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Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach holds a press conference alongside Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) director Tony Mattivi regarding an operation in the deportation of 10 illegal immigrants with criminal histories on Nov. 17.

PHOTOS BY EVERT NELSON/TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

KBI helps deport 10 immigrants

Men had been convicted of crimes but remained in KS

Jack Harvel
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Kansas Attorney General and Kansas Bureau of Investigation director announced that it initiated deportations against 10 people with criminal histories residing in the state.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation arrested the individuals between Oct. 24 and Nov. 14, all of whom were present on public registries of people convicted of sex crimes, drug crimes or violent crimes.

“These are individuals who have already been convicted, have already served their time, and under federal law, they were supposed to have been apprehended leaving the prison and then immediately deported from the country,” Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach said. “But for one reason or another, they weren’t and so they continued to reside in Kansas.”

The KBI arrested and transferred the detainees to Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody to await immigration proceedings. The arrests occurred primarily in Wichita, Hutchinson, Newton, Garden City and Dodge City.

All but one of the detainees were convicted of crimes in Kansas, and one was convicted in California.

The detainees are as follows:

- Jose Luis Gomez Sr., of Mexico, with a conviction of distribution of opiates/narcotics.
- Alonzo Mendez, of Mexico, with a conviction for indecent liberties with a child 14-16.
- Gilberto Taracena Monte, of Guatemala, with a conviction of annoy/molest child under 18.
- Diego Nevarez, of Mexico, with



KBI director Tony Mattivi gives remarks during a press conference on Nov. 17.

convictions for distribution/possession with intent to distribute heroin.

- Jose Rivera-Avila, of Mexico, with a conviction of aggravated assault, criminal discharge of firearm.
- Bashir Omar, of Somalia, with a conviction of second-degree intentional murder.
- Nigisti Geberemedehni Beyene, of Ethiopia, with a conviction for aggravated battery.
- Yuliesky Hernandez-Padron, of Cuba, with a conviction of aggravated robbery.
- Jose Eduardo Garcia-Peralta, of Mexico, with a conviction of distribution of opiates/narcotics.
- Ramiro Erik Flores-Hernandez, of Mexico, with a conviction of cultivation/distribution of controlled sub-

stances.

Kobach said some of the individuals entered the country illegally, while others were legally present in the United States when they committed a crime, forfeiting their right to legal residency.

Kobach said most of the detainees were released from their sentences within the past decade when they slipped through the cracks. He claimed the Biden administration had a particularly poor track record on arresting and removing individuals.

The KBI expects more people to be identified through public registries in the future. The KBI first shared the registry with ICE in June.

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Former Vice President Dick Cheney, whose daughter, Mary Cheney, is in a same-sex marriage, distanced himself from former President George W. Bush's stance on the issue.

ROBYN BECK/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

Cheney legacy mixed on LGBTQ+ issues

Ex-vice president wanted marriage left to states

Michael Collins
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – It was the first time Dick Cheney broke publicly with George W. Bush over the issue of same-sex marriage. But it wouldn’t be the last.

Bush, the Republican nominee for president in 2000, held the view that marriage should be between a man and a woman. Cheney, his running mate, stunned many Americans when he announced during a vice presidential debate in Kentucky just a month before the election that he believed people should be able to enter into any kind of relationship they wanted.

“Freedom means freedom for everybody,” he said, adding that regulating personal behavior in that regard was no one’s business.

Four years later, Cheney would again distance himself from Bush over same-sex marriage in the middle of another election campaign. Referencing his daughter, Mary, who is a lesbian, Dick Cheney said during a town hall meeting in Iowa that same-sex marriage is “an issue our family is very familiar with” and that a federal constitutional amendment that Bush supported to define marriage as between a man and a woman was unnecessary.

Yet despite his early support of same-sex couples, Cheney, who died Nov. 3, left behind a complicated legacy on LGBTQ+ issues. Cheney’s funeral is at the Washington National Cathedral at 11 a.m. ET on Nov. 20.

Though he opposed a federal marriage amendment, he never lobbied publicly against it. And not only did he remain on the ticket in 2004 despite their differences, but Bush and Cheney’s political campaign turned same-sex marriage into a wedge issue to drive conservative voters to the polls and help them win a second term.

“He could have either stood up or stood down, and he chose to stay on the ticket,” said Brian Bond, chief executive

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