

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address May 26, 2017 Remembering American Service Members on Memorial Day

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

This Memorial Day, I urge you to pause and consider the sacrifices of those who serve our country. I am grateful to the many North Texans who bear the burden of protecting our liberty and freedom.

Fifty years ago, my high school classmate, Private Charles M. Yates, was killed in action in Vietnam. His story, marked by sacrifice and bravery, is just one example of American service. On January 21, 1967, Private Yates was wounded when his unit came under enemy fire. Yet, he refused to be evacuated.

His service record indicates that he instead insisted on helping other wounded personnel. While tending to his fellow soldiers, Private Yates was fatally wounded. His final actions undoubtedly saved several lives.

Now as a Congressman fifty years later, I think of Private Yates and the many other men and women from our district who answer the call to duty. Congress owes American veterans the best support and care we can offer.

Last week, I co-sponsored two bills that will help ensure veterans receive care following their service. First, the PAWS Act provides grants to help returning veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder to purchase service dogs.

I also co-sponsored Congressman Sam Johnson's bill, which ensures that veterans can secure the healthcare of their choice, either through the Department of Veterans Affairs or through the individual market. I hope these efforts will provide needed care for many military service members.

This Memorial Day, please take a moment to remember the many brave men and women, like Private Yates, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.