinto Valley, and the entire district, we appreciate every moment Chief Pust dedicated to protecting and serving us. His service to the community is nothing short of exemplary.

I thank Chief Pust for tirelessly working to keep the people of Hemet safe for the past 27 years.

## RECOGNIZING RICHARD RAMIREZ

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mr. Richard Moreno Ramirez, a pillar of the Coachella Valley and exceptional athlete.

Mr. Ramirez was an accomplished athlete, coach, athletic director, educator, loving husband, father, grandfather, and so much more.

Known as Mr. Green and Gold, the colors of his beloved Coachella Valley High School, Mr. Ramirez was a man of and for the community.

He was a beloved mentor for many and a leader in the community. He was my activities director and athletics director while I was a student athlete and ASB president at Coachella Valley High School.

His whole life he worked to foster a sense of school spirit and community

pride that empowered students to create the change they wished to see in the world.

I learned three key lessons from Mr. Ramirez that I will always carry with me: first, your roots matter; second, school and community pride are important; and third, to always serve the community.

Mr. Ramirez was born on October 16, 1941, on a ranch in Thermal, California, to parents Ramon and Dolores Ramirez. Raised in the eastern Coachella Valley, he attended Coachella Valley High School where his love for sports took root playing for their baseball and football teams where he excelled at sports, winning three baseball and two football championships.

After graduation, he attended Riverside City College and then went on to California State University-Long Beach where he achieved great success in both academics and baseball, so much so he brought home the university's first baseball title in 1964 and was recently inducted into their Sports Hall of Fame.

After college, wanting to give back to his community, he rolled up his sleeves and got to work. He returned home to serve the community that raised him at Coachella Valley High School for the next 40 years.

While athletic director at CV High School, he always instilled a sense of school spirit and community pride in all students. Even throughout his retirement, Mr. Ramirez always put service above self, and he served on the boards of many nonprofit organizations. He was also dedicated to cultivating the next generation of leaders through the CV High School Alumni Association where he raised funds to provide scholarships for local students.

Each athlete, student, teacher, neighbor, and friend will undoubtedly recall Mr. Ramirez as a pillar of the community.

Together, as we mourn his passing with his wife, Dr. Diane Ramirez; his children, Ronan and Roderic Ramirez; grandchildren, Rossen and Sofia; and all his friends and loved ones, we honor his legacy as a man who returned home to his roots and gave his all to serve his community and others.

## HONORING GEORGE HYAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor George Hyak, a native of Victoria, Texas, who passed away on May 4, at the age of 104 years.

George's 104 years marked a life well lived. He was a wonderful man whose life truly emulated the values of faith, family, and freedom that built the American miracle.

Growing up in the family grocery store business, George learned early the value of hard work and the importance of family. These values guided him throughout his long life.