

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD
STOLTZFUSS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career accomplishments of one of the Commonwealth's most talented and devoted medical professionals. Dr. Richard Stoltzfus, who has provided thousands of Kentuckians with his medical expertise as an internal medicine physician at the Daniel Boone Clinic in Harlan, KY, will retire at the end of April after 35 years of dedicated service.

Although born and raised in Pennsylvania, Dr. Stoltzfus always knew life held something different in the cards for him. After completing his medical degree at Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia, practicing internal medicine in Darby, PA, completing his residency training at Mercy Catholic Medical Center in Philadelphia, and volunteering at Hospital Grande Riviere du Nord in Haiti for 6 years, Dr. Stoltzfus decided to pursue his goal of providing medical care to residents in rural towns where he believed it was needed most. This belief is what led him to Harlan, KY, where he began work for the Daniel Boone Clinic in August 1976. Along with being a practicing physician, he also served as medical director of the Mountain Heritage Hospice since its beginning in 1980 to 2000, and was chief of medical staff at the Harlan Appalachian Regional Healthcare Hospital during his 35-year tenure.

Dr. Stoltzfus's long career shows his passion for helping others not only by ridding them of illness, but also by promoting overall wellness and health. His definition of health is not just the absence of disease, but the presence of physical, social, emotional and spiritual well being. Dr. Stoltzfus forms lasting bonds with his patients because they can see how much he truly cares.

Dr. Stoltzfus has said that the years he has spent in Harlan County have been the best years of his life. This may be true, but it is also safe to say that the contributions of dedicated and special people such as him are what make communities like it such wonderful and hospitable places to both work and live. I send my best wishes to Dr. Stoltzfus and his wife as they move on to the next phase of life: Dr. Stoltzfus has said they plan to move to Virginia to be closer to their children. I am sure their children will be glad to have more of their father around—just as I am sure the whole family is very proud of him and his life of accomplishment. I offer my sincerest congratulations to Dr. Stoltzfus on an exceptional career.

Mr. President, the Harlan Daily Enterprise recently published an article honoring the career of Dr. Stoltzfus. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Harlan Daily Enterprise, Feb. 26, 2011]

DANIEL BOONE CLINIC PHYSICIAN TO RETIRE IN
APRIL

(By Nola Sizemore)

After 35 years of service as an internal medicine physician at the Daniel Boone Clinic, Dr. Richard Stoltzfus will retire at the end of April.

"I'd like Harlan County people to know how much I appreciate them making the last 35 years living and working here in Harlan County the best years of my life," said Stoltzfus. "I know I've been able to serve people here and, in turn, I have been blessed by people here in many ways by the show of affection and appreciation my wife and I have received."

Stoltzfus said after he finished his residency training in Philadelphia, Pa. he wanted to practice medicine in a place where he felt there was a real medical need—not in an urban area, but a rural area. He said he learned about a job opening in Harlan County from a friend, Dr. J.D. Miller, who was a physician at the Cloverfork Clinic during that time.

"I met Dr. Miller in Haiti where I was a volunteer for six years prior to coming to Harlan," said Stoltzfus. "I applied for the position and began work at the Daniel Boone Clinic in August, 1976."

Along with being a practicing physician at the Daniel Boone Clinic, Stoltzfus has also served as medical director of Hospice since its beginning. He said in the last few years he had worked as assistant medical director.

Stoltzfus also served as chief of medical staff at the Harlan ARH Hospital during his tenure.

"Hospice is a wonderful organization, and I really believe in it," said Stoltzfus. "A lot of people placed in Hospice have a certain life expectancy and most of the time they exceed that. I believe it's because of the care they receive from the wonderful staff."

Stoltzfus said one of his guiding principals, while practicing medicine in Harlan County, had been promoting wellness. He said the definition of health is not just the absence of disease, but it's the presence of physical, social, emotional and spiritual well being.

"I can cure a person of pneumonia, but that person can still be sick," said Stoltzfus. "I may refer them to pastors or counselors or help them work on relationships—to promote a wholesome life. I believe in spending time with patients. I've always seen myself on an equal playing field with my patients. As a physician, of course, I have knowledge to share, but I involved my patients in decision making."

Stoltzfus said there were many points in the last 35 years of living in Harlan County, and two that stood out in memory were his trip to Washington D.C. with the Harlan Boys Choir when they sang at the inauguration of President George Bush. He said he was proud to be a part of those representing Harlan County to the world.

"My family was flooded in 1977," said Stoltzfus. "We lived in Rio Vista and had four feet of water in our house. I remember I had a patient, who had just had a heart attack, that wanted to help me and my wife clean the mud from our home. He wasn't physically able to help, so he sent his wife to help us—that's what Harlan County people do—care about their neighbors. The whole community supported us during that time. Things like that touch your heart. The way the people of Harlan County watch out for each other has always touched me. I love the small town atmosphere evident here in Harlan County."

Stoltzfus said after his retirement, he and his wife would be relocating to Virginia to be

near their two children. He said he planned to always keep in touch with his friends here in Harlan County.

"My coworkers are like family to me," said Stoltzfus. "Harlan County is a wonderful place to raise families. It has values of community and caring which I think some communities have lost. Harlan has been put down by a lot of people; but I've always been proud of Harlan because of what they have to offer here. Our children are well educated and very prepared for their future. I'm very proud of our educators here in the county and the job they're doing. Harlan has a lot to offer and I'd recommend it to everyone. I'm going to miss living and working here."

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LIEUTENANT MIROSLAV "STEVE" ZILBERMAN

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life and military service of Navy LT Miroslav "Steve" Zilberman, who died 1 year ago today, while serving his adopted country with distinction and representing his family with honor as a devoted son, husband, and father.

Lieutenant Zilberman immigrated to the United States from the Ukraine with his parents when he was 11 years old. The family settled in the suburbs of Columbus, OH, where he would graduate from Bexley High School and soon thereafter enlist in the U.S. Navy. The grandson of a Russian World War II pilot, Lieutenant Zilberman lived and breathed naval aviation. While serving in the Navy, Lieutenant Zilberman received a world class education, travelled across continents, and flew with the most elite fleet in the world.

After excelling as a naval electronics technician for 2 years, Lieutenant Zilberman was selected to become an officer through the Navy's Seaman to Admiral Program. His commanding officer and fellow sailors recognized the strength of Lieutenant Zilberman's character, his officer potential, and his unquestionable loyalty to the United States.

As a naval pilot, Lieutenant Zilberman was chosen to fly the E-2C Hawkeye, a crucial component of all U.S. Navy Carrier Air Wings and one of two propeller airplanes that operate from aircraft carriers. Always embracing new challenges with determination, Lieutenant Zilberman understood the requisite hard work and skill needed to become a top-notch E-2C pilot.

He studied his aircraft inside and out, and was particularly proud of the nighttime landings he successfully completed. He once landed his E-2C Hawkeye at night with only one engine functioning—a significant feat of balancing skill over nerves, displaying an implicit trust in his hours of training and studying. Commander Dave Mundy of the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121—the VAW-121, also known as the "Bluetails"—attests that Lieutenant Zilberman was one of the best pilots he had ever flown with.

On March 31, 2010, Lieutenant Zilberman had been forward deployed for nearly 3 months. While returning to

the U.S.S. *Eisenhower* after a flight mission over Afghanistan, Lieutenant Zilberman's plane crashed into the North Arabian Sea, approximately 5 miles from the aircraft carrier. One of the plane's dual engines lost oil and eventually failed. When it became clear to Lieutenant Zilberman that there was no way to safely land the plane on the flight deck, he ordered his crew to bail out. Lieutenant Zilberman fought valiantly to keep his plane steady long enough for his crew members to escape. He went down with his plane into the North Arabian Sea. Lieutenant Zilberman's crew members were rescued shortly after the crash, and the search and rescue effort salvaged portions of the aircraft. However, after searching more than 5,300 square miles for Lieutenant Zilberman, the search was called off and he was pronounced dead.

Each day our servicemembers, like Lieutenant Zilberman, sacrifice their lives defending our Nation. Their acts of heroism are derived from a sense of duty, an obligation taken from the belief in the greatness of our Nation. But beyond their courage and bravery, our servicemembers are also husbands and wives, sons and daughters, and friends and neighbors. In addition to being a highly capable and daring pilot, Lieutenant Zilberman was known by his family and friends as someone with an infectious personality, as Commander Mundy has said, someone who could walk into a room and reduce any tension or stress.

While on board the *Ike*, Lieutenant Zilberman stayed in touch with his family via video chat, where he read and danced for his children. Lieutenant Zilberman was a dedicated husband to his wife Karen, who was also his high-school sweetheart. He was a loving father to his son Daniel and daughter Sarah. And he was the loving son—and only child—of devoted parents Anna Sokolov and Boris Zilberman.

Today marks the 1-year anniversary since Lieutenant Miroslav "Steve" Zilberman's life was taken while serving our Nation. On behalf of a grateful State, I thank him for his service—and his family and friends for keeping his memory alive through their thoughts and actions that remind us of his sacrifice.

JUSTICE AND POLICE REFORM IN GUATEMALA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to speak briefly on a subject that I have discussed before concerning Guatemala's struggling justice system.

In a country facing a growing threat from Mexican drug cartels and other criminal organizations that have infiltrated every facet of society, a police force that is notoriously corrupt and ineffective at investigating crime, a military hierarchy that continues to obstruct justice, and a conviction rate in the courts of 2 percent, the situation could hardly be grimmer.

Violent crime and smuggling have skyrocketed, impunity is the norm, and reports indicate that many people in Guatemala feel less safe today than even during the 30-year internal armed conflict. There are credible reports of police collusion with the drug cartels, and threats and assassinations of indigenous activists who have petitioned for land reform. And a decade and a half after the signing of the Peace Accords, the military hierarchy, current and former, uses threats and intimidation of victims, witnesses, judges and prosecutors to avoid accountability for past crimes against humanity.

I and others were encouraged last year when President Colom appointed respected human rights activist Helen Mack to assess the weaknesses of the police and to recommend reforms. Ms. Mack has widespread credibility and could be relied on to conduct a fair, thorough review.

But any recommendations for reform are only as good as the funding and political will to implement them, which is too often lacking in Guatemala. Presidential elections are scheduled for September. Unless the current government or its successor is prepared to carry the police reform process forward, not only will a critical opportunity have been missed but the security challenges facing Guatemala will worsen further.

Helen Mack accepted her assignment knowing it would be dangerous. Her sister Myrna, an anthropologist who had documented the horrific abuses of Mayan peasants by the Guatemalan army, was assassinated by the army in 1990. Helen also knew that trying to reform the police would ultimately be a wasted exercise if her recommendations end up collecting dust on a shelf. Yet she has persevered, and it is for the good of all Guatemalans.

Other victims of torture, disappearance, and murder during the internal armed conflict are still waiting for justice. When successive governments failed to hold the military accountable, some victims or their families turned to the courts, only to be stymied at every turn. The courts have issued contradictory rulings, reversed themselves and each other, and cases have dragged on for years. It makes a mockery of justice and of officials who are responsible for upholding the rule of law.

No democracy can survive without a functioning justice system, including a professional, trusted, well financed police force. The effectiveness of the police in preventing and controlling crime depends on the relationship between the police and the public. If the police force is to regain the confidence and trust of Guatemalans, particularly Guatemala's indigenous population which has traditionally been the target of discrimination and abuse, a concerted and unwavering effort must be made to ensure the professionalism, transparency and accountability of the police. It should be a priority.

Ms. Mack's courageous efforts, and the efforts of others who have risked

their lives in support of justice and a better life for the millions of Guatemalans living in poverty, deserve the unequivocal support of the Guatemalan Government and the Government of the United States.

TIK ROOT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to say a few words about a situation in Syria that is of particular concern to me and people of my State.

Going on 2 weeks ago, a young Middlebury College student, Pathik "Tik" Root, disappeared in Damascus, Syria, where he was studying Arabic.

As anyone who is following recent events in Syria knows, there have been large public demonstrations, some of which have resulted in arrests and casualties.

Thanks to the efforts of U.S. Embassy Damascus and the Syrian Ambassador to the United States, Imad Moustapha, it was determined that Tik had been arrested and is being held in a Syrian jail.

By all accounts, it appears that Tik was arrested simply because he was taking photographs at one of the demonstrations.

As an avid photographer myself, I would hope that the Syrian Government recognizes the innocent conduct of a young, curious American student who is fascinated, as we all are, by the extraordinary events taking place across North Africa and the Middle East.

I and my staff have had multiple conversations with Tik's father, with Ambassador Moustapha, with U.S. Ambassador Robert Ford, and other State Department officials about Tik's situation.

We are optimistic that he will be released, because he was doing nothing wrong and at most he was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

But so far, no one from the American consulate in Damascus has been allowed to see Tik, which is unacceptable. Our representatives in Damascus should be given immediate access to him—today—to ensure that he is in good health and being treated humanely.

I know I speak not only for myself but also for Senator BERNIE SANDERS and Congressman PETER WELCH, in urging the Syrian authorities to release Tik and allow him to return home.

This is not a time to be confusing a young American college student with the popular forces that are calling for political change in Syria.

Tik is an innocent 21-year-old who poses no threat whatsoever to the Syrian Government, but his continued detention will only further complicate our already difficult relations with Syria.

REMEMBERING ELIZABETH TAYLOR

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize and honor the