

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.

When his country called, George answered the call without hesitation and served in some of the most significant battles of World War II, including D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, and the Ardennes campaign.

It is because of the bravery of men like George that we enjoy the freedoms we do today.

After returning home from the war, George continued his journey and became an entrepreneur, where his work ethic and dedication helped him to grow a successful local business.

He was always ready to give back to the community and even served as a volunteer firefighter, but it was at home where George truly thrived and where he built his beautiful family with his devoted wife of 75 years. He loved nothing more than spending time with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even great-great-grandchildren.

Quite the storyteller, those closest to him tell of him captivating family and friends with tales of those significant battle campaigns that he was in.

Faith was the key central focus to George's life. Oftentimes George's powerful voice could be heard singing hymns loudly in worship, praising the Lord with all his heart. This faith guided him, giving him strength and comfort his whole life.

As we look back on George's life, we are reminded of the profound impact one person can have on a family, a community, and a nation. George's life is a testament to service, love, and faith, and he lived fully, loved deeply, and served honorably.

As we honor him today, let's remember the legacy that he left and strive to live with the same courage, dedication, and love that he showed every day of his 104 years.

HONORING OFFICER KYLE HICKS

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Kyle Hicks of the Corpus Christi Police Department who tragically died in the line of duty on April 24, 2024.

Kyle was a dedicated husband, father, and public servant to all who knew him. He was known for his selflessness, steadfast integrity, and tireless commitment to his community.

Kyle was 12 years old when he became a Texan. He graduated from Grace Preparatory Academy in Arlington, marking the start of a life devoted to public service and dedication to others.

Family was central to Kyle's life. In his early years as an employee of Chick-fil-A, he met his future wife, Cassie, whom he married in Arlington, and they soon became proud parents of four.

It didn't take long for Kyle and Cassie to pursue public service as a family. Even after being promoted to general manager at Chick-fil-A, Kyle decided to follow his dream to serve and protect his community, and in January of 2023, he graduated from the police academy to become an officer

with the Corpus Christi Police Department.

As an officer, Kyle Hicks was beloved by his colleagues. He was known for his quiet strength, his unique sense of humor, and his unwavering integrity.

Throughout his career as a police officer, Kyle devoted himself entirely to the safety and well-being of our families and our community, serving to make Corpus Christi a better and safer place for everyone.

As we grieve his loss, we take comfort in knowing that he lived a life of profound purpose. His sacrifice is a testament to the courage and dedication of our law enforcement officers, inspiring all of us to honor his memory through our commitment to service.

John 15:13 says this: Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends.

It is humbling to think that we get to enjoy the blessings of liberty because of people like Kyle who have committed their life to service.

May God bring comfort to his loved ones and grant them His peace which surpasses all understanding during this very difficult time. Our prayers are with them.

□ 1030

HONORING BARRY ROMO

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my friend Barry Romo, who passed away earlier this month.

Barry was a decorated Vietnam veteran who, having seen the horrors of the U.S. role in Vietnam, became a leading organizer. He challenged the Pentagon and White House narratives about the conflict, and he organized actions on The National Mall, at the Supreme Court, and at Arlington National Cemetery to protest the war.

Barry was the national coordinator for Vietnam Veterans Against the War for more than 40 years. In that role, he advocated for greater healthcare coverage for veterans affected by Agent Orange and other toxins. His activism later extended to other social justice causes, like affordable housing, veterans homelessness prevention, and workplace fairness.

Barry was a longtime resident of the Logan Square neighborhood in Chicago, where he was a mentor to other veterans, as well. Our community will miss Barry.

Rest in peace.

SUPPORTING 2024 FARM BILL

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the 2024 farm bill. The farm bill touches the lives of

every person in this country no matter who you are or where you are from—rural, urban, or suburban.

That is why it is such an honor to be the southern Illinois voice on the House Agriculture Committee. I have been given the opportunity to build an incredible relationship with our farmers across my district, and I have sought their input in traveling around to meet with them where they are at. Their feedback has been critical in this process.

For me, this farm bill is a partnership with my people. Farmers and producers in my district understand the positive impact the farm bill has on rural communities.

In southern Illinois, agriculture is our second largest employer, just behind Scott Air Force Base. I am proud to serve the 10,000 producers in one of the most diverse agricultural districts in this United States.

In addition to growing staples like corn and soybeans, we are also home to a variety of specialty crops, livestock, and dairy. While each one might be different, they all share the same goal: a strong farm safety net.

Our farmers produce the food, fuel, and fiber that this Nation runs on. They play an essential role in our communities. It is only right that we support them and have their backs in times of need. That is why the farm bill exists. It is not just written for good times. It is also written for the bad.

When your crops fail, the farm bill provides a safety net. When you need a loan to save a family farm, the farm bill ensures access to credit. When your community needs an updated water system, the farm bill secures that funding.

When your rural home lacks internet access, the farm bill bridges that gap for broadband service. When you need help feeding your family, the farm bill supports healthy nutrition programs to make sure Americans don't go to bed hungry.

The farm bill has always been a top priority for me. By reinforcing crop insurance and boosting commodity reference prices, we are supporting the agricultural industries on their worst days and investing in tomorrow. This is vitally important.

Another key priority of mine is ensuring farmers not only feed folks at home but around the world. My district is blessed to be located between the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. We are strategically placed to export our commodities abroad. In 2022, Illinois exports for corn and soybean totaled over \$3.5 billion.

The MAP and FMD programs play a critical role in moving commodities from farmers' fields to foreign markets. However, these programs are often oversubscribed and underfunded, leaving producers at a competitive disadvantage on the global market. We need to bolster these programs, expand into new markets, and strengthen our trade relations.