



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

Hanover Alumni in Public Life

Mike Pence (HC 1981) is Vice President of the United States, and Eric Holcomb (HC 1990) is Governor of Indiana. The following details about how they experienced May 15, 2020, come from government documents, social media, and broadcast recordings.

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Mike Pence (HC 1981)

In the morning, Vice President Pence spoke with President Donald Trump. He also used Facebook postings to commemorate Peace Officers Memorial Day and to celebrate news of small businesses in North Carolina opening up.¹

Later, he announced new members for the White House Coronavirus Task Force. A White House press release quoted him saying "Thanks to President Trump's leadership and the efforts of the American people, we've saved lives, Slowed the Spread, and states are Opening Up Again." He explained in the statement that the new members would "add expertise in the fields of vaccines and therapeutics as well as worker safety as the Task Force renews its focus on getting Americans back to work."²

In the afternoon, he appeared on Rush Limbaugh's radio show, praising "the tremendous cooperation of the American people, their care for their neighbors — especially the vulnerable — and the strong leadership of President Donald Trump." He and Limbaugh also spoke about schools and colleges. He said "I truly do believe much of the country will be in a place where we'll be back to school come this fall, from elementary, to high school, to higher education," looking forward to "getting the learning going again and with that, my fondest hope is that we [can] get those teams competing again."³

After the official unveiling of the new Space Force flag in the Oval Office, he met with General Jay Raymond (Chief of Space Operations) to mark the occasion, posing for a quick photo.⁴

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Electronic Submission

Eric Holcomb (HC 1990)

Governor Holcomb gave a public Covid-19 update on May 15. He began the update by introducing other government officials who reported on public health, the upcoming (delayed) primary election, and unemployment. He also recognized high school and college graduates, acknowledging that they have been “maybe knocked back, but certainly not knocked down” by the challenges of Covid-19. Responding to reporters’ questions, he reiterated that the process of relaxing stay-at-home orders would be based on data about new cases and medical capacity. “If the numbers change, our calculus will change in terms of our four principles,” he said. “But, as long as we’re keeping our principles as our North Star – as long as we’re able to take care of those who are in need, medically speaking -- then we’re going to stay on this course. If those numbers become threatened, or take a turn south, then we’ll course correct.” A reporter asked him to respond to the owners of Shapiro’s Deli (an icon in Indianapolis for over a hundred years); the owners said they were in danger of closing for good if they couldn’t have customers for another thirty days. Holcomb acknowledged their difficult situation: “I look forward to going to Shapiros myself – I’m a longtime customer. But we have to do this safely. I understand the thirty days away. I get it. It pains me to have to execute this plan gradually – and methodically – and safely – and responsibly. We’re trying to get there safely as fast as we can. So I look forward to seeing him, in person, at the earliest available time.”⁵

¹Mike Pence, interview by Rush Limbaugh, 15 May 2020, *The Rush Limbaugh Show*, available at <https://www.rushlimbaugh.com/videos/free-video/vice-president-pence-on-reopening-america/> ; Mike Pence (@mikepence), “Encouraging news from small businesses in North Carolina,” Facebook, 15 May 2020, 9:26 a.m., <https://www.facebook.com/mikepence/> ; Pence, “On this Peace Officers Memorial Day,” Facebook, 15 May 2020, 11:32 a.m.

²“New Members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force Announced,” 15 May 2020, White House, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/new-members-white-house-coronavirus-task-force-announced/> (accessed 15 May 2020).

³Mike Pence, interview by Rush Limbaugh, 15 May 2020, *The Rush Limbaugh Show*, available at <https://www.rushlimbaugh.com/videos/free-video/vice-president-pence-on-reopening-america/> (accessed 28 May 2020).

⁴Mike Pence (@Mike_Pence) “Proud to welcome General Jay Raymond, Chief of Space Operations,” Twitter, 15 May 2020, 5:36 p.m., https://twitter.com/Mike_Pence/status/1261410065581404160

⁵“Governor Holcomb COVID-19 Update, 5/15/2020,” FSSA Indiana, Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-HD8jfvI0Y>.