

kids healthy food, while at the same time providing food they will actually eat and enjoy.

Mrs. Evelyn Hicks has been, in every sense, a devoted and passionate advocate for the children she has helped feed throughout her many years through school nutrition. I am proud to call Mrs. Hicks a friend and a fellow Alabamian, and she is truly deserving of this recognition from the United States House of Representatives.

I wish her all the very best for the future in all that she is involved with.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY HALL

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, the Honorable DAVID VALADAO, in memory of Mr. Harvey Hall. Mr. Hall served as the mayor of Bakersfield, California from 2000 to 2016 and will be remembered as a community icon who never stopped believing in the city he called home.

A lifelong resident of Bakersfield, Harvey Hall was a model civil servant, a community legend who would greet you wearing one of his trademark suits and a welcoming smile. Mayor Hall was a cheerleader for Bakersfield in the purest sense. He was an advocate for the businesses and organizations of the city he served, and it was not uncommon to see him each and every day at ribbon-cutting ceremonies or lending his support at community gatherings across Bakersfield. Everyone knew Mayor Hall, and Mayor Hall made it his goal to get to know everyone he met. He was a man who remembered names and would always make the time to pull you aside for a chat, no matter who you were. When you were with Mayor Hall, you always felt like the most important person in the room.

Outside of his responsibilities in City Hall, Mr. Hall focused himself on bettering the quality of life in Kern County. A consummate businessman, Mayor Hall founded Hall Ambulance Services, Inc., an emergency services company that has been a mainstay in Kern County for nearly 50 years. Mayor Hall had a heart for education and dedicated his mayoral salary to the Kern Community Foundation, awarding over \$250,000 to fund scholarships for local

high school students pursuing secondary education during his time in office.

More than anything else, Mayor Hall's love of community was illustrated in quieter ways. He used his own money to help Bakersfield's homeless get back on their feet and would regularly host community clean-ups to beautify a city he saw nothing but potential in. Mayor Hall welcomed the diverse communities that make Bakersfield the community that it is, and was a mainstay at the annual Sikh Parade and Harvest Festival. Most importantly, he understood the power of a thank-you note and would always offer his humble thanks for the smallest of gestures. This love of community extended outside of Bakersfield too, for Mayor Hall understood that Kern County was a better place when all of its communities succeeded. He often gave his ear to neighboring communities and always made himself available to provide assistance or advice when it was needed.

There is a lesson to be learned in the manner in which Mayor Hall lived. He was a man who lived life's purpose both in and out of public service. He was a man forged by a city that he made into his own. He was a man who never missed an obligation, who always knew the true potential and promise of Bakersfield and its residents. Harvey Hall made an indelible impression on Kern County, and it is our every hope that those whose lives he impacted honor his legacy by showing the same love, passion, and dedication to Bakersfield as our city's longest-serving mayor did. For some, he was "Mayor Hall." For others, he was just "Harvey." But for us, he will always be "Mr. Bakersfield." We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Lavonne, his children, grandchildren, and a community that loves him as much as he loved it. Mayor Hall exemplified the best qualities of Bakersfield and will be missed, but he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to shape our community for years to come.

HONORING GAIL K. WRIGHT

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Kentuckian, Gail K. Wright. Mrs.

Wright was born in Menifee County, Kentucky. Her parents taught her to love God and family and to be grateful. They taught her to treat everyone the same, no matter their economic status. These values shaped her life and carried over into her professional career. Mrs. Wright grew up on her family's farm and developed a love for reading. She went on to graduate from Morehead State University. She and her husband now live in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky.

Mrs. Wright has served as the Executive Director of the Gateway Area Development District in northeastern Kentucky for almost 30 years. She is unquestionably a leader in the field of economic and community development, with an extensive background in grant writing and administration. She has vast knowledge of federal, state, and local programs. Mrs. Wright became the chair of the Kentucky Area Development District's Executive Directors. She is quite an active member in her community and in the five county ADD region. Mrs. Wright serves on numerous boards related to community and economic development, education, tourism, downtown revitalization, and chambers.

After making tremendous progress in the Gateway ADD region over the past 30 years, Mrs. Wright is retiring. Her love for the people of Eastern Kentucky and her passion for helping to better their lives will certainly be missed. I wish her all the best of everything in her retirement and I thank her for her service and leadership. It is my honor to recognize Gail K. Wright before the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Tuesday, May 22, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Roll Call votes 210 and 211, and "yea" on Roll Call vote 212.