

CELEBRATING GEORGE HYAK'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish Mr. George Hyak, of Victoria, Texas, a heartfelt happy 100th birthday and thank him for his service to our country.

George is an example of a life well-lived. He and his precious bride Sarah met at church as young teens. They kept in touch with handwritten notes while he was deployed a few short years later. Their love has lasted for decades—February marked 71 years of marriage and brought them two children, six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson. George also co-founded Dicks Food Stores in 1938, which his family still operates to this day in my hometown of Victoria. His family recalls that from a young age as one of six children, he worked to help provide for his family. Throughout his life, George has worked with diligence and integrity and in service to others.

George was drafted in 1942 into the Army VIII Corps under General Troy Middleton. Two years into his service, June 6, 1944, became a day that not only shaped George's life but the course of our entire nation and indeed the world. George joined more than 160,000 troops on D-Day as the Allies launched the largest seaborne invasion in history. In the words of Winston Churchill, the operation was "undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult that has ever occurred." Starting as an infantryman, George landed on the beaches of Normandy with the second wave of troops and took on enemy fire. Mr. Hyak risked his life to help turn the tide of the war in Europe, which ultimately led to its liberation.

What's more, he also bravely fought at the Battle of the Bulge and was one of the first in the group to invade Ohrdruf, a German concentration camp. As the war in Europe was coming to a close, George was in Frankfurt, Germany, awaiting orders to deploy for the invasion of Japan. I can imagine the emotions they must have felt when they heard the war was finally over—and instead they'd be headed home.

When George returned home, he continued to operate Dick's Food Stores. The longevity of the establishment earned it the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Treasure Business Award. It's an honor bestowed on businesses for providing employment opportunities and boosting the state's economy for at least 50 years.

George continues to bless the lives of those who've come to know him, whether a fellow soldier or friend. As we look to celebrate Thanksgiving, we as a nation have a lot to be thankful for. George is one of them. May Mr. Hyak's life serve as a reminder of the price that he and others like him paid for our freedom.

God has always had a plan for Mr. Hyak, and for us today George Hyak's life paints a picture of sacrifice and duty that we can all learn from. I join his friends and family in celebrating 100 years and thanking him for his service to our nation. Happy 100th Birthday, George.

TERRE HAUTE SAVINGS BANK
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terre Haute Savings Bank for 150 years of service to the people of the Wabash Valley.

Since first welcoming customers in downtown Terre Haute on December 1, 1869, the bank has expanded to eight locations in Vigo and Clay Counties. Terre Haute Savings Bank has put a focus on supporting local communities and local nonprofit organizations.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Bart Colwell, CEO of Terre Haute Savings Bank, and all employees on a successful 150 years of business. As Terre Haute Savings Bank continues to "Believe in the Valley," I wish them the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on November 15, 2019 during roll call no. 617, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, Torres of California Amendment No. 2. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 618, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, Flores of Texas Amendment No. 3. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 619, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, McAdams of Utah Amendment No. 4. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 620, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, Davidson of Ohio Amendment No. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 621, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, Stevens of Michigan Amendment No. 18. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 622, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, Torres Small of New Mexico Amendment No. 21. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 623, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 4863, United States Export Finance Agency Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 624, On Passage, H.R. 4863, United States Export Finance Agency Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ISAAC DANIEL CONNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Isaac Daniel Conner. Isaac is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Isaac has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Isaac has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Isaac has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Isaac Daniel Conner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR KYLE
STACK'S LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Kyle Stack for her lifetime of service. Mayor Stack passed away on November 29, 2019 which greatly saddened our community. Her work as Mayor of the City of Trenton is worthy of commendation.

Mayor Stack served for 26 years as the city clerk, before being elected as mayor in 2011. During this time, she was the only Master Municipal Clerk in Wayne County for several years. As mayor, she was instrumental in addressing the very real issue of trains blocking crossings for too long, bringing together the Michigan Department of Transportation, Community and State Leaders to resolve this problem. Mayor Stack also worked diligently on the redevelopment of the McLouth Steel plant. She served on the Trenton Rotary Scholarship Committee, Trenton High School Hockey Team's John McKay Scholarship Selection Committee, and was the first woman president of the Trenton Rotary Club.

Mayor Stack's life stands as a role model of selfless service and demonstrates a tremendous love for her community. Beloved for her generosity and tenacity, Mayor Stack's reputation is a testament to the significant impact she had on Trenton and its residents. Her dedicated work has been critical in building and expanding the thriving community of Trenton. Mayor Stack was a champion for the residents of Trenton, a mentor to her colleagues, and her visionary leadership continues to inspire the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Kyle Stack for a lifetime of service to her community. We are grateful for her dedicated work and her compassion and leadership will be greatly missed.

IN SUPPORT OF HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, more than one quarter of all undergraduate students in the United States attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions. These schools play a critical role in unlocking higher education opportunities for millions of degree-seekers, including students of color and low-income students, of which many are the first in their family to attend college.

To protect these essential institutions from the threat of closure and financial despair, we must continue to provide them with the resources they need to prepare students for the modern economy.

Title III, Part F of the Higher Education Act authorizes important, mandatory funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority Serving Institutions to educate and prepare students for professions in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM, fields.

Unfortunately, this critical source of funding expired on September 30, 2019. This lapse jeopardizes the viability of these institutions, as well as the STEM readiness of the students they serve.

At a time when diverse representation is low in the STEM economy, Congress must immediately restore mandatory funding to prevent permanent and irreversible damage to STEM programs at these historic institutions that give students from underserved communities an opportunity to rise above their circumstances.

On September 17, 2019, the House passed the FUTURE Act, an extension of the \$255 million in essential mandatory funding for HBCUs and MSIs. Despite receiving unanimous support in the House, the bill has yet to be considered by the Senate and was not included in the continuing resolution that passed in November.

As Congress considers spending bills for next year, we must restore this vital source of funding that expands opportunities for underrepresented students. It is past time to uphold our promise to support these historic institutions and the students they serve.

STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE
TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO INCREASE HUNGER
AND FOOD INSECURITY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am alarmed and outraged by the Trump Administration's decision to increase hunger and food insecurity for millions of Americans. Governments should strengthen

their people, assist the vulnerable, and improve well-being. Instead, the Trump Administration has advanced a rule change to cut millions of low-income children, families, veterans, people with disabilities, and seniors off their food stamp benefits, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Trump Administration estimates that at least 3.1 million families would lose their SNAP benefits, including stopping free and reduced school meals for nearly one million children.

In 2017, almost 40 million people, including more than 12.5 million children, experienced food insecurity. In my home state of Illinois, more than 63 percent of SNAP participants are in families with children and almost 30 percent are in families with members who are elderly or disabled. This rule targets the most vulnerable people in my state and across the nation. Even the U.S. Department of Agriculture admits that this Trump policy would exacerbate food insecurity for millions of Americans.

This is unacceptable. Millions of low-income Americans rely on SNAP as the first line of defense against hunger and food insecurity. By imposing this harmful rule, the Trump Administration actually increases hunger and hardship by erecting additional barriers for families and individuals who are trying to meet one of the most basic needs for survival.

I stand in strong opposition to this unnecessary and spiteful rule. The Trump Administration is attempting to impose a policy that Congress has rejected twice in the last two versions of the Farm Bill via bipartisan votes. The policies of this Administration have advantaged the most secure and left working families and our most vulnerable populations behind. As the Trump Administration prioritizes giving trillions of dollars to the most privileged corporations and billionaires, it literally takes food from hungry children. I reject this disgraceful rule and will continue to fight for the people of Chicago and the nation to ensure they receive the food they need. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this proposed rule and demanding that the Trump Administration rescind the rule immediately.

HONORING NATHAN FLETCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Fletcher. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Fletcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MASTER SERGEANT JAMES
CHAMBERLAIN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sgt. James Chamberlain of La Veta, Colorado who is retiring from the U.S. Air Force after nearly 30 years of service.

Master Sgt. Chamberlain began his active duty service in 1992 shortly after graduating from Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Law Enforcement. Upon completion of his initial training, he went on to serve in numerous duty positions spanning from news broadcasting to military police security. The Air Force sent him to cities around the world such as Los Angeles, California, Azores, Portugal, and Keflavik, Iceland. His courage and service were exemplified during multiple voluntary deployments to the Middle East. During these deployments Master Sgt. Chamberlain earned dozens of awards and recognitions including the Iraq Campaign Medal with a Bronze Star, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Master Sgt. Chamberlain's military career was simultaneously complemented by his time as a police officer. He left active duty service in September 1996 and returned to his family ranch near Walsenburg, Colorado. It was there that he put his GI bill to use and graduated near the top of his class at the Southern Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy in Trinidad, Colorado. He was hired as a police officer for the city of La Junta, Colorado in August 1997. He continued his service in the Air Force Reserve as part of the 310th Security Forces Squadron at the newly renamed Schriever Air Force Base outside of Colorado Springs, Colorado, an opportunity he was eager to pursue.

In Walsenburg, the community he has most recently been serving, Master Sgt. Chamberlain was named Distinguished Officer of the Year for the Colorado Police Protective Association and received the Distinguished Service Award by the city. Additionally, he earned the Police Medal of Honor and the Rescuer Award for Valor by Southern Colorado Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. This past year, he was even recognized by La Veta Schools on Veterans Day for his service as an Air Force veteran, a testament to what his sacrifices mean to his fellow community members.

Madam Speaker, Master Sgt. Chamberlain's service to his country and enduring work-ethic will continue to have a positive impact on the community for years to come. It is my privilege to recognize him today, and express heartfelt gratitude for the important work he has done throughout his life. I wish him a happy retirement from military service and sincerely hope that he knows how proud his community, the state of Colorado, and the entire country is of his sacrifice and service both as an Airman and a police officer.