

David Paul Burridge served with the U.S. Marine's 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. On the afternoon of the 6th of September, was killed outside Fallujah, Iraq when a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle near a U.S. convoy.

David had been stationed in Iraq since April and most recently, his Marine unit was charged with securing the volatile western Anbar province.

David was one of seven brave Marine's killed outside Fallujah on Monday. While we here in the United States honored America's workers on Labor Day, David and his colleagues were hard at work defending our freedom. In the line of duty, David bravely gave his life to help make this world a better place for his fellow soldiers and indeed for us all.

A 2004 graduate of Lafayette High School, David's principal remembered him as "happy-go-lucky," saying "he was just the kind of kid that if I were a teacher, that's the kind of kid that you say, 'I'd take a whole class of them.'"

Mr. Speaker, please join David's friends, family and me as we honor his memory and thank him for his heroic service to our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO EAST BAY AREA FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND LOVED ONES AFFECTED BY CANCER

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the accomplishments of the Wellness Community of the San Francisco East Bay area.

The Wellness Community provides support, education, and hope for people with cancer and their loved ones, serving more than 1,000 participants in the Bay Area annually.

Cancer affects three out of four families across our Nation, over 1.3 million Americans each year. Cancer does not discriminate, crossing all ethnic, racial, age, national origin, sexual orientation, and socio-economic lines. It is one of the most devastating diseases afflicting Americans today.

The Wellness Community of the San Francisco East Bay area provides services to improve the quality of life for cancer patients, their families, and loved ones. Services include weekly and monthly support groups, monthly educational programs, stress management and gentle movement programs, and a cancer resource library.

In addition to providing a close-knit, home-like atmosphere, the Wellness Community's programs also enable those with cancer to take an active stance in combating the disease by forming a support network for patients and their families.

The Wellness Community believes that hope is a valuable tool for combating cancer. Rather than identifying themselves as passive victims, the Wellness Community empowers patients to play an active role in improving their own lives by working directly with their healthcare teams to bring about the possibility of recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Wellness Community on over

twenty years of dedicated service in improving the lives of individuals, families, and loved ones who are affected by cancer in the San Francisco Bay area.

I urge the House of Representatives to recognize their declaration of September 18, 2004 as "The Wellness Community Day of Celebration."

CITY OF COLLEYVILLE RANKED IN TOP TEN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize five communities within my district for being acknowledged as among the "Top Ten Suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth Area," by D Magazine, a regional monthly publication. Top honors went to Southlake, Colleyville, Highland Village, Flower Mound, and Coppell based on these communities' excellent schools, affordability, and low crime rates.

Every two years, the magazine ranks some fifty plus suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the State of Texas' largest metropolitan area. Colleyville was ranked number five on this year's top ten after receiving top marks as a "laid back" community. D Magazine also noted the city's recognition for being a national "Kid Friendly City," "Tree City U.S.A." and "Texas' Safest City."

I applaud Mayor Joe Hocutt and the City Council of Colleyville for building the City of Colleyville into a distinguished community. I am proud to represent such a vibrant city.

COMMENDING DR. MILDRED C. HARRIS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the God First Ministries East Chicago, Indiana Chapter will be hosting a heavenly breakfast on Saturday, September 18, 2004, at the Dynasty Banquets Hall, in Hammond, Indiana.

This year's guest speaker, Dr. Mildred C. Harris, is one of the most caring, dedicated, and selfless citizens of Illinois. Dr. Harris graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development with an emphasis on Communication Science. She then obtained a Master of Arts degree from Governors State University, a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, and a Doctorate in Ministry from the International Bible Institute and Seminary. Dr. Harris also holds two honorary doctorate degrees.

Dr. Harris has demonstrated a sincere love for the community in which she lives. In addition to improving the lives of others through her professional career as a retired school teacher, Dr. Harris is an ordained minister. She is the President and CEO of God First Ministries in Chicago, Illinois, and she has also established other God First Chapters in

the states of California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Dr. Harris was selected as one of the 6 leading ministers from the City of Chicago to participate in the Chicago Remembers September 11th Observance in leading the Prayer of Hope for Chicago. She has also volunteered her time to champion many causes aimed at bringing comfort to those in need of assistance. Under her leadership, God First Ministries has fed thousands of people, given scholarships to graduating high school seniors, and hosted a clothing drive in which 21,000 clothing items were distributed to those in need.

Among her many contributions to the care of all people, Dr. Harris is a member of several boards and organizations, including: the Independent Assemblies of God, the National Religious Conference Management Association, the Administration Interacting with Ministers/Concerned Clergy for a Better Chicago, African American Religious Connection, the United Negro College Fund Advisory Board, Chicago Department on Aging Task Force, Women's Board of the Goodman Theatre, and the Local Government Advisory Board for the state of Illinois.

Although she dedicates her life to serving her community, Mildred never limits the time she gives to her loving family. She is the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. Jordan Clopton and she is married to Dr. Herbert C. Harris.

For all of her conscientious efforts, both professionally and voluntarily, Dr. Harris has been recognized by her peers by earning numerous awards for excellence. She has authored three books and was awarded the Popular Music Award from the American Society of Composers. Dr. Harris was also featured on billboards and busses throughout Chicago promoting a citywide organ donation drive. In 2000, she was awarded the Woman of the Year Award from the American Biographical Institute. She was then honored with the Dominick's Fresh Spirit Award as one of Chicago's Leading Women Religious Leaders in 2001. Dr. Harris was also featured in the Religious Conference Management Association, Who's Who 2002-2003.

Mr. Speaker, throughout Dr. Harris' career in ministry she has touched the lives of many around the world. Her unselfish and lifelong dedication to those in need is worthy of the highest recommendation. I am proud to commend her for her lifetime of service and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RICHARD A. BLOCH

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of Richard A. Bloch, of Kansas City, Missouri, who was a co-founder of H&R Block, Inc., and a passionate crusader for cancer patients.

In 1955, Richard Bloch and his brother, Henry, relaunched a small family-owned bookkeeping service as H&R Block, focusing on income tax preparation. Richard Bloch was a primary force behind the company's rapid expansion in the two decades thereafter.

Diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and told he had 3 months to live in the late 1970s, he was declared cured after 2 years of aggressive therapy. After that, Richard Bloch dedicated the rest of his life to helping others fight cancer. He and his wife, Annette, founded the R.A. Bloch Cancer Management Center and the R.A. Bloch Cancer Support Center at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, which became models for more than 100 similar organizations nationwide. As he once said, "Our sole goal is to try to get people to fight. If they fight, they have a chance to win."

Another of his signature achievements was creating the Physicians Data Query, a computer program now used by the National Cancer Institute that provides treatment for all forms of cancer. To honor Bloch, the Federal Government named the Bethesda, Maryland, building that is housing the program as the R.A. Bloch International Cancer Information Center.

Born on February 15, 1926, in Kansas City, Missouri, he is survived by Annette, his wife of 58 years, their four children, and fourteen grandchildren. Earlier, I had introduced House Resolution 376, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the Bloch Cancer Foundation; its text aptly summarizes the many public contributions made by Richard Bloch, and I include it here:

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the Bloch Cancer Foundation.

Whereas Richard and Annette Bloch are founders of the Bloch Cancer Foundation, established in 1980;

Whereas Richard and Annette have gifted to the University of Missouri-Kansas City the Bloch Support Center, a center which reaches out to cancer-stricken patients, their supporters, and caregivers, through education, counseling, and research designed to achieve the highest quality of life while living with cancer, and, in addition, offers professional education opportunities for students to receive training and research skills that deal with the psychological aspects of cancer;

Whereas Richard Bloch, along with the National Cancer Institute, implemented a computer program called PDQ ('Physicians Data Query') that gathers information from every cancer center in the United States and 22 foreign countries and gives the state of the art treatment for every type and stage of cancer in addition to all available experimental therapies;

Whereas Richard and Annette Bloch authored three books: 'Cancer . . . There's Hope' about Richard's battle with his 'terminal' lung cancer; 'Fighting Cancer', a step-by-step guide showing cancer patients how to fight the disease; and 'Guide for Cancer Supporters', geared exclusively to supporters of cancer patients;

Whereas Cancer Survivor Parks have been established to help cancer survivors, to be a tribute to these survivors, and to be a celebration of life in Kansas City, Missouri; Houston, Texas; Dallas, Texas; Cleveland, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; Rancho Mirage, California; New Orleans, Louisiana; Santa Rosa, California; Jacksonville, Florida; Bakersfield, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Baltimore, Maryland; Chicago, Illinois and Omaha, Nebraska;

Whereas Dick and Annette's foundation has gathered a wide variety of volunteers including doctors sharing their time, computer specialists creating informative and helpful web sites, home volunteers making calls to offer guidance and hope to new patients, and in-house volunteers answering phone calls, e-mails, and being there when called upon;

Whereas Richard and Annette Bloch in 1980 founded the Bloch Cancer Hot Line, an organization composed of more than 500 cancer survivors that has fielded over 125,000 calls in the last 20 years, which on June 4, 2003, celebrated its 23rd anniversary of giving hope, support, and information to those who call;

Whereas June 4, 2003, also marked the 18th anniversary of the first Cancer Survivor Day Rally, held originally in Kansas City, Missouri, and now held in over 700 communities throughout the United States; and

Whereas the Cancer Survivor Day Rally glorifies the attitude that cancer and death are not synonymous and that a cancer diagnosis does not represent a decrease in the quality of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives commends Richard and Annette Bloch and the Bloch Cancer Foundation and their network of invaluable volunteers on behalf of 8,400,000 Americans living with cancer.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article surveying Richard Bloch's life and accomplishments that appeared in today's Kansas City Star:

A SUCCESS IN BUSINESS—AND AT HELPING OTHERS
(By Gene Meyer)

Richard Bloch, a passionate crusader for cancer patients and co-founder of the world's largest tax preparation company, H&R Block Inc., died of heart failure Wednesday morning at his home.

He was 78.

Bloch and his brother, Henry, relaunched a small family bookkeeping service in 1955 as H&R Block, specializing in what then was the newly emerging field of income tax preparation.

Although Henry Bloch may be more widely associated with the company because of the advertising campaigns in which he appeared, Richard Bloch is credited as a driving force in the company's rapid expansion in the 1960s and later.

"Dick was a true entrepreneur, and his energy and talents helped create the path that makes H&R Block the professional and accessible company it is today," said Mark Ernst, the company's current chairman and chief executive.

"His personal integrity and commitment to helping people remain an important part of our company's culture," Ernst said.

In addition to his business accomplishments, Richard Bloch in his later years touched tens of thousands more lives through his courageous personal battles with cancer, and his tireless advocacy for cancer patients.

Bloch was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer in 1978, and was told he had three months to live. But he fought the disease and was declared cured after two years of aggressive therapy. He was diagnosed in 1989 with colon cancer, which he also fought aggressively and survived.

Bloch always attributed his successful fight to the support of his family, finding the right skilled medical help and keeping a positive attitude.

"Our sole goal is to try to get people to fight," he said in a story last year commemorating his 25 years of helping other cancer survivors. "If they fight, they have a chance to win."

Bloch returned briefly to Bloch as chairman after fighting his lung cancer, but sold his interest in the enterprise in 1982 to become a full-time crusader for cancer patients everywhere.

Henry Bloch could not be reached for comment Wednesday. A spokesman said he was occupied with funeral arrangements.

Richard Bloch and his wife, Annette, who survives him, founded one of the first cancer

hot lines in the U.S. in 1980, which has since logged more than 125,000 calls from newly diagnosed cancer patients. The Blochs also founded the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation Inc., plus the R.A. Bloch Cancer Management Center and the R.A. Bloch Cancer Support Center at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The centers have become models for a national network of more than 100 similar organizations across the United States that provide medical, moral and other support for cancer patients and their families.

"He was always one of our best volunteers," said Vangie Rich, administrator of the cancer support center.

"He never hesitated to share his home phone number with anyone who wanted to talk about cancer," Rich said.

Bloch also conceived the Physician Data Query, a computer program at the National Cancer Institute that provides the latest treatment options for all types of cancers. He started an annual Fighting Cancer Rally now held in several U.S. cities on the second Sunday of each June. He financed the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors' Park in Kansas City. And he wrote several books supporting cancer education, awareness and support for survivors.

He served on the advisory board of the National Cancer Institute and was a member of the Institute of Medicine and the President's Circle of the National Academy of Sciences. Late in life, he pushed for laws making second opinions mandatory for patients diagnosed with cancer.

"He definitely will be missed," said Anne Mueller of Mission, whose husband, David, has survived four kinds of cancer since 1978 and has worked with Bloch as a hot line volunteer.

"He's been an inspiration to David and many others," Anne Mueller said. "Now we look at it as cancer with a small c, not cancer with a big C."

Bloch was born Feb. 15, 1926, in Kansas City. He attended Bryant Elementary School, Southwest High School and the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania.

Funeral services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Friday at Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost Ave.

The R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation, at 4400 Main St. in Kansas City, can be reached online at www.blochcancer.org or by calling 1-(800) 433-0464.

HONORING ARMY SPC. JOSEPH C. THIBODEAUX, III OF LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a fine American, a devoted son, brother and friend who gave his life serving our nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Spc. Joseph C. "Joe" Thibodeaux, III served with the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Unit stationed in Hawaii. On the 1st of September, while in a convoy on a mission in Iraq near Hawija, Joe was killed by enemy sniper fire.

Joe is survived by his parents Rebecca and Joseph, Sr. as well as a half-sister, Jennifer Karen Savoy; brothers Greg Thibodeaux, Army Maj. Maxwell Thibodeaux and Jerome Thibodeaux; and a younger sister, Brittany Thibodeaux.