

United States Senate

September 6, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write to express my full support for awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Patrick J. Buchanan.

For more than half a century, Pat Buchanan has been a courageous intellectual and political trailblazer. He devoted his life and career to challenging the elite consensus on behalf of the Americans he famously described as the “conservatives of the heart”¹ — the working men and women who shared our beliefs and convictions, but had been abandoned by both parties in Washington.

While he never held political office, Mr. Buchanan has had a profound influence on America. His three presidential campaigns, though ridiculed and attacked by the establishment, proved that millions of Americans hungered for the very ideas and policies that you championed in your historic road to victory two decades later. His prolific columns, books, speeches and television appearances reminded countless ordinary Americans that they were not alone in their beliefs — and provided the intellectual scaffolding for the America First movement that would go on to reshape the Republican Party under your leadership.

Mr. Buchanan was a prophetic voice on the defining issues of our time: Immigration, trade, foreign policy, and the “cultural war” that the Left was waging in America.

While these issues were ignored or dismissed for decades by Washington, they were all too real for Americans in towns like the one I grew up in. As I noted in a speech I gave urging support for your America First trade reforms earlier this year, the elite consensus that both you and Mr. Buchanan opposed “sent our children and our wealth overseas to defend the borders of distant nations, while throwing open our own borders to a tidal wave of mass migration here at home.” In Missouri and across the country, “the men and women who built this country...have watched,

¹ Patrick J. Buchanan, *Address to the Republican National Convention*, Houston, TX, August 17, 1992.

in quiet despair, as their towns crumble into disrepair, their way of life disappears, and the country they love slips away from them.”²

That is precisely why Mr. Buchanan’s message resonated with millions of Americans: His unapologetic defense of the American worker, the American family, and the sovereignty of the American nation spoke for them and their interests, when no one else would.

In awarding him with our nation’s highest civilian honor, you would not only be recognizing the service of one man but vindicating the cause he fought for — a cause which finally found its champion in your person. Such an honor would formally affirm that Mr. Buchanan is one of the great patriots of our time – a man who championed the forgotten Americans and laid the intellectual groundwork for the political realignment you led.

I respectfully appreciate that you consider this recommendation to confer the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Patrick J. Buchanan.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Schmitt

United States Senator (Missouri)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Eric S. Schmitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Schmitt" clearly legible, and "S." as a middle initial.

Eric S. Schmitt
Charman, Subcommittee on the Constitution
Senate Judiciary Committee

² Senator Eric Schmitt, *Remarks on the Senate Floor Highlighting Devastating Impacts of Unfair Trade Practices*, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., April 30, 2025.