

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 Block 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.

He is also survived by his maternal grandmother, Thelma Istre of Egan, LA and his uncles Daniel Istre, Johnny Istre, O'Neil Istre, James Istre and John R. Thibodeaux, all of Lafayette, as well as many proud nieces and nephews.

An Army sharpshooter, Joe had just re-enlisted in the service and planned to teach at the Army sharpshooter school when he returned from Iraq. Family and friends describe him as a "kind-hearted soul" who loved what he did and took great pride in serving his country.

On September 1, Joe undoubtedly approached what would be his last assignment with that same pride and determination. He bravely gave his life to help make this world a better place for his fellow soldiers and indeed for all.

His brother Jerome remarked that Joe "lived as if he were invincible, and now he'll be forever invincible." Joe's selfless bravery and commitment to country are an example to each of us.

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

TOWN OF FLOWER MOUND 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 50 plus suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the State of Texas' largest metropolitan area. The Town of Flower Mound received the number eight spot on the list and was recognized for its ability to "maintain a balance between city luxuries and country simplicities." With a population of 59,350 people and an annual growth rate of 20 percent, Flower Mound is the largest suburb to make the Top Ten.

Because of its astonishing growth rate in recent decades, the Town has implemented two highly effective programs seeking to enhance quality of life for its residents. Flower Mound's SMARTGrowth plan has successfully preserved the area's natural beauty without compromising growth. The Progressive Capital Improvements Program has been important in addressing the needs of residents from roads to recreation.

I am proud to say that I am a resident of Flower Mound, and I would like to offer my congratulations to the Town of Flower Mound and Mayor Jody Smith.

RECOGNIZING MR. ERNIE DILLON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate one of the most selfless and caring citizens of the First Congressional District of Indiana, Mr. Ernie Dillon. Ernie has dedicated his life to serving the people of Northwest Indiana. His career as a public servant has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people. In honor of his faithful service to his alma mater, Hammond Tech High School, Ernie will be recognized by the Hammond Tech Appreciation Society for his dedication to their mission at a recognition dinner on September 12, 2004 at Dynasty Banquets in Hammond, Indiana.

Ernie Dillon has held many offices and positions throughout his career as a public servant. He is currently the Director of the Lake County Department of Veterans Affairs Service Office and Chairman of the Hammond Port Authority. Prior to that, he was elected Councilman-at-Large for the City of Hammond. While on the Council, Ernie served as Vice-President and Chairman of the Finance Committee, overseeing a budget of \$95 million. Ernie has also served the City of Hammond as Commissioner of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Along with the countless hours of dedication that Ernie has provided to the people of Northwest Indiana, he has also been involved with many organizations in the community. Ernie has been a longtime member and past Commander of American Legion Victory Post #168, and he is currently serving a second term as Vice Chairman for the State of Indiana Veterans Homeless Committee. Ernie has also been a committed member of the Calumet College Alumni Association, the Hammond Central Lions Club, the Hammond Elks, the Hammond Jaycees, the Hammond Kiwanis Club, the Hammond Moose Club, and he has also been a member of the T.K.E. Fraternity.

I have known Ernie for many years and I can truly say that he is a dedicated, distinguished and committed citizen. Through his loyal service to his community, Ernie has been responsible for the development of numerous programs and activities, which have become sources of pride for the people he has served. As a dedicated member of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, Ernie was instrumental in designing and bringing the Indiana Welcome Center to Hammond, Indiana. Ernie's foresight also enabled him to found the City of Hammond's first city festival, Octoberfest, in 1979. This later became the Augustfest and is now known as the Festival of the Lakes. This festival continues to provide entertainment to residents and visitors of Hammond.

While Ernie has dedicated a considerable amount of time and energy to his community, he has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. Ernie and his wife Margie have four children, Steven, Lori, Elizabeth, and Kathleen. They are also the proud grandparents of Elija, Korey, and Faith.

Mr. Speaker, Ernie has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Lake County

throughout his years of service. He has taught the true meaning of service to all members of the Northwest Indiana community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Ernie Dillon for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE FOR S. 1576

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I request that the attached cost estimate for S. 1576, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2003, be submitted for the RECORD.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE S. 1576—Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2003

As reported by the House Committee on
Resources on July 14, 2004

S. 1576 would expand the boundary of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia by about 1,240 acres. The act would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire the added acreage by purchase, donation, or exchange, except that lands that are already owned by the federal government would be acquired by transfer. Finally, the act would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for these purposes.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1576 would cost the federal government about \$5 million over the next year or two. Of this amount, we estimate that \$4 million would be used to purchase about 190 acres of private property, and \$1 million would be used to develop that land. The remaining acreage that would be added to the park is either already owned by the federal government or would be donated by the nonprofit Civil War Preservation Trust. CBO estimates that additional costs to operate and maintain those additional lands would be less than \$200,000 a year. This estimate is based on information provided by the NPS.

S. 1576 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On March 25, 2004, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1576 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 9, 2004. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the estimated costs.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

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