

CONGRATULATING BLAKE HURST
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize my friend and fellow Missourian, Blake Hurst who will be retiring as president of the Missouri Farm Bureau later this year.

Blake raises corn, soybeans and flowers with his family and as a farmer himself, knows firsthand the challenges Missouri farmers face, like devastating floods and changing trade tides. Because of this personal knowledge, Blake has been able to dutifully serve Missouri farmers and ranchers in this post for a decade, and in several other positions at the Missouri Farm Bureau since the 1980's.

With two-thirds of Missouri covered in farmland, we are home to a longstanding agricultural tradition that is alive and well today. I am extremely grateful that he has spent the last ten years as one of the lead advocates, supporters and resources for our state's ag industry, both in Missouri and on a national level. The Missouri Farm Bureau is the oldest in the nation and we have been incredibly fortunate to have Blake at the helm for the last ten years.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and my fellow Missouri farmers, I thank him for his service and wish him all the best on his future endeavors.

HONORING DETECTIVE JONATHAN
R. MILLER AS A RECIPIENT OF
THE VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize City of Fayetteville Police Department Detective Jonathan R. Miller as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. An outstanding member of Fayetteville Police Department, Detective Miller went beyond his call of duty on the evening of Tuesday, August 29, 2019.

While driving over a bridge, Detective Miller witnessed a driver lose consciousness at the wheel and swerve into oncoming traffic. He saw a woman in the other lane attempt to avert the oncoming vehicle and jumped into immediate action. Detective Miller pulled over and successfully stopped the moving vehicle before impact. After securing the scene, he called for medical assistance for the unconscious driver.

Detective Miller is a hero and that night he prevented not only a head on collision, but also a possible second tragedy from occurring. His quick actions, bravery, and dedication to service is a credit to him, his family, and the entire Fayetteville Police Department. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I

say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough.

Detective Miller is deserving of this honor, and I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and wish him success as he continues to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating City of Fayetteville Police Department Detective Jonathan R. Miller for receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

HONORING THE WORK OF DESIGN
LAB BY LOCKER ROOM ATHLETICS
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST
COVID-19

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional work of Design Lab by Locker Room Athletics. This local Hot Springs business has adapted their existing manufacturing to produce customized masks for organizations to continue operations during COVID-19.

When many of Locker Room Athletics' customers began to see the effects of the pandemic, they reached out to this local business to produce masks that could keep employees safe while continuing to work. By converting their manufacturing capabilities, Locker Room Athletics now serves small businesses, local school districts, corporations, and government agencies across the nation.

It is work like this that truly sets them apart as heroes in a time of national crisis. Not only does their service protect the health of their fellow man, but it also provides a way for families to continue working, for businesses to continue running, and for the economy to continue growing.

It is an honor to see work like this happening down the street in Hot Springs, Arkansas. I take this time to thank them for their service to our community and for providing an example to the rest of the nation of what true servant-leadership is.

HONORING PARAMEDIC HUNTER
FOX AS A RECIPIENT OF THE
VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cape Fear Valley Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Hunter Fox as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. An outstanding member of Cape Fear Valley EMS, Mr. Fox went beyond his call of duty on March 23, 2020.

When his ambulance was overturned following a collision with a privately owned motor vehicle, Mr. Fox took command of the scene. In an act of heroic selflessness, he rendered

aid to his partner, an EMS student, and the critically injured driver of the other vehicle. Working in conjunction with other EMS units, he successfully triaged all injured individuals and ensured that exceptional care was provided.

Mr. Fox's quick actions, bravery, and dedication to service is a credit to him, his family, and Cape Fear Valley EMS. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough.

Mr. Fox is deserving of this honor, and I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and wish him success as he continues to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Cape Fear Valley EMS Paramedic Hunter Fox for receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

CELEBRATING THE RELEASE OF
FIRST SERGEANT JOHN E.
HATLEY

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the release of First Sergeant John E. Hatley from Fort Leavenworth.

First Sergeant Hatley is an American hero who, throughout his twenty years of service, risked his life for his country time and time again. His outstanding military career as a soldier and leader in the U.S. Army is recognized by two Bronze Stars and an Army Commendation Medal for Valor—a true testament of his commitment to his country and his fellow soldiers.

First Sergeant Hatley was sentenced for the premeditated murder of four Shi'ite fighters in Iraq despite the complete absence of evidence. Not a single scrap of physical or forensic evidence was found in a thorough investigation conducted by the Army Criminal Investigation Division. Notwithstanding this paucity of evidence, First Sergeant Hatley has been imprisoned for nearly a decade.

Throughout his time at Fort Leavenworth, First Sergeant Hatley has availed himself of programs available within the barracks for self-improvement, and he has nearly completed a Master of Business Administration degree. He also consistently maintained a positive attitude, led other inmates by example, and even saved a fellow inmate's life.

First Sergeant Hatley is a man with strong family support, a stellar military record, a phenomenal moral compass, and an essentially perfect record while incarcerated. His career was characterized by honor, sacrifice, and valor. Now that he will return to his rightful place in life as a contributing member of society, First Sergeant Hatley is planning to build a home for his disabled mother and father. He also plans to marry his girlfriend, Pamela Miller.

John, I hope that you may continue to serve as an example to other soldiers and the American people. Thank you for your outstanding service to this country. I wish you the best of luck as you return to your proper place in society, and I wish you a lifetime of happiness in your future marriage and life.

HONORING MICHAEL KUNKO

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Michael Kunko for receiving the 2020 Encompass Health Rehab Award.

Following a stroke, Mike entered outpatient therapy on November 20, 2019. After seventeen days of acute care, he transferred to inpatient rehab for two and a half weeks. At the time, he had minimal use of his right arm and right leg due to significant hemiparesis, impaired vision and functionality, and short-term memory loss issues.

With the help of his positive attitude and fighting spirit, Mike persevered. He worked hard in rehab and slowly began to see improvement. He attended appointments regularly, and he continued his work at home with the help and support of his family. As a result of his hard work and dedication, I'm pleased to report that Mike now can walk without assistance—and even participate in many of the activities he enjoyed before he suffered a stroke.

Mike Kunko is a shining example of the benefits of hard work and determination. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Mike on his progress and wish him every continued success in his recovery.

HONORING DR. RICHARD RIVERA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Richard Rivera on his well-deserved retirement from the Weslaco Independent School District. Dr. Rivera instilled his own philosophy of education throughout the local community where now many generations share and foster his ideals. He not only shaped the community as a school board member and superintendent, but also as a teacher, role model, and mentor.

Dr. Rivera's journey in education began in 1967 as a schoolteacher and coach. With every student he taught, parent he advised, and co-worker he befriended, his passion to expand and build upon the established education system grew, leading him to rise to the position of Principal at both Mary Hoge Junior High School in 1974 and Weslaco High School in 1979.

Dr. Rivera firmly believes that "education is the great equalizer," and made it his life's mission to open doors for the students of our region. To achieve his vision for the community, Dr. Rivera cultivated a nurturing and collaborative environment during his 14 years of service as the Weslaco ISD Superintendent. Dr. Rivera recognized that in order to make a positive impact on students, the educational organization and the individuals who make up the school setting are critical in enriching and growing students' knowledge and experience. As such, our region's education system underwent a phase of great transformation. Student

academic programs were expanded, school facilities were upgraded, and staff engagement was prioritized.

Dr. Rivera believed in investing in people and prioritized mentoring his employees. There are countless testimonies from Weslaco ISD Staff who credit their careers to Dr. Rivera's dedication and deep commitment to employee support programs.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Dr. Richard Rivera for his 53 years of wholehearted devotion to the students and teachers of Weslaco. Dr. Rivera has undoubtedly had an indelible impact on educators throughout our region and has made a lasting impression on our students. I commend him on a well-earned retirement and wish him the best in every future endeavor.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ALAN LEVY**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, and pillar of the South Florida community, Alan Levy. Alan called Fort Lauderdale home for more than 70 years and was the founder, Chief Executive Officer, and President of Great American Farms, a Pompano Beach-based agricultural marketing firm. He passed away on October 7, 2020, at the age of 80.

Alan was a selfless leader who served on numerous nonprofit boards and was a passionate supporter of HANDY, a nonprofit that serves at-risk youth in South Florida. He dedicated a large portion of his life to helping youth and families in our community by ensuring they had every opportunity to succeed, serving as a beacon of hope for the less fortunate.

His dedication and passion for nonprofit organizations was beyond compare. Once he was asked, if he could wave a magic wand and do two things for Broward County what would they be? Alan responded by saying he "wanted to strengthen our educational system from early childhood all the way through to universities." He continued by saying, "Seeing is believing. We can't just sit here and wait for somebody else to do it. You've got to get behind it, make the decision that you are going to make it happen, believe in it, and have a passion for its success."

Madam Speaker, Alan did just that, he supported our community, believed in all of us, and because of that unyielding passion, ensured our success and the success of generations to come. It is true that our community has lost a hero, but it is undoubtedly the case that we are better for having had Alan in our lives. I will miss him dearly. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Marsha, and his children, Eric and Hope. I pray they find comfort during this extremely difficult time. May Alan's life and legacy live on for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BRAZIL'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (APIB)

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB) and their internationally respected leader, Secretary General Sonia Guajajara, for receiving the prestigious Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award from the Institute for Policy Studies on October 15, 2020.

I would like to add my heartfelt congratulations for their important work in defense of the rights of Indigenous Peoples from across Brazil and protection of the many natural ecosystems that are part of Brazil's ancestral territories.

APIB and Brazil's National Indigenous Movement have raised the profile of Indigenous rights issues through impressive grassroots mobilizations, such as the annual Free Land Camp, the implementation of the Indigenous Emergency Plan to Combat COVID-19, precedent-setting legal victories before the Brazilian Supreme Court, and international advocacy among influential spaces like the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations.

I share my special admiration for the powerful leadership roles played by many Indigenous women at both national and local levels, even with the imminent threats coming from the administration of President Jair Bolsonaro. Unfortunately, under President Bolsonaro's administration, there has been an increase of violent actions against Indigenous peoples, like the invasions into Indigenous lands, illegal exploitation of natural resources and other incidents, rising from 109 cases in 2018 to 256 last year. This also includes the threats against and killings of Indigenous leaders and Forest Guardians, like Emyra Wajãpi, Paulo Paulino Guajajara, and Ari Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau, among countless others.

While those situations are condemnable, I applaud the work performed by APIB during these difficult times, and as they continue to create a movement of solidarity. Since 2005, APIB's presence has been essential to strengthening and unifying Indigenous peoples' demands, politics, and rights. By building and strengthening alliances with the international Indigenous movement and other social movements, APIB is contributing to protect natural resources and promoting sustainable management of lands.

To conclude, I'd like to mention APIB Secretary General Sonia Guajajara's words: "Our lives are inextricable from the natural world. The creatures of the rainforest protect us, and in turn we protect them. We are the only buffers protecting our thinning forests. Our battle is not just for the future. It's for the present."

Thank you, APIB, for your extraordinary and essential work for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Earth.