

00:00:03:08 - 00:00:09:09

Speaker 1

Welcome to my desktop. It's an honor and a privilege. On behalf of our chapter here, to be.

00:00:09:09 - 00:00:10:11

Speaker 2

Hosting the 1990.

00:00:10:11 - 00:00:11:02

Speaker 3

Six state.

00:00:11:02 - 00:00:20:11

Speaker 1

Convention. It's also my privilege to, come up to the platform and take the, about this time for volunteering at the state chairperson.

00:00:20:14 - 00:00:21:03

Speaker 2

Somebody asked.

00:00:21:03 - 00:00:24:25

Speaker 1

Me this about a year ago when I first started, and I said, no.

00:00:24:25 - 00:00:32:01

Speaker 3

No problem. yesterday, very different situation. I think it's going to be very well.

00:00:32:03 - 00:00:49:23

Speaker 1

welcome, all of you. From all the chapters, especially those from a great distance. This morning we had a salute from our manifesto chapter, Color Guard. Thank you all. So at our breakfast meeting we had some dignitaries from this, the city council chairman, City.

00:00:49:23 - 00:00:55:11

Speaker 3

Council chairman Tim, Fisher and also a board of supervisors and chairperson Pat Paul.

00:00:55:11 - 00:01:03:19

Speaker 1

Thank you. It's a privilege to be up here to say that on behalf of the American GI forum, we.

00:01:03:19 - 00:01:04:09

Speaker 2

Come together.

00:01:04:09 - 00:01:09:28

Speaker 1

To share the things that we believe in. We hope during this conference that we'll be able to express.

00:01:09:28 - 00:01:10:11

Speaker 3

Those kind of.

00:01:10:11 - 00:01:36:17

Speaker 1

Things, especially for the youth. We have a full gender, and we'd like to do is just to continue on our agenda, this as a state now and, and enjoy ourselves. One of the things in the Central Valley that we

enjoy so much are the, fruits. And that's an abundance of the crops that are here. We also ask you to, enjoy yourself with the entertainment that we have available and to enjoy anything else that we can.

00:01:36:17 - 00:01:37:20

Speaker 3

Share with you.

00:01:37:22 - 00:01:51:21

Speaker 1

If they need anything. Those of us that have the will reference the committee chair. People ask us and we'll help you. Thank you.

00:01:51:23 - 00:01:53:27

Unknown

I know for a job well done.

00:01:54:00 - 00:02:06:19

Speaker 1

At this time, I'd like to introduce the state officers and, And the state commander, our third vice commander, Mister Richard Martinez from South.

00:02:06:21 - 00:02:10:29

Speaker 1

Vice commander is, Mr. Rose. Gloria, to sit here in front with us.

00:02:10:29 - 00:02:14:17

Speaker 3

This morning, grab a charity work. Yeah, I know.

00:02:14:19 - 00:02:20:08

Speaker 1

but I failed to get a quorum for.

00:02:20:11 - 00:02:31:27

Speaker 1

We appreciate the work that that that everybody has done. Our state treasurer, Mr. Leo Aguilar, and our state commander.

00:02:32:00 - 00:02:39:01

Speaker 1

Okay. Thank. And our secretary, Mr. Sound, that's on. Thank you very much.

00:02:39:04 - 00:02:55:01

Speaker 1

And our chaplain is on Mr.. Our banner okay. Our parking there orange is the second radio Navarro who has not arrived yet but I appointed city council from federal state chapter to be our good. But I'm sorry.

00:02:55:01 - 00:02:56:07

Speaker 3

I'm sorry did not. Yeah.

00:02:56:09 - 00:03:03:10

Speaker 1

And so we have been taken over film. I'm not that familiar. Our women's state chairperson, Mr. Mariana Tinoco.

00:03:03:10 - 00:03:11:02

Speaker 3

Thank you for taking.

00:03:11:04 - 00:03:27:20

Speaker 5

Wednesday. Us in your your men and women. We can set up classes on Capitol Hill in Modesto or untrammelled Travel and I noticed that I can do that if I could, but that I can, since.

00:03:27:20 - 00:03:29:15

Speaker 3

Anything we don't do.

00:03:29:18 - 00:03:43:04

Speaker 5

Is, for that matter. That this country that the front of arms patrol, Congress and you.

00:03:43:06 - 00:03:45:25

Speaker 5

In a moment. I need that been working.

00:03:45:25 - 00:03:47:03

Speaker 3

Real hard and.

00:03:47:06 - 00:04:01:25

Speaker 5

With the Queen coordinator will introduce them to you individually so that you can see how beautiful they are one by one. it's really nice to be here in Modesto. Was very nice to speak to the guest speakers that were here earlier. I look.

00:04:01:25 - 00:04:02:29

Speaker 3

Forward to a very.

00:04:02:29 - 00:04:26:00

Speaker 5

Fruitful convention. at 10:00 we will meet, shortly, because at 11, I can serve. You ready to be back here for that press conference? So please don't forget it. And I do want to say that I'm really impressed with the job that the whole committee has done. They really have been working hard. It's a thankless job and a lot of work.

00:04:26:00 - 00:04:31:15

Speaker 5

So my special thanks goes to the committee and the members of the best of.

00:04:31:17 - 00:04:38:11

Speaker 3

What you can.

00:04:38:13 - 00:05:09:10

Speaker 1

Thank you. I, I'm sure it's a pleasure to have you with us. I'm going to state to person. I like to ask, Anita to come and introduce her state clean and green candidate. he had been one of the hardest working members of the American here from California. Thank you for joining.

00:05:09:13 - 00:05:40:19

Speaker 5

Good morning and welcome. It is my honor and pleasure to introduce to you our state Queen, April Machuca. And I ask her to come up and she will introduce the, candidates. April, would you give up the cameras?

00:05:40:21 - 00:05:50:05

Speaker 5

Thank you for bringing everybody. somebody I would like to introduce to, the Queen flying for my crown this year.

00:05:50:11 - 00:05:52:05

Speaker 3

So,

00:05:52:08 - 00:06:04:14

Speaker 5

Let us start with, the young lady representing the Stockton chapter that will allow us to.

00:06:04:16 - 00:06:17:27

Speaker 5

Next is our young lady from East Valley. her name is the night Amber Phenix.

00:06:18:00 - 00:06:27:14

Speaker 5

Representing the Selsey Chapter. We have by Mr. Ramirez.

00:06:27:17 - 00:06:31:11

Speaker 5

And last but not least, we have an item that.

00:06:31:12 - 00:06:39:19

Unknown

That you're always remember to.

00:06:39:22 - 00:07:04:27

Speaker 5

these girls, like I said before, will be vying for the crown at tomorrow night. So we wish them all the best of luck. And, as you can see, they're very lovely. So the judges will have a hard time figuring out who should be our next queen. drop.

00:07:05:00 - 00:07:34:17

Speaker 5

We have, a special for the girls that, is going to be very busy and, if you don't see them for a while, sometimes, you know that they're practicing their speeches and material and also, I would like to thank the chaperons. with my check up, which is 10 to 20. So they'll know where you and.

00:07:34:20 - 00:07:39:27

Unknown

will have.

00:07:40:00 - 00:07:53:23

Speaker 5

And especially girls, Florence has consistently with the girls, you know, just seeing that they're, all their needs have been met. Thank you. So, really, thank you for.

00:07:53:25 - 00:08:02:23

Speaker 5

And we have, other two other, family members that are arriving later.

00:08:02:25 - 00:08:04:20

Speaker 3

Hopefully.

00:08:04:22 - 00:08:31:07

Speaker 2

Thank you. Willie. fellow foreigners, I would like to thank the great opportunity that has been given to me to, honor some of this hero that we have within our organization. And, we'll start off by letting you

know that sometime this afternoon, we are going to have, Colonel Jay Vargas, who is a recipient of the Medal of Honor, 30 years in the Marine Corps.

00:08:31:08 - 00:08:52:16

Speaker 2

He's also the secretary for Veterans affairs for the state of California. He will be coming in shortly this afternoon. But presently we have with us a gentleman that received he should have received a medal of honor, but he didn't. So they gave him the one right below the Medal of Honor, which is the Distinguished Service Cross. And this is for gallantry in action in Europe during World War two.

00:08:52:18 - 00:09:14:21

Speaker 2

received the Distinguished Service Cross. just, a couple of years ago, a little bit later, about 50 years late. But they had forgotten through the system that he had earned the Distinguished Service Cross. So we worked it out together with the six Army, the Presidio, and were able to award, this, Distinguished Medal to, Mr. Ronaldo Medina.

00:09:14:24 - 00:09:28:03

Speaker 2

And if he, would kindly come forward.

00:09:28:06 - 00:09:49:05

Speaker 2

secondly, we have, with us, I know there's a lot of heroes among us here, and I want to introduce some of the, ones that have been recognized recently. One that just got back from, New York City. And he was recognized for his heroism in Normandy. the Normandy invasion at Omaha Beach on June 6th.

00:09:49:08 - 00:10:05:14

Speaker 2

they had a reunion with the 30th Division, and we have, with us, Mr., Isidore Sanchez, who is busy taking pictures, but, he should be recognized.

00:10:05:17 - 00:10:21:23

Speaker 2

I forgot to do one thing in this to introduce the beautiful wife side, Mr. Medina's wife. Jesse Jose shouldn't be back there. Mr. Sanchez wife, Mary, sitting right here with us. Would you please stand, please?

00:10:21:25 - 00:10:44:15

Speaker 2

Also from Vietnam. We have quite a few, heroes and and, they're all heroes. Anybody that serve the military, they're all heroes in my book. And we have, David, Ramirez. Rodriguez. I'm sorry. David Rodriguez, who served in Vietnam very gallantly. I believe he received three, silver stars. David, are you here?

00:10:44:22 - 00:10:46:13

Speaker 1

Yes. He is. Come on.

00:10:46:20 - 00:11:16:06

Speaker 2

David. Well, I was talking to David, but we're going to please. Just in. He's also the, He's also the San Jose chapter commander. And the other gentleman I'm hoping is here, who did real well. And, showed his heroism was able quarter from Vietnam. war. Is he here is April quarter. Here is April quarter.

00:11:16:07 - 00:11:19:04

Speaker 2

Are you here? Would you come forward, please?

00:11:19:07 - 00:11:20:10

Speaker 3

Sorry.

00:11:20:12 - 00:11:49:06

Speaker 2

Okay. we have, another gentleman here, as we went along through World War Two. Then Korea came along, and first we picked up metal after metal. Medal of Honor of people. We picked up a total of 38 Congressional Medal of honors throughout his wars. And, during the Korean War, we had a gentleman that served with the Indian, had second Infantry Division, and he unfortunately got caught at, Heartbreak Ridge in Korea, where they lost a lot of people there.

00:11:49:09 - 00:12:17:05

Speaker 2

If you were in Korea, you know what Heartbreak Ridge was all about. I like to bring to you Mr. Joseph Pain. Joe, are you here? Come on. Okay. He's probably on his way over here. Joe is also a, He's our secretary for the East Valley chapter, which I command. And, of course, also, we have, the, the two gentlemen that I introduced previously, Mr. Medina, Mr. Sanchez.

00:12:17:08 - 00:12:29:19

Speaker 2

They're also members of the East Valley chapter. So I'm just so happy and honored to have this type of, heroes in my organization.

00:12:29:21 - 00:12:55:28

Speaker 2

Okay. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Mr. Martinez, and at this time, I'd like to really recognize our war heroes and all those veterans that served in the armed forces during, all these conflicts that we've had, the World War two, World War One and others. And that's we're stalling for just a few seconds here while the people are sitting down and coming in.

00:12:56:01 - 00:13:07:06

Speaker 2

We were about ready to start our press conference, and, please, everybody sit down at this time, please.

00:13:07:09 - 00:13:19:24

Speaker 2

I think the women's, group has, already broke and,

00:13:19:26 - 00:13:23:07

Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:13:23:09 - 00:13:40:28

Speaker 2

Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, I'd like to ask you to stand. And observe. just a few seconds in memory of those soldiers who have died in task force, and especially the ones that just died.

00:13:41:00 - 00:13:52:26

Speaker 3

In, so or.

00:13:52:28 - 00:13:54:06

Speaker 2

Thank you very much.

00:13:54:09 - 00:13:56:27

Speaker 3

For a.

00:13:57:00 - 00:14:37:27

Speaker 2

Great. At this time, we're starting a press conference, and I'd like to introduce the person that will lead the press conference in lieu of our national commander, who is in Bosnia. And today with Secretary of Defense Bill Perry there in, Saudi Arabia, Mr.. Jack Reed and our national director, Mr.. Tony Morales.

with the Secretary of Defense in Saudi Arabia and our next highest official from the American G.I. forum, national official is Mr. Leo Avila, and he will, then proceed with the press conference.

00:14:37:29 - 00:14:42:25

Speaker 6

Which.

00:14:42:27 - 00:14:44:13

Speaker 6

Good morning.

00:14:44:16 - 00:14:45:19

Speaker 3

India.

00:14:45:22 - 00:15:46:20

Speaker 6

On behalf of the American G.I.. Forum of California, we welcome you here this morning. We are gathered here today. To pay our respects. To those young people that found peace at last, in death, in the service of our country and that far distant place called Saudi Arabia. We ask there are that the rest as peaceful. And we honor their memory because they have joined the countless thousands that have given their all in the service of our country.

00:15:46:22 - 00:16:07:28

Speaker 6

These people did not question if it was right to be in Saudi Arabia. They had a duty to their country, and they gave their all. And the fulfillment of that duty. No man can give more.

00:16:08:00 - 00:16:44:18

Speaker 6

In every instance, can we as veterans, a veterans group, know that there is heartache, that there is sorrow, and there is grieving. We know of the tears of mothers that say their sons go off to war. Many of them never to return. And that is that the memory of those young people, both men and women, that serve our country.

00:16:44:20 - 00:17:18:29

Speaker 6

And I think it is also fitting that we honor the families of these people, because they do make sacrifices, and that is because of love of country. We in the American GI forum are a predominantly Hispanic veterans organization, but we honor all veterans because we all serve the same cause. And that is the protection of those principles of liberty and freedom that this country affords that citizens.

00:17:19:01 - 00:17:49:29

Speaker 6

And those privileges do not come cheap. There is sacrifice involved, and it is about that charter that we are here today to honor. I would like, for you to recognize the family of a young man from Modesto that has been acclaimed a hero.

00:17:50:01 - 00:17:55:01

Speaker 6

Which he rightfully is.

00:17:55:04 - 00:18:54:21

Speaker 6

The mother of Sergeant Guerrero. Maria Navarro. where are you? She's back here. perhaps we can find the place up. Let's get up here. Por favor. They got, Esmeralda and Ruby, her sisters, first. Let's give em a big round of applause.

00:18:54:23 - 00:19:36:11

Speaker 6

Thank you. And thank you very much for being with us today. We appreciate it. And, we want to recognize again the anxiety and the hardship. And not sure now the joy of knowing that your son and

brother is alive and will be coming home. On the other hand. Yeah. On the other hand, we also want, as members of the American G.I. forum and this community.

00:19:36:14 - 00:19:53:09

Speaker 6

To join and sharing the grief of another local family, the family of Justin Wood, who was one of the 19 that will not be coming home.

00:19:53:12 - 00:20:23:09

Speaker 6

And, it is difficult for me to speak because I get emotional about this. Such an emotional issue. These are young people that have left their homes full of ambition, full of desire, of serving their country and coming back to carry on with normal lives like the rest of us. But for 19 of them, that is not to be.

00:20:23:12 - 00:20:50:16

Speaker 6

But thanks to the alert action of Sergeant Guerrero, an untold number will be because of the heroic action that he initiated, and no one asked him to be a hero. He did what he had to do, what he recognized had to be done. And this is what American service people are made of. People that rise to the occasion.

00:20:50:18 - 00:21:12:04

Speaker 6

People that find new adrenaline to keep going under adverse conditions, even if it means sacrificing their life. I'm sure that for from not a moment did he stop and think, well, you know, if I do this and that, I may get hurt. I'm sure that getting.

00:21:12:04 - 00:21:12:21

Speaker 3

Hurt.

00:21:12:23 - 00:21:30:10

Speaker 6

Was the farthest thing from his mind. He knew that there was a job to be done, and he did it. And we congratulate him and we're proud of him for having done it.

00:21:30:12 - 00:22:15:29

Speaker 6

Before. Before I relinquish the microphone to, the next speaker, there's a point that I want to make. We're primarily a, Hispanic veterans organization. And since the media is here and hopefully our message here will be carried out to the general population. The presence of the American flag, given the atmosphere today that we have in this country of division, may prompt some people to say, well, here's another bunch of Mexicans displaying the Mexican flag at an event where we proclaim Americanism because that is what we are.

00:22:16:03 - 00:22:26:04

Speaker 6

We are Americans, but we honor.

00:22:26:06 - 00:22:52:11

Speaker 6

The Mexican flag present honors the memory of our parents, who for the most part came from Mexico and sacrificed their lives in this country, earning a living and contributing to the growth of this country. And it is in their memory that we display the Mexican flag. And we do it with great honor.

00:22:52:13 - 00:23:13:25

Speaker 6

And, with that, I will yield the microphone to, a friend of ours, vice president for law with AT&T, who joins us here today. Mr. Ramirez.

00:23:13:28 - 00:23:25:18

Speaker 2

Thank you. Leo. Let me say that, on behalf of the business community, our heartfelt expressions of sympathy go out to those families.

00:23:25:18 - 00:23:25:29

Speaker 1

Of.

00:23:25:29 - 00:23:26:28

Speaker 2

Those 19.

00:23:26:28 - 00:23:28:17

Speaker 1

Brave people.

00:23:28:19 - 00:23:43:20

Speaker 2

Who gave their lives in the defense of our principles and of our country and of our people. We feel that, this is a reminder that our military personnel, even though we are serving in times of.

00:23:43:20 - 00:23:45:02

Speaker 1

Peace.

00:23:45:04 - 00:24:19:21

Speaker 2

Nevertheless lay their lives on the line for those principles that we all hold so, revered and so highly in esteem throughout the history of our country. These are the people who are unsung heroes. A lot of them are, and this is an opportunity to hopefully call attention to the great service that these people do to this country in such a quiet and brave manner, to those two young people.

00:24:19:23 - 00:24:20:16

Speaker 1

00:24:20:18 - 00:24:32:22

Speaker 2

The family of, the wood family, we again express our most sincere condolences, and hope that,

00:24:32:24 - 00:24:34:13

Speaker 1

The death of this.

00:24:34:13 - 00:25:07:13

Speaker 2

Young man will not have been in vain, that it will remind us of what our military stands for and of the heroics that people such, as this loss that, the wood family has endured, contributes, and what it means to this country, to the family of, Sergeant Guerrero. We also express our admiration for the great service to his own peers and beyond that, to this country.

00:25:07:15 - 00:25:09:07

Speaker 2

It's an honor and a privilege to be.

00:25:09:07 - 00:25:10:05

Speaker 1

Able to be.

00:25:10:07 - 00:25:40:05

Speaker 2

In the presence of this family and in the memory of the acts of their son, the business community, I should say very briefly, has been very supportive of the American GI forum through the years because of

their efforts in helping our veterans assimilate back into society by way of job training and education. and as a result of that, you can see here today that those efforts have not gone unrewarded.

00:25:40:07 - 00:25:55:24

Speaker 2

These people have done many, many good things for many, many Americans, which in turn will in turn go out and do many good things for our country. Thank you. Thank you very much.

00:25:55:26 - 00:25:56:04

Unknown

It was a.

00:25:56:04 - 00:25:59:12

Speaker 3

Pleasure. I'd like to make a point of order, please.

00:25:59:13 - 00:26:00:23

Speaker 6

Yes, please.

00:26:00:26 - 00:26:14:01

Speaker 3

You're here to speak to the family. So I would think it is appropriate that we, get on with that with all due respect to each other, so that, allow them to say what's on the line.

00:26:14:03 - 00:26:21:06

Speaker 6

That's what we're about to do. Arturo, Guerrero.

00:26:21:08 - 00:26:24:04

Speaker 3

We've got a good idea for the.

00:26:24:07 - 00:26:32:23

Speaker 2

Here. Hello. Have to do.

00:26:32:26 - 00:26:40:25

Speaker 2

What? My younger brother has done. I don't think he.

00:26:40:25 - 00:26:44:05

Speaker 3

Understands magnitude like it's hit.

00:26:44:05 - 00:26:52:11

Speaker 2

Me. For all those that have been lost in the past. And last Tuesday and next week.

00:26:52:13 - 00:26:54:25

Speaker 3

We want to say we're sorry.

00:26:54:28 - 00:26:56:25

Speaker 2

with that,

00:26:56:28 - 00:26:58:20

Speaker 3

I just like to say that.

00:26:58:23 - 00:27:04:07

Speaker 2

My brother's a very humble person, very responsible and a leader. He's a consummate.

00:27:04:07 - 00:27:11:21

Speaker 1

Professional, and what he's done and behind what he's done is something that we've always expected of him.

00:27:11:24 - 00:27:38:25

Speaker 2

we love him to death. also, I'd like to thank the security guards that checked the documents that weren't in order, that did not allow those trucks to come into the buildings any closer. Those trucks are turned away. So the people, the guards that looked at that documentation and morning, they are heroes as well. Because if that truck would have been any closer, it would have took out my brother also.

00:27:38:27 - 00:27:51:02

Speaker 2

at this point, I would like to say thank you, and, I'll turn it over to my sister has spoken to my brother, early this morning, and she would be able to answer any questions as far as any details.

00:27:51:04 - 00:28:01:00

Speaker 1

Thank you.

00:28:01:03 - 00:28:29:17

Speaker 5

I'd like to say, this is a heads a little bit closer to home because I knew just and went to the same high school and I knew him. not well, but I knew him. And, there's there's not enough times that we can say

that we feel very sorry for the wood family, and, we realize that it could very well have been us in that situation very easily because they were doing the same job.

00:28:29:20 - 00:28:57:04

Speaker 5

We'd also like to say that, my brother wants to offer his condolences to the ones that weren't able to be saved and say that, He, he hopes nobody sees him as a hero, because what he did was what he was trained to do. And it was instinct that he do what he did. And he he hopes that people try not to put the hero title on him too much, because he just did what he was trained to do.

00:28:57:07 - 00:29:23:09

Speaker 5

And, he sends his love to all the families and wants to say how, how grateful he is for the other two, security polices as well, that, went and also knocked on doors and did what they'd had to do. my brother, it was a very emotional right now. He's, very grateful, obviously, to be alive.

00:29:23:12 - 00:29:48:24

Speaker 5

And he realizes he's going to be bombarded when he gets back to the United States. But, do you guys could give him a little bit of a break? also, I'd like to correct a misquote that's been in the media very prevalently. he's not dead. we've gotten condolence calls. We've had people pulling up at the house telling us they're sorry for my brother.

00:29:48:26 - 00:29:56:03

Speaker 5

And when things get misquoted in the media, it hurts very deeply.

00:29:56:05 - 00:30:02:14

Speaker 5

And that's basically all he had to say. If you guys had any questions or wanted to speak to my mother.

00:30:02:16 - 00:30:10:01

Speaker 5

Was there any questions or names from, Ruby Guerrero?

00:30:10:03 - 00:30:13:02

Speaker 3

She goes, Ruby is morada, Mario and Isabel.

00:30:13:05 - 00:30:19:00

Speaker 5

Isabel Huerta it's h u e r t a.

00:30:19:02 - 00:30:20:08

Speaker 2

If you talk to him.

00:30:20:10 - 00:30:36:22

Speaker 5

I talked to him this morning at 1230. I received the phone call from him. He was very relieved to be able to know that we're okay. My mother has been put under a great deal of pressure, so we had to leave the house. If you have reporters, we're knocking on our doors.

00:30:36:24 - 00:30:40:15

Speaker 3

I this is.

00:30:40:17 - 00:30:41:11

Speaker 3

Very busy.

00:30:41:14 - 00:30:48:00

Speaker 5

And and any questions that are going to be asked or my mom are going to be deferred to me. My mother didn't ask for that.

00:30:48:03 - 00:30:52:13

Speaker 3

Because Irby is her son. How is.

00:30:52:13 - 00:31:11:13

Speaker 5

She? She's like I said, she's been under a great deal of pressure. She's obviously very relieved. At first, we didn't know whether he was dead or alive. Now that we know, she has nothing but pride. But she has always had that pride in my brother because he's always been there for everyone. There's there's no chance. Anyone who knows my brother knows he has a heart of gold.

00:31:11:16 - 00:31:19:09

Speaker 5

He's there for anyone, anytime, any day. And this. This is just on a national level. And he's always been there for us.

00:31:19:11 - 00:31:23:08

Speaker 1

How do you feel about his assignment over there?

00:31:23:10 - 00:31:51:12

Speaker 5

the irony of it all is that we didn't realize how dangerous it was. He's been sent another, to other countries before, but we had no idea of the danger involved until now. Now we realize that what he does is hard work, and it takes discipline. And my brother's a perfect person for it. Now that we're all here, we.

00:31:51:14 - 00:32:00:27

Speaker 5

Well, she's really under a lot of stress. Very much the whole family. And she's extremely emotional right now. She's not at the point where she can talk right now.

00:32:00:29 - 00:32:25:22

Speaker 3

So and this just boils down to it's been very, very overwhelming and it's just overwhelming. She can't composer's off at this point. So, any, just basically she's overwhelmed. She's a she's very proud of him and she's grateful that that he is alive and that he was able to do what? Well, what he was trying to do.

00:32:25:25 - 00:32:28:03

Speaker 3

You when he is something.

00:32:28:06 - 00:32:38:26

Speaker 5

Soon at this point. Soon. Other than that, my brother will be issuing a press release as to when he'll be returning to the United States. But as of right now, we're not going to be disclosing any information that.

00:32:38:28 - 00:32:40:27

Speaker 3

Has can put on the.

00:32:40:29 - 00:32:50:11

Speaker 5

He wants to finish his tour. Other than that, we don't know where he's going to be sent from there or whether he wants to to come back earlier or not, just in.

00:32:50:13 - 00:32:52:22

Speaker 3

York. To him, what we're interested.

00:32:52:25 - 00:33:12:13

Speaker 5

His injuries were to the eye. He had lacerations. He had, a few cuts, but not deep enough to cause stitches. He expressed extreme surprise that he's alive right now because he said he doesn't know how he's alive. I say it's to the grace of God. I say it's through the faith that he has in his heart. his injuries are minor.

00:33:12:13 - 00:33:25:13

Speaker 5

Other than of course, the shock is in right now, as you said, that, he's met so many new people, seen so many new things, and he doesn't anticipate it ending anytime soon, even though he kind of wishes people wouldn't hang the title of your on him.

00:33:25:15 - 00:33:27:21

Speaker 1

When the bomb went off or what happened.

00:33:27:24 - 00:33:48:01

Speaker 5

He said no. He said that, he was on top of the Khobar Tower when he seen the truck approaching. He knew something was wrong because it was. It may appear to be fishy. He said he immediately sounded the alarm. I mean, got on the radio, sounded the alarm, and went running as fast as he could to, knock on doors and get as many people out as possible.

00:33:48:04 - 00:34:07:08

Speaker 5

He said he'd made it almost to the third floor and yelling at the top of his lungs, and that's when the blast hit. He said the person next to him went down. Just was down, and that he basically was just, thrown up against the wall. It was in a he just expressed surprise. He didn't really have too much happening.

00:34:07:11 - 00:34:10:08

Speaker 3

How was he able to get out?

00:34:10:11 - 00:34:22:02

Speaker 5

He didn't want to go into such details. Like, as I said, he's he is emotional right now. And he didn't go in any more details other than expressing surprise that the person next to him was thrown. But he wasn't.

00:34:22:05 - 00:34:26:02

Speaker 3

Do you feel this affected his attitude toward his involvement?

00:34:26:04 - 00:34:46:10

Speaker 5

It probably re-emphasized that even more because my brother's a political person and, my my brother probably. I mean, I'm knowing my brother the way I do, he's a political person. I'm sure it reinforces the way he feels. He feels very strongly about what he's doing over there.

00:34:46:12 - 00:34:55:15

Speaker 5

I'm sorry. 11 years. What do you think was he. He went from high school.

00:34:55:17 - 00:34:58:19

Speaker 2

We're going to have a couple of more questions, and then we'll pull the press conference.

00:34:58:19 - 00:35:00:20

Speaker 3

So that, you know, that we just kind of.

00:35:00:22 - 00:35:20:07

Speaker 5

With everything that he tried to contact with them. The age difference is eight years. They they had no contact whatsoever. They didn't know each other. But he he did tell me last night that he knew he had heard about the guy here from Modesto. And he he thought it was rather ironic that he's from here. And the, the other person was from here and.

00:35:20:10 - 00:35:26:22

Speaker 3

Had a family that your brother was okay of for you pretend that.

00:35:26:24 - 00:35:29:15

Speaker 5

It was what.

00:35:29:17 - 00:35:54:16

Speaker 3

They call me to begin with. I'll go ahead. Okay. I first received a phone call from my sister before Maria that, that there was a bomb that went off before it even hit the local media and anywhere else. So I contacted Edwards Air Force Base and they started researching it. And we're going back and forth through Tuesday evening.

00:35:54:22 - 00:35:58:09

Speaker 3

And so we're enabling him that he was okay.

00:35:58:11 - 00:36:04:20

Speaker 2

Okay, we're going to close this press conference with a pledge of allegiance to our country and to our flag. Mark Modesto.

00:36:04:20 - 00:36:07:18

Speaker 1

Chairman, roll over to.

00:36:07:21 - 00:36:14:09

Speaker 3

One one, please. Thank the retired.

00:36:14:11 - 00:36:20:26

Speaker 1

up to the flag line. Nice day to America two. They're like.

00:36:20:28 - 00:36:26:04

Speaker 3

What does that mean? One nation under God, indivisible.

00:36:26:06 - 00:36:30:14

Speaker 1

With liberty and justice for all, for whom?

00:36:30:17 - 00:36:33:10

Speaker 2

Thank you very much. Thank you. You have the chance.

00:36:33:10 - 00:36:34:26

Speaker 1

To ask a few more questions.

00:36:34:28 - 00:36:38:26

Speaker 3

So thank you. I. At in.

00:36:39:01 - 00:36:41:02

Speaker 5

Vietnam, we are looking.

00:36:41:05 - 00:36:49:16

Speaker 3

You to be able.

00:36:49:18 - 00:36:55:10

Speaker 3

Let me you.

00:36:55:13 - 00:36:58:20

Speaker 5

Beautiful people.

00:36:58:23 - 00:37:00:24

Speaker 3

Here.

00:37:00:26 - 00:37:14:17

Speaker 5

Are you something? I am a pet peeve about?

00:37:14:19 - 00:37:22:11

Speaker 3

That other. Us to go here today.

00:37:22:14 - 00:37:39:04

Speaker 1

Thank you very much for coming in today. For our lives. And all of our state police are here. Thank you very much for being here. Appreciate your patience with us today and welcome all the chapter commanders and all the chapters under here. Can go ahead and draw your lines. And then,

00:37:39:06 - 00:37:49:05

Speaker 3

We'll probably thank you.

00:37:49:08 - 00:37:54:05

Speaker 3

For.

00:37:54:08 - 00:37:58:02

Speaker 6

Well, once again, good.

00:37:58:05 - 00:38:02:16

Unknown

Good afternoon. Now anyway.

00:38:02:19 - 00:38:16:23

Speaker 6

What it is my duty here. Now, with that privilege that persons of this problem here from new Jersey to be with us government, we're most.

00:38:16:23 - 00:38:20:24

Speaker 3

Appreciative of.

00:38:20:26 - 00:38:29:16

Speaker 6

All seven of us vice president for all with the DMV.

00:38:29:19 - 00:38:57:29

Speaker 6

Received his education at the University of Texas, where he received has been and his journalist doctor and. he goes they they of the times that I did not know existed until this morning. Briscoe, Texas. And I understand that about 200 people that live there.

00:38:57:29 - 00:39:02:14

Unknown

Are very proud of the.

00:39:02:16 - 00:39:03:11

Unknown

Like is not.

00:39:03:11 - 00:39:04:27

Speaker 6

Only 159 because.

00:39:04:27 - 00:39:07:27

Unknown

He grew up.

00:39:08:00 - 00:39:09:05

Unknown

In

00:39:09:07 - 00:39:18:22

Speaker 6

Briscoe, Texas. I understand that about 200 people that live there are very proud of the.

00:39:18:24 - 00:39:24:26

Speaker 1

Workers, not only 139 because he grew up.

00:39:24:28 - 00:39:37:15

Speaker 6

the job recently retired as a full colonel from the U.S. Air Force. He served as a.

00:39:37:15 - 00:39:43:02

Speaker 3

General for all of Europe and the service and the Air Force.

00:39:43:04 - 00:39:47:26

Speaker 6

He is married to say that they are proud parents.

00:39:47:28 - 00:39:48:20

Speaker 3

Of their.

00:39:48:22 - 00:39:55:13

Speaker 1

Children. And I could go on and on, but you would be.

00:39:55:16 - 00:39:58:09

Speaker 6

Welcome to the afternoon if I to report all.

00:39:58:10 - 00:39:59:23

Speaker 3

Of his.

00:39:59:25 - 00:40:05:09

Speaker 6

Accomplishments that have been my privilege and pleasure to serve with you.

00:40:05:11 - 00:40:05:21

Speaker 5

Over the.

00:40:05:21 - 00:40:11:25

Speaker 6

Last few years on the seven board of directors. And that's where I became acquainted with him. And I'm very.

00:40:11:25 - 00:40:14:24

Speaker 3

Grateful for that, because I have learned from him.

00:40:14:26 - 00:40:19:12

Speaker 6

And he has been a great help to the organization.

00:40:19:14 - 00:40:21:00

Speaker 1

Joe is a man.

00:40:21:02 - 00:40:27:03

Speaker 6

That has not forgotten where he came from and all that. We are ready for all who is joining me.

00:40:27:05 - 00:40:28:14

Speaker 3

And welcoming.

00:40:28:16 - 00:40:40:16

Speaker 6

Our friend also made us.

00:40:40:19 - 00:40:42:08

Speaker 6

Thank you.

00:40:42:11 - 00:41:14:14

Speaker 1

Visit. but a lot of noise. Go without even speaking. They say that I want to thank Gail and go to the California chapter of, of the American GI forum for the privilege to be here with you today. I also want to extend my congratulations, to the family, for these, that there are signs that Sergeant Guerrero has decided for and I'm sure will decide for the future.

00:41:14:16 - 00:41:38:00

Speaker 1

but beyond that, it's also a privilege to be here at this particular time with this, organization, by a coincidence, is having, a state convention and had the opportunity again to honor those who served in the past, as we saw at the conference today. And so I know those who are serving in the present, as we also saw in the comments today.

00:41:38:02 - 00:42:12:17

Speaker 1

So I consider it a real privilege to be here with you today. but here I speak to, to speak today. he asked that I focus on on the future of work and to focus on, what young people today. And there are quite a few here with us today. I'm happy to see, what young people today might want to think about in terms of things that can help them as they go into the world of work.

00:42:12:19 - 00:42:41:23

Speaker 1

One of the things that I think would help put this in perspective is to say that for about the last 15 years, while I was with the Air Force Reserve, as they've mentioned, I was also the chief, labor counsel for AT&T on matters that cover, in these operations throughout the world. And it gave me a tremendous opportunity to see the people end of the business world today.

00:42:41:26 - 00:43:11:11

Speaker 1

and so what I'd like to do is share with you some practical, ideas, almost universal ideas. And when I'm through, I think you're going to say what all Joe talked about today was common sense. That's true. That's precisely what I'm going to be, talking to you about young people. And if you just kind of use your head and use common sense, you don't have to remember anything that I told you today, because common sense will guide you in that direction.

00:43:11:13 - 00:43:40:28

Speaker 1

Okay. What characterizes as I've gotten older, I have to wear glasses here, but, what characterizes work today? Let me tell you some key terms. Rapid change, flexibility, technology and mobility. If you remember those times, you know what I'm talking about. And I'm here today. Now, all of this makes for extreme excitement in terms of what's happening here today and more in the future.

00:43:40:28 - 00:44:01:01

Speaker 1

For those of you who are going to work in the future. And by the way, towards the end of my my speech will take about 15 or 5 minutes. I want to talk a little bit about things that people who are in the job market that they can do to help themselves, in that market. But young people don't sell yourself short.

00:44:01:04 - 00:44:26:02

Speaker 1

You can do almost anything that you set your mind to do. And example right here, you've got, where we'll say, Rodriguez sitting here, he stepped out. Okay. The timing is almost perfect. But, this young man, right in your midst, the young chemical engineer, graduate from Yale who was working here for, Procter and Gamble.

00:44:26:04 - 00:44:51:25

Speaker 1

I'm going to make sure that I tell my friends Jerry was I was also on the board of directors of, seven National about my front line people. And they've selected here. All right, don't sell yourself short. I remember when I was running around invisible Texas in that little town of 200 people. It was an agricultural community. tough times, no money, all kinds of problems.

00:44:51:28 - 00:45:14:08

Speaker 1

but it became very apparent to me that the first thing anybody could do to help themselves was to learn English. Then. I'm not sure you've heard that before, but really learn English. Learn how to read, learn how to write, learn how to speak. If you dominate that language, you can dominate almost anything you want to get into.

00:45:14:08 - 00:45:39:19

Speaker 1

But you can learn about anything. You don't know it. You can understand about it if you don't. What? I know what's happening. Okay. what should you do? All right. Another thing that you've heard, that you've heard before is money. Hard. But here the key word is flexibility. The reason for the types of things that I'm talking about is flexibility.

00:45:39:24 - 00:46:06:09

Speaker 1

What does Joe mean by flexibility? Well, remember that I talked about a rapidly changing work environment. You've all heard about downsizing. You've heard about restructurings. You've heard of mergers and acquisitions. The company I work with, at one time I was the chief personnel lawyer in for the Bell System, in the late, in the early 70s, late 70s, we had a million employees mispriced by many fewer employees.

00:46:06:09 - 00:46:27:20

Speaker 1

There are today in the Bell System. I used to think that the Bell System was indestructible. It was, you know, the very backbone of America. When you saw that, the Bell system was broken up. many different companies went their way. AT&T, the one that I was with. My dad's away. When when when divestiture took place in 1984, we had 300.

00:46:27:20 - 00:46:59:07

Speaker 1

We had 425,000 people at AT&T buying three or 4 or 5 years after that, that 425,000 people that bundled down the 275,000. Okay. And now it's back up to, 300,000. And now we had another divestiture at AT&T. So no matter how strong the business you're in, there is change in its future right here. If you folks are familiar with and you serve and help the armed forces, even the.

00:46:59:07 - 00:46:59:27

Speaker 5

Military.

00:46:59:27 - 00:47:43:16

Speaker 1

Has been downsized, right? They call it when I was serving in Europe with the reserve, they didn't call it downsizing. They called it the drawdown. But we had a lot of people who were placed, on the street. Flexibility young people is a very essential thing for you. How do you gain flexibility and what is flexibility? Flexibility is about getting development as broad a base of knowledge as you can, so that when you in the future find that you're not going to be able to stay with the same company for a whole career, you have the ability to jump to another job, to move to something that may be totally different from what you're used

00:47:43:16 - 00:48:13:11

Speaker 1

to today. Study hard learn English. What else? Learn to speak the law of move. You will find that as you are making your way through the business world, people who will make decisions about you often have to make those decisions by observing you. In a situation where you are making a presentation before a group and they have 15 minutes to judge you.

00:48:13:13 - 00:48:43:26

Speaker 1

Now, you will either make a good impression or you will make a not so good impression. Obviously, you want to make the good impression how you know what you're talking about. Be able to communicate what else? Study hard. What else? Math? Sciences? they almost, sort of the essential learning to use that computer, learn to use and to find your way.

00:48:43:26 - 00:48:59:05

Speaker 1

What's the word to serve the internet? That is the world of the future, okay. And that's what you need to be able to play in. what else?

00:48:59:07 - 00:49:02:13

Speaker 3

Well.

00:49:02:15 - 00:49:33:24

Speaker 1

Read widely. Why are people widely? You need to be able to understand what's happening wherever you are. You need to be able to understand what's happening all around you. The veteran. The more you know about things, even outside your own career or your own profession, the better you will be able to understand what's happening in other areas, the better you will be able to communicate with people and the better you will be able to speak when you do get before a group.

00:49:33:26 - 00:49:55:26

Speaker 1

Okay, now what else? What's important? Why is that important? Interpersonal skills. One of the most important things that anyone in the in the job market, the day has to be able to have is the ability to work with different people, different ethnicities, different personal things.

00:49:55:28 - 00:49:57:21

Speaker 5

Often you'll find.

00:49:57:24 - 00:50:26:23

Speaker 1

Hey, I really don't enjoy working with this particular individual, and I don't like the way he or she, thinks. Well, in the world of work today, you have to find ways of dealing with those people. You can't just say, well, I'm going to walk away because what you're really doing is walking away from your job and walking away from your own future, so that the ability to deal with people who have thoughts different and personal things that are different from you is very critical.

00:50:26:25 - 00:50:48:02

Speaker 1

And all of these things that I'm talking about give you that ability. Now, obviously college, I won't even spend that time on that because that's, that's that's a given. But unhappy people give up or they go to school. My parents can't afford going to school. I can't afford to go to school. I got to go to work. That's true.

00:50:48:02 - 00:51:13:02

Speaker 1

We all. And I never had that very same thing happen to us. But believe me, today, if you want to go to college and you should, you can do it. There are loans available up there, all kinds of scholarships available out there. Talk to your school counselors about this one lot. About what college should I go to? You don't have to go to the best college.

00:51:13:09 - 00:51:42:08

Speaker 1

Don't worry about that. I can't get into that school. I can't get into that school. Don't worry about that. Pick one that's best for you, okay? And move on from there. But whatever you do, go to college. What else? Analyze yourself. The happiest people at work are those who enjoy what they're doing. Then I guess Paul was a good example of probably the best example.

00:51:42:10 - 00:52:05:04

Speaker 1

But believe me, if you're going to be successful at work, you're going to be spending long hours in that job. Why not make it something that that you like, something that's interesting? You. So a little self-analysis. What are your likes? What are your preferences. But also what don't you like? And also what are your strengths and what are your weaknesses.

00:52:05:07 - 00:52:30:16

Speaker 1

Right. And then you start thinking about mapping out a career along those lines. Have a dream, have a dream. Don't sell yourself short. I can. I wish I could have time to tell you how many times in my own experience and in many others that I have, very many people would say, oh, come on, Joe, you're crazy. Many people can't do that.

00:52:30:17 - 00:52:51:07

Speaker 1

That's it. That's not available to us. It is available to us. It's available to you. You make up your mind what you want for yourself, make up your own mind what you want for yourself, and then go get it, okay? And don't let anybody talk you out of it. Stick to your own. Don't have you agree? Follow that dream, but then implement it.

00:52:51:14 - 00:53:19:16

Speaker 1

Do the things that we're talking about in order to pursue that. Don't be afraid. By the way. We're going to learn from your mistakes. Don't be afraid to make mistakes most of us find in our business. I can't find it. I can't really do that. Then don't worry. Now they say that Babe Ruth struck out. I don't know how many times, but he was famous for saying, you can't hit a homerun unless you step up to the plate.

00:53:19:18 - 00:53:47:14

Speaker 1

Okay, so step up to the plate and don't be afraid to strike up a few times. You'll learn from that, and you'll be better the next time you'll get that ball. Now what about role models and that aspect? Obviously, look at people that you think have succeeded in areas that you have an interest in. Talk to those people, find out about what, help them get ideas from them, and so forth.

00:53:47:16 - 00:54:10:00

Speaker 1

And now let me just spend a few minutes talking about when you are in the world of work, what to do. And I'm going to kind of cut this short. So I'm just going to speak from my speak extemporaneously, forget about my notes. What's happening in the world of work today? I've talked about that already. Now, it used to be that people would go to work.

00:54:10:00 - 00:54:29:01

Speaker 1

I'm an example of the people who go to work for one business, and if they kept their nose clean, did their job that they were supposed to do, stayed out of the line of hard work hard. Eventually they'd get a pension and be able to retire or not. And maybe some of that advice Social Security, you're young people.

00:54:29:07 - 00:54:51:00

Speaker 1

You're not gonna have that anymore. And I don't have that one anymore. You're going to work for three, 4 or 5, maybe ten different businesses before you're a weirdo, maybe even more. You may wind

up working for yourself. And that, by the way, makes a lot of sense. What's been this thing when you've read about downsizing? Is that all that in the end?

00:54:51:00 - 00:55:13:27

Speaker 1

So I won't spend much time on that. But what can you do? What can you do once you get into, you know, the the world work? The first we talked about analyzing your own self and analyzing your interests and so forth. Don't worry about going from a standing stop to 100 miles an hour in your career map a map, of course, for yourself.

00:55:13:27 - 00:55:37:12

Speaker 1

If you like this particular area of business, try to get a job, whatever the job is, if it's the equivalent of washing dishes in that line of work, get in line, get it on the inside, and then start trying to move, and progress within the organization. But whatever you do learn, learn about that business. Learn about the people.

00:55:37:12 - 00:56:03:14

Speaker 1

Learn what makes up business. Okay. What else? Why does you have that job? A lot of us say, well, okay, I know what it is that I was supposed to do and so forth. So we often have a have a tendency to become complacent. Okay. If you want to hold a job in the future, and I speak for those who are already there today, if you want to hold a job in the future, don't be complacent.

00:56:03:16 - 00:56:29:24

Speaker 1

Consider that they constantly think in terms of how you can do whatever it is that you're assigned to do, and your own organization is doing better. If you don't, somebody else is going to do that, and you're going to be out on the street and then have your job. When companies downsize, businesses downsize. They want to keep that type of people, not the complacent type of person.

00:56:29:26 - 00:56:54:09

Speaker 1

So bear that in mind. What else make your boss and your coworkers and your peers your allies. Be friendly with people. Make them feel at ease in working with you. Forget about office gossip and gossip at work. That's not what you want to hear what other people are saying. But don't you go around talking about other people. You keep your thoughts to yourself.

00:56:54:11 - 00:57:18:25

Speaker 1

Because if I am with you and I'm talking about Joe when I leave you, you're going to say, I can't trust that guy because he's going to go there and talk that a joke on me. So that's very important today, and that's common sense in the world of work and very important. What else? Again, the idea of speaking is, what else?

00:57:18:28 - 00:57:37:03

Speaker 1

Take risks. Don't be afraid to test. Take risks. Let me tell you a little story. I remember when I first started working for Southwestern Bell that I didn't know anything about. I had just come out of the Air Force. I didn't know anything about a telephone company. I didn't know then. One thing I knew about the telephone is that if you picked it up, you got a dial on and it worked.

00:57:37:05 - 00:58:01:22

Speaker 1

You'd be surprised how many problems there are behind that instrument. Okay, so I learned about those names, but I wanted to learn as much as I could. I would ask questions and so forth. But notice I noticed that all of us were very busy, and whenever work, additional work came up, all of my coworkers started. They were too busy to take on other work.

00:58:01:24 - 00:58:24:00

Speaker 1

All right, so I was a young person. I was bound and determined to progress. I used to say to myself, there's only one way to do that, boy. You better, you know, go ahead and take on that risky assignment. So often it would work out. Sometimes it didn't, but almost then did not work out. And then my friends would come back and say, look, Joe, you're a lucky son of a gun.

00:58:24:02 - 00:58:44:10

Speaker 1

You got that assignment and it worked out for you, and it got you got visibility and so on, and it helped you, I would think I would say to them, yeah, I am okay. But inside I would say, hey, luck had nothing to do with that. It's okay. And and so you got to think about that, when you're involved, in work and so forth.

00:58:44:13 - 00:59:13:08

Speaker 1

mobility and mobility today in the world of work, you have to be able to move. And that's something that's very difficult for us, with our culture and our own ancestry, we like to stay close to our families and so forth. I can't tell you the number of lost opportunities that, just me, that I've been able to see that people have missed out because when I moved away from my mom, I don't want to move away from, you know, my brothers and sisters.

00:59:13:08 - 00:59:34:17

Speaker 1

And so what if you're going to be in business today, you need to make up your mind. You're going to be able to pick up that bag and go wherever it takes you. All right? And often you're going to need to move within two weeks. I was tell many times my wife had to pack in two weeks to move from across the country, or across the world.

00:59:34:20 - 00:59:58:24

Speaker 1

but that's true. And that's if you want to do it. That's what it takes. Hey, you can use the telephone and vocal and away like that. What else can young people do? And they go back to that just briefly. What else can young people do, you know, join the Army, join the military that we have. We know all kinds of things that good and difficult that happen in the military.

00:59:58:24 - 01:00:22:28

Speaker 1

Okay. But it's a very, very good learning experience for the types of things that I've been talking about. Just think about that mobility, dealing with people, taking on challenges, solving risk with with all their the military is a very, very good training. I can assure you that probably the best thing that happened to me. But being in the military, I'll tell you a good story about that.

01:00:23:00 - 01:00:46:05

Speaker 1

It illustrates what I just said. Force flexibility. When I was in Spain as a young officer, a young legal officer, we got a call one day that an Air Force B-52 bomber and a KC 135 tanker had crashed over southern Spain, and that the B-52 Obama was carrying more hydrogen bombs than. And they dropped in this little village in, in southern Spain.

01:00:46:08 - 01:01:07:25

Speaker 1

And I was going down there as the chief legal officer for the operation. I didn't have anything to do with looking for bombs. And then I thought I was supposed to take care of planes. But when I got down there, believe it or not, there weren't many people along with our team who could speak Spanish. And so the last thing I got involved in was, handling planes.

01:01:07:25 - 01:01:28:27

Speaker 1

Literally the last thing I got involved in was handling planes. The thing that I got involved in at first was finding those 100 and bombs and helping out people talk to folks, you know, the leaders of why they were one of the bombs landed in the ocean. So I learned about this. Fishermen, let's say several of our, fliers who had parachuted from the B-52 and landed in the water.

01:01:29:00 - 01:01:50:14

Speaker 1

And he kept apologizing because there was this dead person. He couldn't say, well, it turned out to be the bomb. Okay. I wound up leading a team of frogmen looking for that bomb that had nothing to do with being a lawyer, in the military. But it was flexibility. There was an opportunity there. The situation call for something I was able to do.

01:01:50:14 - 01:02:17:26

Speaker 1

So I enjoyed what I was doing. I wound up, as a result of that being selected as the outstanding Young Lawyer of the year for the Air Force in Europe. That recognition went on a resume. And that little

recognition that the, resume is what got me my title. I mean, flexibility, okay. And recognizing the opportunity around you, acting on that opportunity and so forth and mobility.

01:02:17:28 - 01:02:41:00

Speaker 1

I talked long enough playing, there are other things that, that I could talk about with you, but, what I'd like to do, if you don't mind, is stop here. let me, if you wish, I'd be very happy to take some questions. if you have the time. But if you don't, you know better.

01:02:41:00 - 01:02:55:26

Speaker 1

I've enjoyed being with you as much as I have. And I want to thank all of you for your hospitality.

01:02:55:28 - 01:02:58:21

Speaker 3

Thank you very much for seven.

01:02:58:21 - 01:03:06:10

Speaker 2

Minutes. Thank you.

01:03:06:13 - 01:03:10:11

Speaker 1

It's my pleasure at this time to do this, I think, commander again. And he wants.

01:03:10:11 - 01:03:14:25

Speaker 3

To make a little presentation. I'm.

01:03:14:27 - 01:03:16:16

Speaker 3

Thank you. Thank you very much.

01:03:16:19 - 01:03:38:04

Speaker 1

We really enjoyed it so far in the conference, and I think we're going to enjoy it, much more. But, first of I said, we will take your words and your wisdom into consideration and pass it on to our youth, our sons daughters, to our queens, and to all of our family. I think the American G.I. forum is doing some of the things that, we want to do towards education.

01:03:38:04 - 01:03:59:12

Speaker 1

All the chapters in California throughout the United States are given scholarship, pushing education, education. We can do it. And this ladies here today will prove that we can do it. See you on this up on several of you. So stick with it. I want to give a couple of awards. right now. And people that have done a really good, during this conference.

01:03:59:12 - 01:04:21:17

Speaker 1

And I want to call Leland, Castronovo. Ortega to the podium here. And, to thank you very much for the job that they have done. He, they in and, both men, he and he and their families have worked so hard, to, to make this possible because, again, I want to present this to, they say in appreciation.

01:04:21:17 - 01:04:22:17

Speaker 3

For all the effort and.

01:04:22:17 - 01:04:24:20

Speaker 1

Success and present in the United United.

01:04:24:28 - 01:04:25:26

Speaker 3

States Council.

01:04:25:28 - 01:04:35:00

Speaker 1

June 1996, where they got back the metric.

01:04:35:02 - 01:04:39:21

Speaker 1

On to the next commander. He has done a lot of work, and it says the same thing.

01:04:39:22 - 01:04:41:11

Speaker 3

I appreciate you for all the effort.

01:04:41:14 - 01:04:46:16

Speaker 1

And, and, what, success in the conference, Eric, with that.

01:04:46:19 - 01:04:51:26

Unknown

Thank you. Everybody.

01:04:51:29 - 01:04:53:26

Unknown

At this time, I like that.

01:04:53:29 - 01:05:06:13

Speaker 1

Again to the podium to simply come in and, and, it was a presentation again on the gold medal family.
And to introduce him to the crowd that wasn't there this morning while they're here. Thank you.

01:05:06:16 - 01:05:18:14

Unknown

And that was to start. Thank you. So.

01:05:18:16 - 01:05:20:14

Unknown

So.

01:05:20:16 - 01:05:21:28

Speaker 3

Okay.

01:05:22:00 - 01:05:25:21

Unknown

for.

01:05:25:24 - 01:05:31:26

Unknown

01:05:31:29 - 01:05:39:02

Speaker 3

For.

01:05:39:05 - 01:05:42:15

Speaker 6

I'm going to allow the.

01:05:42:15 - 01:05:43:13

Speaker 1

Sister.

01:05:43:16 - 01:05:59:28

Speaker 6

Of Sergeant Guerrero to give the the names of sister and her mother and long, because I'm not familiar with them. But please give, like, a little family that round of applause and heartfelt appreciation.

01:06:00:00 - 01:06:01:09

Speaker 3

For their.

01:06:01:12 - 01:06:13:20

Speaker 6

Contribution in the defense of our country.

01:06:13:22 - 01:06:14:20

Speaker 5

01:06:14:23 - 01:06:32:06

Speaker 3

And you know, I'm not. Yes. Please stand up for.

01:06:32:09 - 01:06:59:06

Speaker 5

we would like to say thank you for your hospitality. we don't want to be rude by leaving early, but we are all extremely, extremely tired. We got three hours of sleep in the past four days. I'm moving around the world. The girl, the mother, grandmother and Isabel. And, we just want to say that, as far as my brother being a military colonel with the previous speaker saying that, the military was good because my father, my brother made it a career.

01:06:59:08 - 01:07:17:26

Speaker 5

you know, that's very special to him and to all of his family, families that are his family. We're just grateful that we didn't have to get a chaplain in our house, as martyrs. Also, when you saying about the young people speaking, always make sure you think before you speak, because everything is going to be misquoted and everything's going to be misdirected.

01:07:17:26 - 01:07:34:01

Speaker 5

So make sure that you know what you're saying before you say that's very important. But thank you for your hospitality.

01:07:34:04 - 01:07:56:24

Speaker 6

Thank you very much. And, we invite you to remain with us for the rest of the convention. We'd love to have you at your final preventive. And this concludes the lecture. Now, we're going to get back to work. move on to the point, gentlemen.

01:07:56:26 - 01:08:01:00

Speaker 6

Okay. Thank you very much.

01:08:01:03 - 01:08:04:24

Speaker 5

Welcome. Thank. It's my.

01:08:04:24 - 01:08:05:22

Speaker 3

Pleasure.

01:08:05:25 - 01:08:24:27

Speaker 5

And my honor to introduce to you Miss California American chair. Foreign. April to April will take over and introduce a long to each one of us.

01:08:24:29 - 01:09:02:12

Speaker 5

Thank you. Anita. Welcome, everybody. It's been a years since I was a senior years ago. And it's good to see you again. It's good to be in the desk. So you're close to home. Start tomorrow from, This year has been a very wonderful year for me. Thanks to to American Jewish going to my friends there this morning to say how thankful I am to have been introduced to your organization, how they and for you to have given me the opportunity to represent you as your Queen and as a young lady.

01:09:02:14 - 01:09:23:29

Speaker 5

I hope that these things waiting to me get to see just how beautiful new people are, and how giving you are, and considerate of inhospitable. You'll never know how much this year has meant to me. You'll never know what your friendship has meant to me. You just never know what I feel in my heart. But I'll tell you guys that all that tomorrow.

01:09:24:01 - 01:09:48:27

Speaker 5

I don't want to get into a different tomorrow because I'm still queen right now. So I just wanted to represent you tomorrow. So at this time, once again, thank you very much. Thank you. Doctor Sam, I will turn to you. My mom. Thank you. Rose, everybody. All my friends here. Thank you very much for your support. So now I'd like to introduce our new, chapter queens.

01:09:48:27 - 01:09:59:03

Speaker 5

They will be bringing back from tomorrow night. So we'll start with, the East County chapter. I know many, thinking that through.

01:09:59:05 - 01:10:00:08

Speaker 3

Many.

01:10:00:10 - 01:10:10:26

Speaker 5

Of them, you the. I think this dinner.

01:10:10:29 - 01:10:18:25

Speaker 5

I mean, we have some I mean, it's from San Jose chapter.

01:10:18:27 - 01:10:30:17

Speaker 5

And we have, Dr.. I'm drug mafia. That's right from Modesto. Right. You're right.

01:10:30:19 - 01:10:58:09

Speaker 5

I forget the names, conflict, and then. I'm sorry. Shelby. Okay. And then we have Gabriela from Stockton. We need to move her in the pageant tomorrow night. I wish them all the best of luck. And I'm sure that to hear any final judges will have a hard time deciding what you want to represent California. But there are always, right now, just taking part in the past, including part of this wonderful nation.

01:10:58:12 - 01:11:09:03

Speaker 5

So thank you.

01:11:09:06 - 01:11:13:20

Speaker 5

Judy.

01:11:13:22 - 01:11:37:10

Speaker 5

Excuse me. Okay. I have, that angel to say her speech that she presented last year and the one that got in around in the community to. Because she's going to do those honors today. You're going to be very impressed. Let me tell you, April.

01:11:37:12 - 01:12:04:19

Speaker 5

Through anything, it so much great become somebody. And you just said I wrote this speech last year, and it's a speech that comes right from the heart. It's something that I feel that I believe in, and I hope that it helps. I don't think anybody here today thank you. Thank you. They will they will find that granting that she can and to afraid to come in.

01:12:04:19 - 01:12:38:08

Speaker 5

They kind of but people are going to believe that she will I know they are to great to Connie McDonough praise the truth. I was not be worthy. No, says my soul, you are very worthy. You're a tree with deep, deep roots descended to the earth, fertility and rain inward as tech process. Skin and valor are gold. Knows as my soul.

01:12:38:10 - 01:13:12:01

Speaker 5

You are in the system created for two cultures, two languages, two races, heroines and warriors. And the struggles have given you your greatness. And with it your heart has the left of the scars inflicted by the blood, the sweat and the tears. Those tears, my soul, the calluses on your hands and the pain in your back. And from leaving the earth so painfully, so lovingly as you ancestors did long ago.

01:13:12:04 - 01:13:41:00

Speaker 5

And in the fiery field from deep you does not come from anger, does not have the pained. It was the fire of sweet desire, the sweet desire to break the chains that will bind. And you and your people for so long the desire for love and solidarity, peace and unity, justice and equality, power and education, humanity and dignity.

01:13:41:02 - 01:14:06:25

Speaker 5

Those have my soul. You are more American than red, white and blue. And to become a success, you will not give up your cultural identity. But when you spend a lifetime, she can understand. And to move to fight for person which with feeling and thought through you have they when they can no longer. And that's with my soul.

01:14:06:27 - 01:14:20:14

Speaker 5

Maybe only two of you will ever need to know for the truth. You so much search for life within.

01:14:20:16 - 01:14:27:11

Speaker 5

You.

01:14:27:13 - 01:14:45:17

Speaker 5

Can be very dear to the Queen. I hope you have left. But I'm sure you have my message. And the inside is always diverse. They will know what our heart tells us and go with that. Because sometimes our heart will lead us in the right direction, even though our mind might tell us might be different. Have faith in yourself.

01:14:45:18 - 01:14:58:14

Speaker 5

Thank you so always love yourself. Love your fellow Hispanic Latinos. Look at their love your man. When you're young woman, love your youth and what you know.

01:14:58:15 - 01:15:04:26

Unknown

Okay, so.

01:15:04:29 - 01:15:10:07

Unknown

We embrace. Okay, this, back up and let's have a good bye.

01:15:10:07 - 01:15:12:23

Speaker 1

Next session. Take a look at your calendars. Thank you again.

01:15:13:00 - 01:15:28:13

Speaker 3

Thank you.

01:15:28:15 - 01:15:47:14

Speaker 2

To do is to have our, one of our key members, Mr. Francisco Alvarez, introduce our keynote speaker this morning. Frank. Well, lead us in to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Now, if you could all please stand, please. The flag.

01:15:47:16 - 01:15:51:26

Speaker 3

And the Senate. Oh, I pledge.

01:15:51:26 - 01:15:54:15

Speaker 2

Allegiance to the flag of the United.

01:15:54:15 - 01:15:59:06

Speaker 3

States of America. And to the Republic for which it stands.

01:15:59:09 - 01:16:01:22

Speaker 2

One nation under God.

01:16:01:24 - 01:16:12:15

Speaker 3

Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all or for. Any.

01:16:12:17 - 01:16:34:16

Speaker 2

Good morning. Form yours. welcome to the 39th annual State convention of the American GI forum. I'd like to thank all of you for being here. Our ranks are depleted after last night, but, looks like we have a pretty good turnout. I've been given the opportunity and the pleasure of introducing our keynote speaker for the morning, Gary Condit, who is our U.S. congressman.

01:16:34:19 - 01:17:07:23

Speaker 2

And, Gary's family immigrated to California when he was still a boy. He attended series. He went to Stan State, College, graduated from there in 1989. He, went to Congress for the first time to represent us. well, we always have agreed with Gary on his stands. he has, in this last term, protected Social Security helped to protect veterans rights, help to protect Medicare, which are issues that are important to the American GI forum.

01:17:07:25 - 01:17:29:14

Speaker 2

he's a man that's deserving of our support and our votes in this next upcoming election. I'd ask that you give a round of applause to our favorite Blue Dog Democrats, Gary Condit.

01:17:29:16 - 01:17:48:18

Speaker 1

Thank you very much. Welcome to all of you. to Modesto, California. Those of you who do not, live here, we welcome you here. We're delighted and honored that you're here. We're absolutely honored that you folks are here this morning. We appreciate you and and what you have done for this country. And, you know, I've, I appreciate that introduction.

01:17:48:18 - 01:18:08:03

Speaker 1

That was a very nice introduction. Maybe I'll just take you with me the rest of the week. I could use that. this week, sort of reminds us, or I think it really reminds us of the ultimate price that men and women in the armed service sometimes pay in line of duty and honor and country and service to country.

01:18:08:06 - 01:18:36:03

Speaker 1

when we speak of veterans programs, I think we can't forget that they are earned benefits. for those who did the heavy work of freedom, who were prepared to give all of themselves, if necessary, to this nation. And I think this week, we're reminded of that, we're reminded of what veterans have done, what they were willing to do if called upon.

01:18:36:06 - 01:18:56:23

Speaker 1

And Justin Wood and others died for the service of this country, and they kept their word. And this country has to keep its word to our veterans and to our service people who have made that commitment.

01:18:56:25 - 01:19:05:01

Speaker 1

I know that all of you, pay close attention to the activities in Washington because, I hear from.

01:19:05:01 - 01:19:07:06

Speaker 3

You.

01:19:07:08 - 01:19:26:18

Speaker 1

There you go. I hear from frequently, matter of fact, I was wandering around the Capitol one day and looked into a room, and there was Leo holding a very important meeting. He hadn't warned me, so I had snuck in on him. But, I know that you all, all of the veterans here pay close attention to what's going on in our recent budget.

01:19:26:21 - 01:19:55:00

Speaker 1

Budget debate. veterans programs did okay. you often, you often read how the veterans did compared to other entitlement, the entitlement programs. but this in itself should sort of warn us, serve as a warning sign. in my opinion, and many of your opinions, veterans benefits should not be compared to social security, welfare or food stamps.

01:19:55:02 - 01:20:21:16

Speaker 1

Veterans benefits or a different deal. There are contract with our military and our people, and these commitments and obligations aren't like others. Veterans and military retirees should have the same status in budget deliberations, that we have for interest on the debt we have to pay. We can't fudge, we can't fudge on it, and we can't delay it.

01:20:21:19 - 01:20:52:18

Speaker 1

And that's why and I would ask all of you in the room and any place that you can promote this, I have introduced a bill and I introduced it several years ago, and I'm having a hard time getting people to focus on it. But I introduce H.R. 206 that would require the armed services to provide all the entering, military people with a contract which defines explains all the benefits and regardless of changes in the law, protects that commitment.

01:20:52:18 - 01:21:21:05

Speaker 1

It is a memorandum of understanding. The people that go in the military clearly understand what their benefits are and what they're entitled to, and that they have a contract. And let me tell you what happens in all of you. probably aware of this is that I get from time to time veterans who call me up and say, I was told I was supposed to get this.

01:21:21:08 - 01:21:43:09

Speaker 1

And I say, well, you probably work now. My young son, he's a man now, but just got out of the military. And, when they when he went in during the Persian Gulf War, he was told a lot of things by the guy who recruited him. And the guy who recruited him probably meant well, but it didn't go exactly the way they told him it was going to go.

01:21:43:09 - 01:22:19:14

Speaker 1

And all of you probably have been there, right? My only point is there are a few basic benefits that the contract, the memorandum of understanding, ought to explain. Therefore, each person then has a contract that I can look at when you bring your congressman or whoever can look at and try to hold the military responsible to, because frankly, you know, as I know in the budget crisis, in the budget time, when we're trying to cut the budget, the people serving get the attention and the people retired sort of out of sight for themselves.

01:22:19:17 - 01:22:47:27

Speaker 1

And you do a very good job at it. But my point is, is that if they walk in with a contract, I've got something that I can hold them accountable and responsible for. So I would ask all of you, and if you can, any place across the state in this country, if you could get the GI from any group to help me, put some pressure that we take up H.R. 206, I think it would do a great service to the people who serve in the military.

01:22:48:00 - 01:23:04:25

Speaker 1

I think it would be a good service for the country in that people would feel like that. We honored our commitment. And sometimes when decisions are hard to make, people begin to fudge on their

commitments. A little bit out of sight, out of mind. So it would be most helpful. Other bills which I support, which impact veterans.

01:23:04:25 - 01:23:56:02

Speaker 1

And I'll just go down them real quickly for you. air 580, which will allow the Medicare program to reimburse the Department of Defense for the care of eligible military retirees, H.R. 3012, which will allow you to purchase health care through the, successful Federal Employees Health Benefits System, H.R. 2193, which will make necessary the changes in the federal tax law to open Corvette programs to veteran veterans currently excluded H.R. 65 and H.R. 303, which will allow retired members of the armed services who have served service connected disabilities to receive military retired pay currently with the veterans disability compensation without deductions from either H.R. 1513, which will change to the date for service

01:23:56:08 - 01:24:38:21

Speaker 1

in Vietnam, and Vietnam to December 27th, 1961, thereby covering veterans who were excluded. It just made this a surprise to me. H.R. 2764, which will allow veterans who totally who are totally disabled as a result of service connected disabilities to travel on military aircraft or on, if space is available on a space available basis, H.R. 1646, which will revise and reform the statutes organizing the reserves forces to reflect their expanded role in the downsize force, ongoing discussions with veterans, in our district, have led to the following results so far.

01:24:38:23 - 01:25:06:20

Speaker 1

And, many of you in this room have been helpful, and that is to improve improvements at, Fresno VA hospital, with a screening clinic and said, initiatives of an initiation of a van service to Fresno VA hospital, and most importantly, a reopening of the, discussions placing a VA outpatient clinic at Castle. And we expect and hope to hear some details soon regarding the region's reorganization priorities.

01:25:06:23 - 01:25:33:04

Speaker 1

we have been working to convince them that a clinic in this area is not, in this area is not only necessary, but it is justified by the population and the makeup of of our community. And I would ask all of you to

remember, our efforts in Congress must reflect a fundamental understanding that veterans and military retirees have a special status and relationship with the people of our nation.

01:25:33:07 - 01:25:58:04

Speaker 1

And if there's any one thing that you could do to lobby and convince members of Congress and federal, people is that veterans, military people have a different status and relationship. We have a different category. You are not an entitlement. in the same category of the ones that I mentioned earlier, this is a bond. We have a bond as a nation with our military people.

01:25:58:06 - 01:26:21:27

Speaker 1

And as you've seen this week, how this nation rallied to a hero, just a young man who has served ten years, afraid of doing his job. But they rallied. We have a bonding of the heart with the people who serve in the military, and we cannot allow in any way that bond to be broken. We must keep our commitments as they've kept their commitments.

01:26:21:29 - 01:26:43:19

Speaker 1

I'm delighted to be here with you this morning. and we're going to have a reception this afternoon. And those people who stay out late, we'll see them there. Right. And I clearly understand some of them didn't make it. I serve in Congress. Some people like that. Anyway, thank you very much and God bless you. And I'll be delighted to take questions.

01:26:43:19 - 01:26:51:28

Speaker 1

If you would like to set up my.

01:26:52:00 - 01:26:55:13

Speaker 2

Only comment. I really appreciate the past,

01:26:55:16 - 01:26:57:11

Speaker 1

Assistance you've given the Veterans Affairs.

01:26:57:12 - 01:27:02:15

Speaker 3

I ask you in your assistance. I respect Jesse Brown and, Colonel biosphere California.

01:27:02:18 - 01:27:14:20

Speaker 1

Furthermore, concerning planning, I like to ask you that in this coming year, we're going to be proposing to Jesse Brown and people that some community clinics able to serve veterans.

01:27:14:23 - 01:27:15:28

Speaker 3

And a deeper service.

01:27:15:28 - 01:27:24:14

Speaker 1

In the veterans, program. And, I'd like for you to consider that if that was around and, Secretary Jesse Brown will be.

01:27:24:14 - 01:27:26:26

Speaker 3

Proposing that sometime in the near future.

01:27:26:29 - 01:27:45:25

Speaker 1

Absolutely. I would be happy to do that. Yes, sir. I do a little bit of support for the Selective Service System. And, you know, we've really been doing a tremendous job this time. And I'd like to see that program,

01:27:45:27 - 01:27:49:10

Speaker 3

Funded maybe with the maintenance of what we do with fact.

01:27:49:12 - 01:28:02:05

Speaker 1

And because in case of emergency, everything is set up and it's, member of the local board, 42, I really encourage you to,

01:28:02:08 - 01:28:23:16

Speaker 1

Maybe, get and encourage other people to do likewise. Okay. Very important. let me just comment quickly about that. you know, when I got into Congress, it seemed to make pretty good sense in a budget cut in time. people were trying to eliminate the Selective Service program that simply required, you know, our young people to register, and.

01:28:23:18 - 01:28:40:26

Speaker 1

And so that we could keep track just in case we did have a problem. And we had to reinstitute the draft. It seemed to be an easy target, to eliminate or to begin to eliminate. we have since found that, you know, if we had to organize quickly without it, it would be difficult to do so.

01:28:40:26 - 01:29:00:07

Speaker 1

Your your point is well taken. And I just tell you, if there will continue to be attempts to, to reduce it and bring it down because people think the threat is gone. I'm convinced more and more every day that the threat is not gone and the threat may even be greater, but just in a little different way.

01:29:00:09 - 01:29:03:04

Speaker 3

Hey, Leo. Here. you.

01:29:03:07 - 01:29:04:25

Speaker 6

First of all, I'd like.

01:29:04:25 - 01:29:07:25

Speaker 3

To, offer my.

01:29:07:28 - 01:29:35:25

Speaker 6

Sincere thanks for your participation in your sponsorship of some of our event here, and we're particular very pleased with the fact that you have Nike in your office that is easily accessible to us. And we feel that, there is a close record. You know, we as your finance are not used to being noticed by politicians. And that's a sad reality.

01:29:35:28 - 01:30:13:25

Speaker 6

But it is the case, that entered by mine more than once and then got, reminded, again to me by the conversation of the Selective Service. Little entered my mind that perhaps doing away with Selective Service was the wrong thing. not only from the standpoint of, preparedness for our country, but it seems like to me that it our young people were forced to put in a couple of years of service.

01:30:13:28 - 01:30:28:01

Speaker 6

It would be infinitely cheaper than upgrading all of the programs that we operate across the country to work closely with people.

01:30:28:03 - 01:30:33:06

Speaker 6

With a good dose of discipline and guidance. And I think that's something that should be considered.

01:30:33:08 - 01:30:34:03

Speaker 3

Again.

01:30:34:05 - 01:30:57:27

Speaker 1

Thanks, Leo. I mean, I, I just applaud you. I, I agree with you. We had just, had a serious debate the last couple days on AmeriCorps, which is a youth program similar to the Peace Corps, but it's domestic. And, and some of us believe that we have the, the mechanism already set up to give the young people the ability to have service to the country and true service, and that is something that you've just suggested.

01:30:57:29 - 01:31:19:18

Speaker 1

I'm totally convinced, and I don't mean this in any mean spirited way. I mean this as sincerely and as thoughtful and compassionate as I can. You can have the smartest, the most clever young person in the world. But if you have no discipline, your life is tough. And one of the things that all of you know that you did, with your military service is one thing happen.

01:31:19:20 - 01:31:49:18

Speaker 1

You learn discipline, you learned how to get up on time. You learn all kinds of stuff that has been, and you've been able to apply to your daily lives. And I don't mean this in any bad way or like I know it all, but I am just convinced that what you said is right is that if we figured out some way to have a true service for young people, whether it's a year or two years, it doesn't have to be military, but some service that we could use, these principles, I think we'd be better served would have less population in the jails and prisons in this country.

01:31:49:18 - 01:32:05:05

Speaker 1

And we'd have a lot of young people that felt good about themselves and more productive. So you're absolutely right, Leo. Let me also just say that that, I want Maggie, would you stand up? Maggie works in my office. For those of you who go know.

01:32:05:08 - 01:32:26:10

Speaker 1

And and with people like Maggie and, and Leo and Raul, who I hear from frequently as well, we're we're not going to, forget or not be involved in the Hispanic community and the things that are important to you. You know, like with the introduction, you may not always agree with me, but you're going to know where I'm coming from and why, and we're not going to go away.

01:32:26:10 - 01:32:49:02

Speaker 1

We're going to be there and be a part of the things that are important to you. Anyway, thank you very much. God bless all of you.

01:32:49:04 - 01:32:52:25

Speaker 3

But that you know how to pose to your.

01:32:52:26 - 01:32:53:23

Speaker 5

Thank you very.

01:32:53:23 - 01:32:56:23

Speaker 3

Much. Thank you very much. Thank you for your.

01:32:56:26 - 01:33:01:21

Speaker 1

Thank you. Actually, this one one.

01:33:01:23 - 01:33:03:01

Speaker 3

Thank you sir. Thank you.

01:33:03:03 - 01:33:03:25

Speaker 1

Thank you very much.

01:33:04:02 - 01:33:09:12

Speaker 3

I just wanted to thank you.

01:33:09:14 - 01:33:12:28

Speaker 1

See you doing okay here.

01:33:13:01 - 01:33:15:13

Speaker 3

Somebody.

01:33:15:15 - 01:33:20:18

Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:33:20:21 - 01:33:21:27

Speaker 3

Thank you.

01:33:21:29 - 01:33:35:24

Speaker 2

Yeah. Go ahead and get your coffee or juice right now. We have about ten minutes before we start the conference was.

01:33:35:27 - 01:33:37:14

Speaker 2

Thank you, Leland and Ralph.

01:33:37:16 - 01:33:44:03

Speaker 3

But before we get started, what? Yeah. Nine three. Three.

01:33:44:06 - 01:33:48:01

Unknown

Three. Three. What do you.

01:33:48:03 - 01:33:50:03

Unknown

What else?

01:33:50:05 - 01:33:56:24

Speaker 3

I know.

01:33:56:26 - 01:34:02:24

Unknown

I talked to her.

01:34:02:27 - 01:34:04:00

Unknown

That's what we have.

01:34:04:03 - 01:34:06:15

Speaker 3

Yeah. Three. Three. Six. Okay. You're in the area.

01:34:06:15 - 01:34:16:27

Speaker 1

That's the longest that I can. You. I it was my right.

01:34:17:00 - 01:34:25:10

Speaker 3

That's what you mean.

01:34:25:12 - 01:34:32:28

Speaker 5

It's be center arteries. And she was,

01:34:33:00 - 01:34:59:15

Speaker 5

Three. First one to give service overseas in uniform. Also, Hispanic women at that time were being sought at that time to, work in the fields as a linguist in the fields of cryptology, communications and interpretation. A lot of times we think of just the men in the service, but you see that women have contributed their share to.

01:34:59:17 - 01:35:30:03

Speaker 5

Also, at that time, many women accepted jobs in the defense in spite of the hardships that families made on them, because at the time it wasn't kosher for women to go out and earn a living. However, we were very instrumental in working in military institutions, helping to make the equipment to fight the wars. And in spite of that.

01:35:30:06 - 01:35:53:21

Speaker 5

Because of the very tradition of being a homebody, it was very difficult. But wartime help to provide them with jobs so that they could, implement an income to help with the families. You know, right now, today, we live in a fast moving society, and it demands for all of us to be prepared for the challenges that are facing.

01:35:53:23 - 01:36:31:28

Speaker 5

We need to continue to encourage all our young people to continue on to higher education. And we must always remember that we are here to honor our veterans at all times. Men and women, veterans. And we must never forget our motto that our founder gave this organization. Education is our freedom, and freedom is everybody's business. So let's continue to make it our business because times are changing for them for the better.

01:36:31:28 - 01:36:49:13

Speaker 5

And we must encourage all young adults to participate in leadership roles in order to develop their potential to run this country one day. And it will happen.

01:36:49:16 - 01:37:20:05

Speaker 5

Let's continue to work with what is important. Let's improve our communities to make it that not only do we want to improve in our communities, we need to continue to improve throughout the nation so that this becomes a better country that we have today. We must never forget and especially our youth. Don't ask what your country can do for you, but what we can do for our country.

01:37:20:12 - 01:37:38:21

Speaker 5

We have an obligation and a duty to do for our country. What is important to maintain is where we are the number one nation in the world. It's our duty to encourage everyone to register to vote.

01:37:38:23 - 01:38:06:02

Speaker 5

Every vote counts. One vote makes a difference. And remember my message to you, young people, take it to your schools. If your friends are 17 and I have, of course, you missed the deadline already. But if you're 17.5 by October something, or rather before election, if they're going to be 18 by October the 7th, you register six months prior to your 18th birthday.

01:38:06:02 - 01:38:36:10

Speaker 5

You don't wait for your 18th birthday and vote. It is your duty. It is your obligation. And as we're approaching the year 2000, we need to safeguard all the advances that we have achieved to make a dream come true of our great founder, Doctor Hector Garcia. Least of all, let us not forget the pride that we have in our traditions.

01:38:36:13 - 01:38:57:06

Speaker 5

And continue to remember our culture. And most important, for everybody, let's provide the world with bread and justice for all. Thank you.

01:38:57:09 - 01:39:18:11

Speaker 2

Thank you. I'm Mariana. We're good. I enjoy the part about the, the young students because you are future leaders. And I'm looking forward to the day that you're up here to take my place. And I can sit out there. at this time, I'd like to do is to bring up our, our youth, chairperson for the, convention.

01:39:18:11 - 01:39:28:00

Speaker 2

And he's our vice chair of Modesto chapter. Jose Rodriguez.

01:39:28:03 - 01:39:39:15

Speaker 2

Okay. Is going to give us a quick update on our, on our youth, session, what's going on and where we're at. And if you could, so could you tell us a little bit about yourself very quickly?

01:39:39:17 - 01:39:57:24

Speaker 7

Good afternoon. just do, give you a little bit of background on myself. I'm not from California. I'm actually originally from Houston, Texas. so I'm, the hand at heart always will be.

01:39:57:27 - 01:40:31:08

Speaker 7

Hey. But, I grew up in Houston, and, I was fortunate enough to have opportunities early on in life. I went to a performing arts high school. at a young age, and I, was an actor. Did theater there for four years. So I, I went to some a special kind of school, but it was a public school, and it was also one of the better academic institutions where I had a lot of support from my teachers and my peers.

01:40:31:11 - 01:40:55:19

Speaker 7

I then was, able to, go to the East Coast for college. I went to Yale University, where I, graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. after four years. And then, I finally set myself on the other side of the country. Now I'm in California. I took a position with Proctor and Gamble, and I've been here now for a total of one year.

01:40:55:22 - 01:41:23:10

Speaker 7

about two weeks ago. So, I'd like to say that I'm happy to be here. I'm happy to have a community that supports, Latino issues, supports youth. And, since I arrived, I've found mentors and, different people specifically, Raul Ortega, Leo Avila, just to name a few. And, I've been involved with the, Hispanic Leadership Council.

01:41:23:13 - 01:42:01:16

Speaker 7

I'm a, Downey High School advisor, along with that, and, more recently, I became involved with the GI forum. Now, as far as this, conference in specific, we've been working on leadership with our youth. And yesterday we had a workshop on just that subject. We went through, some sort of an exercise to, look, more of a broader perspective as to who our leaders are in our community and around us and really see what makes them who they are and the leaders they are, and try to build those skills in our youth as well.

01:42:01:18 - 01:42:21:27

Speaker 7

So we went through that discussion. and I think the, the young people had as long as well as myself, because I'm a young person, I think, we got, benefit from that. today where our activity we're going to do a little more fun, fun things. this afternoon, afterwards, we're going to Camilla Park. And while that's fun, have a little bit of fun.

01:42:21:29 - 01:42:55:24

Speaker 7

But when we come back, our youth will start talking more about their objectives as a, as an organization, how they want to, network, between youth organizations in California. So that's just an update as far as, what, what we're going to be doing, just to, add on that the, there's also a raffle going around where half the proceeds will go to the, youth organizations and the women's group organization, and the other half will go to the winner.

01:42:55:24 - 01:43:14:06

Speaker 7

So I would encourage everyone to buy tickets as many as possible. And, to end, I'd like to ask the youth, to meet in the lobby right after this. Don't go anywhere. We're going to leave right after this. So, we're going to Camilla Park. So thank you again.

01:43:14:08 - 01:43:20:02

Speaker 2

Welcome.

01:43:20:05 - 01:43:36:02

Speaker 2

at this time, I'd like to have, our commander, Raoul Ortega, come up and assist me for a second.

01:43:36:05 - 01:44:02:00

Speaker 2

On behalf of on behalf of the American G.I. forum. Would like to do is to recognize the company that Jose works for. Procter and Gamble, which is one of our main sponsors today. just in appreciation of the hard work that they've done for us, and particularly this conference, and also lending Josette to our organization. So, from the American GI Forum to Procter and Gamble to market and, real representative, thank you.

01:44:02:02 - 01:44:23:00

Speaker 2

Thank you.

01:44:23:03 - 01:44:39:10

Speaker 2

Hello. We're still there. Okay. One of the names that, One of the names that wasn't mentioned was that that it is Teresa Guerrero. could you stand up, please?

01:44:39:13 - 01:44:43:27

Speaker 2

Thank you.

01:44:43:29 - 01:45:11:20

Speaker 2

That says one of our, main contributors in this community. She is currently the, Hispanic Leadership Council president, is also a member and possibly an officer of, Mujeres Latinas and, involved very deeply with the Hispanic, Youth Leadership Group. And it was responsible for bringing a lot of our youth today. Thank you. Teresa.

01:45:11:22 - 01:45:22:13

Speaker 2

Okay. At this time, we'd like to do is to introduce our queens. If we could have a representative. Aida Benitez.

01:45:22:16 - 01:45:24:12

Speaker 2

Did I just try that?

01:45:24:14 - 01:45:28:15

Speaker 3

01:45:28:17 - 01:45:40:07

Speaker 2

If you could, please, could you, come up and introduce our queens?

01:45:40:10 - 01:45:55:18

Speaker 5

I'm trying to figure out which one it is. Okay. from the Stockton chapter, we have Gabriela Barstow.

01:45:55:20 - 01:46:06:08

Speaker 5

From San Jose, East Valley chapter. Snyder. Martinez.

01:46:06:10 - 01:46:15:20

Speaker 5

From the San Jose chapter, we have Vanessa Ramirez.

01:46:15:22 - 01:46:25:07

Speaker 5

And from our home chapter here in Modesto, we have Adriana, Terra.

01:46:25:09 - 01:46:42:25

Speaker 5

At this time, we also want to introduce, Night, miss. 1995 96, miss California from the Stockton chapter. April Machuca.

01:46:42:27 - 01:47:00:15

Speaker 5

And I just want to say that, they really deserve a really good round of applause because, they've all worked very hard, and it's it's actually very hard to do something like that. I competed to two years ago, I don't remember a time goes by really fast. I competed two years ago, and I happened to notice.

01:47:00:18 - 01:47:06:07

Speaker 5

It's a really tough situation, to come up in front of a lot of people and try to display.

01:47:06:07 - 01:47:06:27

Speaker 8

Just exactly.

01:47:06:27 - 01:47:34:09

Speaker 5

What you're working for and try to encourage and be in the position of just basically because a lot of the smaller and younger children really look up to them, and it's really a position that needs to be applauded because it's not easy at all. And they've worked really hard. So.

01:47:34:12 - 01:47:49:27

Speaker 2

Okay. Thank you very much. She also, failed to mention one thing that she's also a student at Davis, pre-med student, and will be graduating in their future.

01:47:49:29 - 01:47:56:25

Speaker 2

We have a little note here. I want to go ahead and follow protocol. Since somebody is giving me their.

01:47:56:28 - 01:48:05:08

Speaker 2

Forget. Could we have all of you, please stand up? Everyone here in the youth program here, all of us. Anyone under 21?

01:48:05:10 - 01:48:19:00

Unknown

Yeah. All right.

01:48:19:02 - 01:48:25:27

Speaker 2

Thank you.

01:48:25:29 - 01:48:32:14

Speaker 2

Would it roll? Whatever I will say. Did you hear that? He said, I wish I was 30 years younger. Okay.

01:48:32:14 - 01:48:38:25

Speaker 3

Yeah, that.

01:48:38:27 - 01:49:06:23

Speaker 2

Okay, let's continue on with our program. We have a lot of things to cover. at this time, it is my pleasure to introduce, two of our members from our chapter, Modesto chapter, and, two of our lady members, Bill Acosta and, Gracie Ortega. And they're going to be giving out some scholarship awards.

01:49:06:26 - 01:49:16:17

Speaker 2

This.

01:49:16:19 - 01:49:25:00

Speaker 2

Anita, do you want to make any presentation before we get started? Okay. Thank you.

01:49:25:02 - 01:49:37:22

Speaker 5

Good afternoon. The Modesto chapter is, honored and pleased to award the annual scholarship awards to the following students. But first, I would like to introduce Gracie Ortega, who is in the committee. And, of course,

01:49:37:24 - 01:49:54:25

Speaker 3

Everybody knows Anita.

01:49:54:27 - 01:50:29:27

Speaker 5

Thank you very much. Be it is, to me, it is a special honor and privilege to award the scholarship to our our Queen, California state queen. April Machuca. April. Come and receive our award.

01:50:30:00 - 01:50:38:03

Speaker 5

Thank you.

01:50:38:06 - 01:51:04:07

Speaker 5

oh. I feeling that my throat. I just want to tell everybody in the American Joy forum. Thank you. Once again. I'm not going to spill it all out. That's tonight. I'm not going to do it right now. But I would like to just thank you so much for the opportunity to represent you. Thank you for all your support you have given me this year, your support at nationals, your support during the pageants.

01:51:04:07 - 01:51:32:04

Speaker 5

When I went to go visit San Jose this year. Thank you for always, always giving me a smile, a hug, a pat on the back or a wink. where are we? Some of you would wink, but it was a nice doing. No. It was a nice wink meant with nothing but friendship. And that has meant more to me than anything else.

01:51:32:04 - 01:51:59:16

Speaker 5

Is your friendship, your kindness, your hospitality. Thank you very much. Thank you. Anita and Leo. doctor Sands not here, but he will be later. Thank you to him. To me. Thank you to all my friends here. Thank you very much.

01:51:59:19 - 01:52:36:18

Speaker 5

And along with that comes the, contribution from all the chapters. I believe it's, I don't know the amount, but, remember that, each chapter contributes for the gift for the Queen. And we are pleased to have committed to that. And, you will get that as well. Okay. Thank you. The next one is for.

01:52:36:20 - 01:53:10:23

Speaker 5

A special queen that we all wish that we also had in the area. Her name is Gloria Foster. Gloria wasn't able to make it today. her sister is getting married, and she's in the wedding party. However, I have, one of the queen contestants that participated, along with Gloria. And she will receive the award for Gloria. And I would like to introduce, Margarita mengele.

01:53:10:25 - 01:53:20:14

Speaker 5

Margarita, please.

01:53:20:16 - 01:53:29:18

Speaker 5

You. And thank you. Maria. Rita.

01:53:29:21 - 01:53:41:00

Speaker 5

The next student to receive this award is Susana b7.

01:53:41:02 - 01:54:02:07

Speaker 5

There's been some. Thank you so much. Okay. Do you want to say a few words? well, I would just like to say thank you to everyone in the American GI forum for awarding me this scholarship and giving me the opportunity to continue in my education. Thank you.

01:54:02:10 - 01:54:13:08

Speaker 5

The next student is Anthony Martinez, and I believe that Anthony was unable to attend today.

01:54:13:10 - 01:54:18:26

Speaker 3

For his next.

01:54:18:29 - 01:54:48:03

Speaker 5

One, Joe Garcia was unable to attend. So we're we're just going to skip him. the next one will be for, Jose Martinez. But before, we present his his award, we have Frank Clemente. That is going to give you a little background about Joey.

01:54:48:05 - 01:55:10:05

Speaker 7

How's everybody doing? Food was good, I'd like to thank the GI forum for giving me this opportunity to come and speak very briefly today. I'm the head wrestling coach at Turlock High School, been teaching there for 12 years and, coaching there for, 17 years. These past five years, I have been running the program. Today we hear so many negative things about youth.

01:55:10:05 - 01:55:32:11

Speaker 7

And, I guess, you know, that's what sells. We hear about the teen pregnancy. We hear about, the gangs and the killings and the drugs and everything else. But being involved with young people as I am on a regular basis, there is far more positive things, going on. And this right here is a very good example of it.

01:55:32:13 - 01:55:53:15

Speaker 7

Joseph Martinez came in our program four years ago. At that time, I really didn't know much of the young man. he has done some amazing things. He's a true leader. He led by example. Many people feel or think of a leader as someone who's going to go in there and tell and be boisterous and and so on and so forth.

01:55:53:15 - 01:56:18:16

Speaker 7

But, Joseph led by example. I've never been around anybody with the work ethic that Joseph has, not only in the wrestling room as well as in the classroom. he has done more for our program, I think, than he even realizes. along with that, we have people now who are younger than him who are doing things that he was doing as a senior, and they're trying to do them now.

01:56:18:19 - 01:56:45:26

Speaker 7

And, a student athlete is truly a gifted individual. to go to college and participate and get some scholarships for athletics, means that the amount of time they're putting in for that sport, they're doing the same for the classroom as well. Joseph maintained a 3.2, grade point average all through, and he is currently going to go on to, UC Davis.

01:56:45:29 - 01:57:07:08

Speaker 7

Some of the things he has done, he is a three time league champ. He is a, subsection champ, three times a section champ two times. His junior year, he made the state meet and placed fourth. And, this year, as a senior, he made the finals of the state meet and took second place. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for this opportunity.

01:57:07:08 - 01:57:30:13

Speaker 7

And I thank you for what you're doing for the young people today. And we just need to read more about it in the paper. I'd like to present to you Joseph Martinez.

01:57:30:16 - 01:57:44:23

Speaker 5

we would also like to, introduce Mr. and Mrs. Martinez, the parents of Joey that are also here at this table. Would you please stand up?

01:57:44:25 - 01:57:48:27

Speaker 5

Okay.

01:57:49:00 - 01:58:00:05

Speaker 5

And also the proud grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cardin, this.

01:58:00:08 - 01:58:15:28

Speaker 5

We wish to, award this to Joey Martinez on behalf of the American G.I. forum. Thank you. But Esther chapter.

01:58:16:01 - 01:58:22:01

Speaker 3

Two. I should say something.

01:58:22:03 - 01:58:55:10

Speaker 3

look, first I would like to thank, Modesto GI forum chapter, and, my parents, Frank and JoEllen, because, they helped me through a lot of, what I get what I'm receiving today. and my coach, Frank Clemente. Where is he? Right there for introducing me. Okay. And my grandparents, Joe Barney for, I made me for this, everybody else has supported me or, you know, helped me out through my four years.

01:58:55:12 - 01:59:07:22

Speaker 3

Thanks.

01:59:07:24 - 01:59:42:24

Speaker 5

Our next special award is for a young lady that has done so much for the GI forum. This young lady has come through and help with the, a newsletter that Leo, prepared when he was state commander and force. I think she worked for about four years doing this, job for the American GI forum, and she never got paid for that.

01:59:42:26 - 02:00:14:10

Speaker 5

We are so appreciative. Along with that, I prepared a newsletter also for the National because I'm a national officer as well. And, she prepared a newsletter for me, in March. And, Patricia did it with, all the love that she has for this organization. And, we want to present to her an award, and she'll tell you where her studies are going to be continued.

02:00:14:12 - 02:00:42:06

Speaker 5

She graduated from Berkeley. I know that, and she's been working with Latino issues for forum, but, she has a future ahead of her and her educational future. She will describe it to you. Patricia, please.

02:00:42:08 - 02:00:45:02

Speaker 3

Thank you so.

02:00:45:04 - 02:01:17:03

Speaker 5

first of all, I'd like to thank the American GI forum for giving me this opportunity. It's been a pleasure working with everyone. I've been at Latino Issues Forum as a project director, pretty much out of college, working on different issues. And that's where I came into contact with Leo and Anita. And, we've been working real closely on a lot of different issues, and I was really pleased to have the opportunity to work with the GI forum and to, do whatever I can to help the organization as a whole.

02:01:17:06 - 02:01:52:05

Speaker 5

I went to Berkeley and in the fall, actually, next month, it's coming around quick. I'm going to the University of Texas at Austin to pursue a degree in public affairs from the Lyndon Johnson School of Public Affairs. And I want to continue the work that I started at Latino Issues Forum. we've been working on lots of different things, from energy to telecommunications to higher education and I think it's very important that our youth, are educated and are actually brought up to speed with the changes that are going on in the world, particularly with technology.

02:01:52:08 - 02:02:17:23

Speaker 5

So that's what I want my focus to be on, youth education and telecommunications in the future. So hopefully I will be back here in California soon so that I continue the work, that I've done over the last couple years. Thank you.

02:02:17:25 - 02:02:37:20

Speaker 5

This is truly a family affair, as we say in the American. Jeff. we're all family here with the next student. It gives me a great pleasure because I have a special interest. My grandson, Tommy Rodriguez. Tommy.

02:02:37:23 - 02:02:41:19

Speaker 3

Do you want to say a few words? Yes.

02:02:41:21 - 02:02:44:28

Speaker 2

first, I'd like to thank the GI for, for.

02:02:45:03 - 02:02:46:00

Speaker 3

Presenting me with this.

02:02:46:00 - 02:03:11:06

Speaker 2

Award. And I'd like to thank the GI forum from Modesto for putting on this wonderful convention here. We're having today. I'd like to thank my nana and my papa, B Acosta and Abel Acosta, for just nominating me and pressuring me. To, put in the application for the scholarship and.

02:03:11:08 - 02:03:17:12

Speaker 3

To get.

02:03:17:15 - 02:03:19:25

Speaker 3

In on honor.

02:03:19:27 - 02:03:47:28

Speaker 2

Or, make it. Well, pushing me to put the, scholarship application in to make me get some recommendations from my teachers and just to write some words about what I want to do in the future. But I just want to thank you. thank everybody for coming.

02:03:48:01 - 02:04:07:15

Speaker 2

a lot of. Thank you. Is there thank you. Ladies, a couple of, introductions. I failed to make the first one. Of course. most of you know who I am and have seen me already. I don't know how many times, but for the rest of you, they have not. I failed to introduce myself. My name is Leland Castro.

02:04:07:17 - 02:04:20:11

Speaker 2

I'm the, state convention chair of the 1996 convention here in Modesto.

02:04:20:14 - 02:04:36:18

Speaker 2

The other important person I forgot to mention, as we introduced the ladies earlier was Anita Avila, who has been doing so many things you tend to forget. but I forgot to introduce you, Anita. Anita Avella.

02:04:36:20 - 02:04:42:18

Speaker 2

Who's the boss? Leo said I'm the boss, although she's the boss.

02:04:42:21 - 02:04:43:23

Speaker 6

Please don't worry.

02:04:43:26 - 02:04:48:22

Speaker 3

02:04:48:24 - 02:05:09:01

Speaker 2

It's, It's been a lot of fun. And one of the things that I, I get a good feeling from. And until you're up here and doing some of these things is, Julie is giving. And I think that's what we're doing today. We're giving to you to help you and your future. And you're giving to us because you're going to be our help in our future.

02:05:09:04 - 02:05:32:28

Speaker 2

At this time, I'd like to introduce our, convention chair, our state, chairperson of the, 1996, 1995, 1996, chairperson for American GI Forum of California. Willie Galvan.

02:05:33:00 - 02:05:54:25

Speaker 2

Thank you, Leland and, Raoul, for this wonderful conference that we have today. I want to welcome everybody again. And I want to say hi to the Queens and the Queen candidates and all the committees that have worked so hard. Today. We have a speaker from Washington, and I want to talk a little bit about this lady that's made a lot of things possible for us in Washington.

02:05:54:28 - 02:06:21:22

Speaker 2

When we go to Washington to meet with the Veterans Affairs, to meet with a congressman, she is the lady that opened the doors for us and Leo more often than than I have been there, and she's been in her department. Her office has been real good to us there. This lady was confirmed by the Senate on November 8th, 1993, following her nomination by President Clinton to be the Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs.

02:06:21:24 - 02:06:49:14

Speaker 2

She directs policy, governance and VA public and internal communications programs, as well as arranging as well as intergovernmental and consumer affairs. This year, the Department of Veterans Affairs, before coming to, Washington and Virginia. Mrs.. she was director of government relations for the University of South Florida, Tampa, responsible for state and federal relations for the second largest university in the Florida State University system.

02:06:49:17 - 02:06:58:03

Speaker 2

She served on the Presidential Transition Team, which briefed incoming cabinet secretaries of the Departments of Housing.

02:06:58:03 - 02:06:58:16

Speaker 6

And.

02:06:58:18 - 02:07:30:07

Speaker 2

Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs. In 1992, she directed press operations for the Clinton-Gore election campaign in Florida and service Press Secretary and travel. Later, Hillary Clinton, through her Washington experience, includes many things, but her tenure as an associate with a government and public affairs consulting firm, Fort Collins, Roslyn and Faye, in Arlington, Virginia, she represented client interest to Congress and state legislature.

02:07:30:09 - 02:07:55:04

Speaker 2

She began her career as staff assistant for the US House of Representatives Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. Following graduation from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in governing government and International Relations. She was born in and raised in Tampa. She comes from a Puerto Rican and, American. that said, she is a lady that has helped us a lot.

02:07:55:07 - 02:08:04:07

Speaker 2

I want you to help me welcome Kathy.

02:08:04:10 - 02:08:09:06

Speaker 8

Dunbar.

02:08:09:08 - 02:08:25:20

Speaker 8

Thank you, commander Gavan. That was very, very kind of you. And, that resume, when it gets gets long like that, you you start to realize how old you are. And and you would not have to look very far, because all you have to do is look at these young faces and you realize how old you are. So the.

02:08:25:23 - 02:08:31:05

Speaker 8

I just like to thank Commander Galvin, state Chairperson.

02:08:31:07 - 02:08:32:24

Speaker 5

Tinoco.

02:08:32:27 - 02:09:03:03

Speaker 8

And national vice chairperson Leo Viet and Anita Villa. I'm very happy to be with you all today. I, I enjoy so much being part of GI farm activities, whether they're on the national level, on the state level, I've made very good friends along the way. I've only been at the Department of Veterans Affairs for the last three years, but I have made good friends and the best of the friends that I have made during my tenure at the VA have been those of the GI forum, and I am a member of the GI forum, lifetime member.

02:09:03:06 - 02:09:09:20

Speaker 8

The.

02:09:09:23 - 02:09:30:19

Speaker 8

I am so happy to be with you all today and especially at the Youth luncheon. I. I look forward to coming to the GI forum event because all of you young people are going to be here today, and I hope that I can share with you, some insights. I'm going to share some insights for the the older folks in the room are veterans because I bring them some news from Washington.

02:09:30:21 - 02:09:52:06

Speaker 8

But but hopefully they'll be a little bit of, of, everything from here. First off, I'd like to say, and I and I hope that that a lot of the youth in the room will be able to go to the national convention in Colorado Springs. I know it's a it's a long trip from here, but I'm very excited to announce that at the national convention in Colorado Springs, Secretary Jesse Brown will be a speaker at the convention.

02:09:52:06 - 02:09:59:02

Speaker 8

And we're very happy that he'll be able to to attend the convention.

02:09:59:04 - 02:10:18:18

Speaker 8

So we work that out with, with national commander ality, just last week and with Tony Morales. And so we're, we're very happy that we'll, we'll we have the secretary at the national convention. This has been a tough week in Washington this week. I know that, that everybody has been looking at the, the papers and that this has hit you all very close to home.

02:10:18:18 - 02:10:41:25

Speaker 8

But, it's been a tough week in Washington and around the world. The tragic bombing this week in Saudi Arabia should remind all of us that the price of peace is still high, and it is our men and women in uniform who bear the brunt of it. Our promise to care for them is just as important now as it was to the veterans of any war in our history.

02:10:41:27 - 02:11:08:21

Speaker 8

Right here in Modesto, you have experienced both ends of the emotional spectrum of this tragedy, sorrow and mourning for the loss of Airman First Class Justin Wood, who was killed in the blast in Saudi Arabia, and pride in the heroism and relief over the safe return of Staff Sergeant Alfredo Guerrero Jr, who sent something suspicious and ran through the building alerting people to get out before the explosion.

02:11:08:23 - 02:11:32:07

Speaker 8

19 Americans were killed and over 300 injured in that blast. They were not fighting a war, but the deaths and injuries and psychological scars are just as real as any resulting from combat. Our obligation to care for them and their families is just as solemn today as it was 200 years ago, when the first benefits for American veterans were created.

02:11:32:10 - 02:11:57:21

Speaker 8

So what does that obligation mean to those men and women in their families? For those who were injured, VA will be there to provide medical care, rehabilitation and compensation, education and job training. In short, everything we can give them to offset the negative effects of their experience and that will impede their ability to lead a normal and happy and productive lives.

02:11:57:23 - 02:12:36:18

Speaker 8

Those who witnessed the event and its aftermath and escaped physical harm may find the memory of what they have seen will become more and more troubling. With time. VA will be for them. It will be there for them with psychological counseling and treatment to help them deal with the effects of post-traumatic stress. And for those who were killed, VA provides much more than a dignified burial and a payment of insurance to the families for the widows and children and dependent parents, VA will pay dependency and indemnity compensation on a monthly payment to take the place of the income of the veteran.

02:12:36:20 - 02:13:05:04

Speaker 8

We will provide educational benefits so that the spouse and the children can go to college or get vocational training. The spouse can qualify for a VA home loan guarantee to purchase a home and their health insurance needs will be met by the VA Civilian Health and Medical Program.

02:13:05:06 - 02:13:40:04

Speaker 8

This is what keeping the promise to America's veterans means. Anyone who served in the armed forces must be secure in the knowledge that if anything happens to them, and they and their families will be taken care of, we have a phrase, a VA, that serves as a constant reminder of our mission. We call it putting veterans first. And over the past three years, the Clinton administration, we have formed a partnership with veterans organizations like the GI forum, and we have made significant progress in many areas that affect veterans.

02:13:40:06 - 02:14:07:27

Speaker 8

Veterans who come to the VA for compensation benefits have experienced long delays because of a backlog that had built up. We have cut that backlog more than in half, and we are working towards having that backlog in a very manageable rate so that we can process claims within 100 days. We have new veterans, veterans from the Persian Gulf War who are experiencing illnesses, unexplained illnesses from their service.

02:14:08:00 - 02:14:28:12

Speaker 8

And we are doing everything we can in partnership with DoD and with the Health and Human Services Department to try to find out what is making these veterans ill. We are doing research, but we're not waiting for the answers of research. We are compensating those veterans who are ill and who are disabled as a result of their illness.

02:14:28:15 - 02:14:50:14

Speaker 8

We are also providing health care, priority health care for our Persian Gulf veterans. And we also have a program now that enables the spouses and children of Persian Gulf veterans to come in and get an exam at our affiliated facilities around the country, and we have a Persian Gulf hotline that enables them to talk to us on a 24 hour basis about their issues.

02:14:50:14 - 02:15:11:25

Speaker 8

So we're very happy with the progress that we've made for Persian Gulf veterans. But it's not enough. We still need to find the answers of their illness. I know that, some of you in the room will be. We're very happy. last month, when the president came forward and announced the newest illnesses that will be covered for exposure to Agent Orange.

02:15:11:27 - 02:15:42:04

Speaker 8

this is an ongoing process. And and I know many of you don't remember a lot of the controversy that has gone on from from the, Vietnam War. But, the soldiers in the Vietnam War were exposed to Agent Orange, a defoliant. And it has, caused diseases as a result of their being exposed and in a, a process of going through a constant review of the scientific material that's available, it was determined that there would be new diseases added on, that the veterans could be service connected for.

02:15:42:04 - 02:16:23:27

Speaker 8

And those were, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy and prostate cancer. And that's added to a long list of of cancers in myeloma, respiratory cancers in myeloma is that we're on the list already. And there was one, you know, very, precedent setting announcement as well regarding the children, Vietnam veterans. And that is it. The president also announced that we would, be producing, developing legislation that would cover those children of Vietnam veterans who are suffering from spinal bifida, which is an ailment that affects the spinal cord and, causes a, for deformation of the spinal cord.

02:16:24:00 - 02:16:54:08

Speaker 8

And and that is is very precedent setting. We have never in the history of the VA ever covered the children. But in this particular disease, just of spina bifida, there is there is evidence that perhaps there is an association with the the, Parents Service in Vietnam. So, so we're right now drafting legislation, and I know this is an issue that the GI forum has followed very closely for many years, and we had represented well at this announcement by the president, the GI forum.

02:16:54:13 - 02:17:10:19

Speaker 8

There were, 3 or 4 members of the GI forum in from the Washington area in the audience to, to receive the president's announcement. So this is something that you will work very hard for.

02:17:10:22 - 02:17:26:26

Speaker 8

And and we had a little conversation a minute ago about technology. You know, we at the VA, we think that we're we're right in the middle of the technological age and the GI forum, you're on the cutting edge because you're out amongst the youth. And I'm sure that you've all got your computers at home and you're tapping into the World Wide Web.

02:17:26:29 - 02:17:47:15

Speaker 8

Well, the VA has the largest worldwide website. We see this as a wonderful opportunity to be able to connect with our veterans, those who are interested in finding out about their benefits, they can tap into the world wide Web, go to the VA site, and if they speak Spanish, they can just punch up the Spanish version of their federal benefits book for veterans.

02:17:47:15 - 02:18:10:08

Speaker 8

And we're very, very proud of that. And we hope that this will help us communicate more and better with veterans around the country regarding their benefits. On the health care side of the VA, we have a new undersecretary for health that, that some of you may have, had an opportunity to meet out here in California because he's from California, from UC Davis originally.

02:18:10:08 - 02:18:29:20

Speaker 8

His name is Ken Kaiser. He has completely turned the VA health care, you know, on its ear upside down, turn it back around and reorganize the whole place. We're very proud of him. We're very proud of the reorganization. for those of you who go to the VA hospitals, we hope you don't notice anything except for better service.

02:18:29:22 - 02:18:47:07

Speaker 8

But a lot is happening. We're we're streamlining. We're changing our management structures. What we're trying to do is we're trying to take our resources, and we're trying to put the resources where we need them. That sounds very simple, doesn't it? We should be able to just put the resources where we need them. Well, it never was ever that simple.

02:18:47:07 - 02:19:08:01

Speaker 8

We have all sorts of congressional mandates and laws restricting us. Well, Ken Kaiser, through all of those out the window and, and I'm actually kidding about that because you can't throw congressional laws out the window. But he has managed to get around a few of them. And what we are doing is what we are looking at. The country in regions and we are saying, where are the veterans concentrated?

02:19:08:01 - 02:19:41:18

Speaker 8

What kind of needs do they have? What are their hospital and outpatient needs. And then let's and and long term care needs and let's move the resources into where the needs are. And we're doing this very effectively around the country. And something a little bit more close to home. I give you an update on Travis Air Force Base, the, the VA medical center that we have slated that was proposed in the president's budget last year and this year as well, for funding of the of the new VA, medical Center at Travis Air Force Base.

02:19:41:18 - 02:20:04:08

Speaker 8

This is the facility that was supposed to replace Martinez that was closed because of the, the structure damage from from the earthquake. what is the status now? And as I just said, the president had it in his budget. It's gone through the House committees, and they do have the funding. The House does have the funding for the VA medical Center at Travis in their bill.

02:20:04:08 - 02:20:24:03

Speaker 8

Now, the Senate has not acted yet, so the Senate still remains to act. And then, of course, if they come up with anything different, they have to go to conference. But, on the House side, Travis is looking good. They put about \$32 million into the construction in for the construction. The hospital there was already about 25 million there.

02:20:24:03 - 02:20:44:28

Speaker 8

So there's about there is \$57 million in a pot, you know, waiting to build that hospital. If, in fact, the Senate will, will be in concert with the house and, and move forward with Travis, Travis funding. And I know that that's important to a lot of the Northern California and, in the room because, because it's right up.

02:20:45:00 - 02:20:46:22

Speaker 8

how far is Travis from here? About a hundred.

02:20:46:22 - 02:20:48:26

Speaker 5

Miles. 100 miles?

02:20:48:29 - 02:21:07:05

Speaker 8

About a hundred miles. But it is. Travis is located in a catchment area that serves about 400,000 veterans. So it's a it's a much needed facility. About 400,000 veterans are in that catchment area. And that hospital does need to be replaced.

02:21:07:07 - 02:21:27:28

Speaker 8

We are in addition to Travis and I talked to, to State Commander Galvan about this just a little bit before we started. But in in our we're building this one hospital, but this is probably going to be one of the last hospitals that we build at the VA. And there is a big concern. It's a concern of State Commander Galvin's that we have more access point in the VA.

02:21:27:29 - 02:21:52:10

Speaker 8

We need to have it's fine to have great health care, but if it's not where everybody needs the health care, then it's not doing anybody any good. So what we're very hopeful is that in the very near future,

that Congress will allow us to develop new access points. Right now, Congress has approved a pilot program to allow us to open up 15 new access points.

02:21:52:10 - 02:22:12:15

Speaker 8

And what this is, is it's a little bit different than having a, a hospital somewhere. It's it's having a storefront, if you will. It's being able to contract out or to put a physician and a nurse in a location where they can provide storefront access to health care, where someone can go and get a prescription filled and go and go and get outpatient treatment.

02:22:12:17 - 02:22:32:08

Speaker 8

We think that this is our future at the VA. It's very important that we be able to take our resources and put them where the veterans need them. That isn't necessarily in a hospital. It's at a storefront access. It's at an access point where they can get to it. And we have been, contemplating, you know, how we're going to do this.

02:22:32:08 - 02:22:55:18

Speaker 8

We made a proposal to Congress, and they're going to let us do a pilot with 15, access, additional access points around the country. And and when there's not a lot of money to, to go around in Washington, this is a real victory for VA doctor Kaiser and for the Veterans Health Administration. So we are very pleased, and we hope that, we will be able to provide, more access points for veterans in the future.

02:22:55:18 - 02:23:09:20

Speaker 8

And this will be the wave in the future. And now that I have board all these youth with, you know, with the finer points of the VA issues, but, you know, everybody behind you was very interested. I just want you to know, okay, the.

02:23:09:23 - 02:23:10:14

Speaker 5

02:23:10:16 - 02:23:39:13

Speaker 8

The, what I'd like to do is I'd like to take a minute of your time to discuss the importance of the GI Forum's mission of advocacy. Mariana got into it just a little bit a while ago, and I'd like to echo that issue. You know, the VA has come a long way since Doctor Hector Garcia began his fight for the rights of Hispanic veterans and founded the American GI forum.

02:23:39:15 - 02:24:07:20

Speaker 8

You know, today, VA has an Office of Minority Affairs that represents the Hispanic community in decisions facing veterans. And we have programs to meet the challenges of reaching out to the Hispanic community. But those programs only came about because someone spoke up for them and fought for them. And those same ones are in this room. They're part of the GI forum.

02:24:07:22 - 02:24:28:18

Speaker 8

And this is something that that is only beginning. It needs to continue. In the tradition of Doctor Garcia, you must join together and let your voices be heard. You must make yourselves known, not just in your communities, but in the halls of Congress. And you must forge yourself into a political force that can be that needs to be reckoned with.

02:24:28:20 - 02:24:54:28

Speaker 8

And and I know that, you know, that these are big words for, for young lives. But there is a real strong message here, you know, all you have to do to look around you for examples of advocates are the people around you. They are your advocates. They all of the the scholarship awardees today, everybody in this room and everybody who worked to get you the scholarship that you have, they're all advocates on your behalf.

02:24:55:00 - 02:25:23:04

Speaker 8

And why are they doing that? Because they see you as the advocates of the future. They know how important you are to this community, and they want you to be prepared, and they want you to be

educated, because an educated advocate is always the best advocate. You know, I am a Hispanic appointee of President Clinton's, administration, and I'm very proud to have him as an example to me of advocacy.

02:25:23:04 - 02:25:41:29

Speaker 8

And I've had many, many examples and many people to look up to in my life. And but but he has been one of the strongest example of an advocate. He has appointed more Hispanics to his cabinet and throughout his government than any president previous to him.

02:25:42:01 - 02:26:03:06

Speaker 8

In his administration, he has said, well, yes, of course you have to do your job. You know, you have to be the communications head of the VA, but you also have a responsibility to be an advocate for the Hispanic community. That's why I put you there. That's what I want you to do. That's what I'm holding you responsible for.

02:26:03:12 - 02:26:27:07

Speaker 8

All of the appointees in my administration. They have a responsibility to their community. I want to build an administration that looks like America so that not so that they can just sit there and look like America, so that they can work for America so that they can go out and represent the Hispanic communities in America.

02:26:27:09 - 02:26:50:04

Speaker 8

But the the president doesn't just rely on internal advocates like myself for the Hispanic community. Oh, no, no, no, that would be just that would be, you know, just taking too many chances. He's got to hear it for himself. He's got to have it in his own years. So he calls people into the white House and says, oh, come on in and tell me what your issues are and, and how we can make this government work better for these communities.

02:26:50:06 - 02:27:14:05

Speaker 8

A perfect example, just a couple of weeks ago, the president sat down and he had a round table discussion, very small, you know, probably 30 people in the room, roundtable discussion with veterans organizations, specifically on veterans issues. They wavered a few a few times on some issues, and they had all the veterans organizations in there, and they all went around the table and asked the president questions about their issues.

02:27:14:05 - 02:27:39:17

Speaker 8

Well, of course, the GI forum was represented at this very small gathering with the president and Alma Esparza in Washington, DC, sat amongst these groups. You know, that included the American Legion and the VFW and everybody else. And what was AMA as far as a question to President Clinton, she wanted to know what the president was doing about hiring Hispanics in the federal government.

02:27:39:24 - 02:28:01:02

Speaker 8

The numbers were too low. And what was he going to do about bringing those numbers up? And she had a specific issue. She had the issue of Kelly Air Force Base, which is closing, which which employs, a huge number of Hispanics. The number of Hispanics in the federal government will go down substantially when when Kelly Air Force Base closes in San Antonio, Texas.

02:28:01:05 - 02:28:19:23

Speaker 8

And so she she raised that issue. And in the end, the president gave her a very emotional response. He said he was very unhappy with the Kelly closure. He had stated this when when Kelly was closed and that he was working with, with Secretary Cisneros of HUD and others to try to privatize a lot of the jobs in Kelly.

02:28:19:29 - 02:28:44:16

Speaker 8

But on the greater issue, on the greater issue of all of the federal government and Hispanic employment, he said he was very troubled by this issue. He and he didn't know how to fix it. He wasn't sure how to fix it. He knew the numbers were low. He he knows that the Hispanic population is regionalized in the country, and he doesn't know how to fix the problem, how we're going to get that Hispanic employment number up in the government.

02:28:44:16 - 02:28:59:05

Speaker 8

Because as I told you before, he wants he wants the federal government to look like America. And there are not enough Hispanics represented in the federal government at the very highest level of appointees. He's been able to do a good job. But on the lower levels, he's he wants to unpack that. So what did so what did he do?

02:28:59:07 - 02:29:19:10

Speaker 8

He looked at almost four hours and he said, please go back to your organization, go back to the G.I. forum. I need you to tell me what I can do to help. I mean, these are very these are very tough budget times. Tell me what I can do to try to improve this situation. That is unfair with respect to Hispanic employment in the government.

02:29:19:12 - 02:29:47:17

Speaker 8

And, you know, should we be surprised by this? Should we be surprise that the president would charge the G.I. forum with coming up with solutions to two problems? No, this shouldn't surprise us at all. This president, since the beginning of his administration, has said that this nation faces many challenges. But he also said that there is nothing wrong with America that can't be fixed by what is right in America.

02:29:47:17 - 02:29:59:06

Speaker 8

And the G.I. forum is what is right with America.

02:29:59:08 - 02:30:24:10

Speaker 8

Thanks to Doctor Garcia and all of you in this room, the GI forum is growing and has the potential to become the next great force of advocacy for America's Hispanic veterans and for the Latino community nationwide. And the youth in this room should see this as a challenge. You know, there are opportunities, but there is work to be done.

02:30:24:12 - 02:30:47:08

Speaker 8

You know, you are living in a wonderful, wonderful time and you have so many opportunities for you in the future. But those opportunities, they don't come cheap. You know, you have to work and you have to represent your community because you didn't get here by yourself and you're not going anywhere else by yourself. And you owe a debt to your community, and we're all going to help you repay that debt.

02:30:47:08 - 02:31:02:13

Speaker 8

And in repaying that debt, you will get more satisfaction out of contributing to your community than anything else that you'll do in your life. I encourage.

02:31:02:15 - 02:31:18:13

Speaker 8

I encourage you to join together and realize the potential that you all have, and become the force that I know that you can be. Challenge yourselves to be advocates for the Latino community. If you do, America will be better for it. Thank you.

02:31:18:16 - 02:31:32:15

Speaker 3

Thank you.

02:31:32:18 - 02:31:40:24

Unknown

Thank you. Thank you very much.

02:31:40:27 - 02:32:05:25

Speaker 2

We really appreciate Kathy being here and, for all the work that she does for veterans in our community. One thing that I want to tell you is that, our national chairman, Jay Reed and Tony Morales are today probably, still in Saudi Arabia. They went to Bosnia to visit Bosnia, and they went to special invitation of Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

02:32:05:28 - 02:32:24:07

Speaker 2

And then they headed to, Saudi Arabia to see the disaster there. And, that's why our national chairman is not here at National Commander. And I think, Cathy, again, for all the help that she has given us in Washington.

02:32:24:10 - 02:32:32:13

Speaker 2

Thank you, commander. Was that great or what?

02:32:32:15 - 02:32:46:00

Speaker 2

Okay. All you young people, what do you think this is, your challenge? Is this a role model? Yeah. All right.

02:32:46:02 - 02:33:06:26

Speaker 2

Thank you. Cathy, you didn't. I was just going to say that they didn't realize how close you do not realize. All of us realize how close you are to the president by being associated. The American GI forum. At this time, I'd like to, recognize another guest that we have here that I overlooked. And that's the, a representative for Mujeres Latinas.

02:33:06:26 - 02:33:25:24

Speaker 2

Christina. She left already. What's your last name? Viejo. Christina Vega with, mujeres Latinas and, overlooked a couple other people. Helen Galvan, vice chair, state chair, women's chair.

02:33:25:26 - 02:33:37:00

Speaker 2

And Paula Lopez, Secretary of state and national. Excuse me. Paula.

02:33:37:03 - 02:33:39:12

Speaker 3

Both.

02:33:39:15 - 02:33:46:21

Speaker 2

And as well as Anita Avila.

02:33:46:24 - 02:33:56:17

Speaker 2

This, concludes our our luncheon. I want to thank everybody, all our guests and our speakers. we'll, reconvene at 2:00. And our general session. Thank you again for coming.