

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.

Lastly, we need to establish guidelines for large solar panel projects that are eating up acre after acre of prime farmland. My constituents have had enough. We must give local communities a say in the approval process.

That is why I am pleased that my bill, the SOLAR Act, has been included in this legislation. We are giving producers the flexibility to use solar energy on their farms while setting guidelines for large projects.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to restate my support for the farm bill. The bill is a big win for our farmers. It will have a big impact across the country, and I urge my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee to support this bill as it moves through the markup process tomorrow. I hope it will receive strong support on the House floor, as well.

STORIES OF SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Military Appreciation Month and ahead of Memorial Day to recognize some of the many Virginians who have contributed to Virginia's proud legacy of military service and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Earlier this month, I reached out to families across the Seventh District asking them to share "Stories of Service," recognizing the unwavering courage and commitment of their loved ones who have answered the call to serve our country.

I am honored to work on behalf of so many military families and veterans, and I am grateful for the opportunity to stand here today to read some of the extraordinary stories I received.

Lisa Harms from Stafford County recognized her daughter, Second Lieutenant Sabrina Harms, who is currently serving in the U.S. Air Force.

A UVA alumna, granddaughter of World War II and Korean war veterans, and the niece of Vietnam and Persian war veterans, Sabrina is in her third year of medical school at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and will graduate as a family medicine doctor next May to care for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

I thank Sabrina for her devotion to our country and fellow servicemembers. Lisa must be incredibly proud.

Bonnie, who lives in Stafford County, shared with me the story of her father, Jesse James Verling, a lifelong Orange County resident.

Mr. Verling never talked much of the details of his service in the Philippines and the European theater during World War II. However, following his passing, Bonnie opened his safe deposit box and discovered his military decorations, getting to understand more about her father's brave and dedicated service on behalf of our country.

Our Nation owes an immense debt of gratitude to every one of our neighbors who put on the uniform. I thank Bonnie for recognizing her father's service and allowing me the opportunity to do so in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

William Hosp from Prince William County shared his father's story of service. William Brokaw Hosp, Sr., served in the U.S. Army during World War II, having enlisted straight out of high school.

After seeing combat during the Battle of the Bulge, he was transferred to Okinawa following Germany's unconditional surrender. He ultimately served on both fronts of the war. His resolve, courage, and commitment to democracy are an inspiration. I am glad to have received his story and have the opportunity to recognize his service.

Stephen from Orange County recognized many members of his family who served to preserve the freedoms we enjoy as Americans: his father and two uncles who served during World War II, his brother who served in Vietnam, and his brother who served stateside as a member of the detail at Fort Myer responsible for interring the honored dead at Arlington National Cemetery.

Stephen wrote: "As they say, freedom isn't free, and we should all be thankful every day for those willing to pay the price."

I am grateful for Stephen's family's sacrifices on behalf of our country.

As we head toward Memorial Day weekend, we remember the Virginians who bravely defended and died for our country, Virginians like Second Lieutenant Leonard M. Cowherd III. Leonard's sister, Lauren Salinas, wrote to me about her brother's career in service.

After growing up in Culpeper County, Leonard graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2003, and he was deployed in early 2004. He was killed in action in Iraq on May 16, 2004. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Lauren wrote: "Twenty years have passed, but I remain grateful for the support and the love we still receive from many who knew Leonard in the community."

We will never forget the Virginians whose individual sacrifices allow us to enjoy the promises of freedom. My heart is with Leonard's family as they continue to hold his memory and spirit with them.

We honor every one of our neighbors who are serving or have served in the United States of America's uniform and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms.

This Memorial Day, I encourage all of my colleagues and all Americans across the country to reflect on the service and the sacrifice of the brave servicemembers—our neighbors, friends, and loved ones—who paid the heavy price of freedom as we remember those who never came home.

HONORING CENTENNIAL OF FOREIGN SERVICE

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Foreign Service.

Over the past century, Foreign Service officers, many of whom call Virginia home, have worked tirelessly around the globe to help maintain the global leadership of the United States.

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working alongside many Foreign Service officers. These Americans display an unwavering commitment to our diplomacy and our national security.

As we celebrate 100 years of modern American diplomacy, let's pause to reflect on the invaluable contributions made by these public servants on behalf of our country, even while facing threats and working far from their hometowns and, oftentimes, their families.

I stand here today to express my profound gratitude to these officers, as well as to honor the hundreds of members of our Foreign Service who have given their lives in service abroad.

To recognize this important centennial, I encourage my colleagues to support the bill to mint a commemorative coin celebrating 100 years of the U.S. Foreign Service.

HONORING JACQUIE WALKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Jacquie Walker on her remarkable career after 40 years of service as an anchor and reporter for WIVB Channel 4 News in Buffalo.

Today, Jacquie steps away from the anchor desk for the last time. For decades, Jacquie Walker has been a trusted and beloved journalist tasked with delivering the very best news with joy and the very worst news with grace.

There is a reason she has been awarded an Emmy as well as the prestigious Silver Circle Award by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Jacquie has also been inducted in the New York State Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the Buffalo Broadcasters Hall of Fame. These are a few of her awards and achievements. If I were to read the entire list, I would be here all day.

As she signs off today, western New York is losing a universally trusted voice delivering the news of the day to the Buffalo-Niagara region.

Jacquie is an immense talent who has helped to shape so many historical moments for our community. In fact, Jacquie is the longest tenured news anchor at one station in the history of the Buffalo media market. She leaves huge shoes to fill behind Channel 4's anchor desk tonight. She will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, Jacquie's integrity, her commitment to excellence, and her dedication to her craft set a standard