

first to Baltimore, MD, and then, in 1965, to Kentucky. He has been a proud resident of the Bluegrass State ever since.

In his time at Appalachian Regional Healthcare, Dr. Khorram served as chief of the pediatric department, chief of medical staff, and president of the board of directors at the Daniel Boone Clinic. In his time as a physician, he has seen many advances in medical technology and implemented them in his practice.

I want to congratulate Dr. Khorram for his five decades of service at the top of the medical field and wish him well upon the occasion of his retirement. I know he will have as much success in whatever endeavor he chooses next as he has had in his chosen field. I am sure his wife, Toby, and their two children are very proud of him, and Kentucky is glad to have benefitted from his work and service.

An area publication, the Middlesboro Daily News, recently published an article highlighting Dr. Khorram's life and career. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Middlesboro Daily News, Feb. 12, 2016]

DECADES OF DEDICATION
(By Kelsey Gerhardt)

Appalachian Regional Healthcare in Middlesboro is a place where lives are saved, babies are born and broken bones are set. Dr. Houshang Khorram has seen it all in his 50 years as a pediatrician.

Khorram's story starts during his time as a student at Shiraz Medical Science University in Iran.

"I loved kids. I've always loved kids and that's how I knew what I wanted to do," said Khorram.

He completed his pediatrics specialty classes in Iran and came to America to work at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland for a couple of years.

In 1965, Khorram started working for the ARH in Floyd County, Kentucky and moved to the Middlesboro ARH five years later. He has lived and worked in Middlesboro ever since.

"Actually, I came here to live for just six months, but I'm still here. I love the people and I love the area and I love nature so there are a lot of things that have kept me here," said Khorram.

He has seen many advances in the medical field, including technology and equipment which he believes have not only benefited pediatrics, but the way in which doctors are able to care for patients.

"So much that we have now, we didn't have it 10 or even 20 years ago. CT scans, MRI's, sonograms have helped a lot and now it's easier to make a diagnosis and it's more reliable," said Khorram.

Khorram retired from ARH on January 1 and received a special award for his time. Throughout his decades at ARH, Khorram served as the chief of the Pediatric Department, chief of Medical Staff and the president of the board of directors at the Daniel Boone Clinic.

If given the opportunity to start all over again, he undoubtedly would.

"I encourage my kids to go into the medical field. It's a great place to be and I would go back, go again to medical school if I could," laughed Khorram.

He enjoys hiking and reading pediatrics books in his free time. Since retirement, he is looking forward to having time to spend with his grandchildren.

Khorram has been married to his wife Toby for 54 years. He acknowledges her sacrifices and support that have allowed him to be a doctor. Together they have two children.

REMEMBERING SUMNER SLICHTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn that Sumner Slichter, who for three decades was the chief policy adviser to former Wisconsin and U.S. Senator Russ Feingold, died May 16 in his home in Alexandria, VA, after a battle with brain cancer. He was 62 years old.

Sumner Pence Slichter was born August 31, 1953, in Urbana, IL, to Nini Almy and Charles Slichter. He was the oldest of four children and is remembered as being a kind and loving older brother to his younger siblings.

As a student attending Dr. Howard Elementary, Edison Junior High School, and Champaign Central High School, Sumner played viola in the school orchestra. He left for the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1970, where he majored in mathematics. Sumner continued to play viola in student ensembles and the UW orchestra, where he sat first chair.

At the age of 19, Sumner began what would ultimately be a long and rich career in politics. His first job was on Ed Muskie's 1972 Presidential campaign. Later that year, he worked as an assistant at the Democratic National Committee convention in Miami Beach. From there, Sumner worked for campaigns and offices of State representatives in Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

In 1981, an encounter would forever change Sumner's life. That year he met a Milwaukee lawyer named Russ Feingold. At that time, Russ Feingold was working as a Democratic Party counsel on a close recall election. Sumner helped convince his new friend to challenge an incumbent for the 27th district State Senate seat. Feingold won the election in 1982, and Sumner followed him to the State capital. Sumner and Russ would spend the next three decades working side-by-side in Madison and Washington, DC.

Working in the Wisconsin State Senate, Sumner helped design Feingold's trademark progressive initiatives that focused on the aging, consumer-focused banking policies, budget discipline, and tax policy.

It was during his time in the State capitol that Sumner met Pam Russell, who was working as a legislative attorney. They were married in 1990.

While they lived in Madison, Sumner had a thriving social life. He was a member of a city intramural league softball team, the Soft Balls, and he and his friends and teammates often took advantage of Wisconsin's beautiful State parks, going on annual camping trips to Governor Dodge and Rock Island, among others. Sumner en-

joyed hosting friends at the summer cottage on Lake Mendota built by his grandfather, and in fact, it was there that Sumner held Russ Feingold's first fundraiser for the 1982 State senate campaign.

In 1992, after 10 years in the Wisconsin Legislature, Russ ran for the U.S. Senate. Sumner was there with his boss, playing an important strategic role on the campaign. Many Wisconsinites still remember the funny, light-hearted campaign ads that Feingold ran in that campaign. Sumner was one of the campaign staffers who crafted those unforgettable ads.

When Russ was elected to the U.S. Senate, Sumner and Pam relocated to northern Virginia where, on the day after they arrived, their daughter Sarah was born.

Sumner worked for Russ in the U.S. Capitol for 18 years. He was Russ's policy director and helped shaped Senator Feingold's progressive legacy. Think about some of the courageous acts that defined Senator Feingold's work in the Senate: the McCain-Feingold Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, his votes against the Defense of Marriage Act, the Iraq war, and the sole nay vote against U.S.A. Patriot Act. For each of those votes and bills, Sumner was right there alongside Russ, counseling and helping in any way he could. He also helped Feingold author a resolution to censure President George W. Bush. It is no wonder that Russ said of his friend, "Sumner was at my side for every vote I took in 28 years as a legislator, and I didn't vote until I sought his wise counsel."

It is one thing to do good work for your boss, but it is another thing to treat your peers and colleagues with dignity, respect, and affection. Sumner was a great mentor and friend to his fellow staffers. Former Feingold chief of staff Mary Irvine remembers, "It was quite a thing really how many issues Sumner worked on . . . A great solo player and an awesome team player. He must have spent hours and hours on the Senate floor on any number of issues but was always on duty for the entire lengthy budget resolution votes. Sumner was an amazing expert on the Senate budget process and on parliamentary procedure. He was a great political mind—there was no issue that Sumner couldn't figure out and explain to the rest of us."

Outside of the Capitol, Sumner loved to cook for his friends and family. He was a movie buff who had a penchant for remembering lines, music, actors, and directors. He never lost his love of music and was always quick to respond to a danceable song.

From his Madison days, Sumner brought annual Nixon Resignation and Derby Day parties and camping traditions to his family and friends in the D.C. Area. He had a deep love of dogs and was very attached to his pets.

Sumner Slichter's passing is a loss for all of us here in the Senate. We grew accustomed to seeing his smiling face right at this boss's side.

I, along with the entire U.S. Senate, send our condolences to his family. Sumner is survived by his wife, Pam Russell, of Alexandria, VA; daughter Sarah of Poughkeepsie, NY; mother Nini Almy of Mitchellville, MD; father Charles Slichter and stepmother Anne Slichter of Champaign, IL; brother Bill of Minneapolis and his wife Helen; brother Jacob of Brooklyn, NY, and his wife Suzanne; sister Ann of Los Angeles; half-brother Daniel of Boulder, CO, and his wife Yolanda; and half-brother David of Binghamton, NY.

I say to his family: Thank you for sharing Sumner with us over the years. Thank you for allowing his bright and radiant personality to shine on us. He will be greatly missed.

ZIKA SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, the Senate approved a compromise deal negotiated by Senators Blunt, Murray, and others to provide \$1.1 billion in emergency supplemental Zika funding.

The White House, Dr. Frieden of the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, and Dr. Collins of the National Institute of Health, NIH, told us they needed \$1.9 billion to fight this public health crisis, but the Republican caucus disagreed with these infectious disease experts.

I am not sure why Republicans do not believe the world's best scientists and health officials when they articulate a clear, comprehensive plan to stop Zika. Perhaps they do not appreciate the severity of this public health threat?

When we were faced with cases of Ebola within the United States, we reacted swiftly and decisively. We funded 87 percent, \$5.4 billion, of the administration's request in a total of just 38 days.

Well, now the same number of people in the U.S. and U.S. territories have died from Ebola, as have from Zika—one.

Yet more than 91 days past the date of the formal Zika request, we are debating between just 33 percent, as the House approved, and 58 percent of this request? I fear my Republican colleagues are underestimating the threat from the Zika virus on our Nation's pregnant women.

We know that Zika causes microcephaly, a devastating and tragic birth defect that causes babies to be born with serious neurological complications.

And it seems that every day we are learning something worse. Just yesterday, a CDC and Harvard University study found that pregnant women who are infected with Zika in their first trimester face up to a 13 percent chance of their baby being born with microcephaly.

We also know that the CDC is currently monitoring nearly 300 pregnant women in the United States who have the Zika virus.

The CDC estimates that the lifetime costs for a baby born with this tragic

disease is between \$1 million to \$10 million, not to mention the considerable emotional toll of this disease on families.

Sadly, it doesn't take many cases of microcephaly to begin costing us more financially than the paltry amount House Republicans are committing to fight Zika.

But Zika doesn't just cause microcephaly. It is also linked to other neurological diseases that aggressively destroy brain tissue. It is also linked to Guillain-Barré syndrome, an autoimmune disorder than can cause paralysis and death.

What about the impact of maternal stress on a baby? I cannot imagine the anxiety that pregnant women, especially those in the southern part of this country and in Puerto Rico, must feel right now. Well, through genetics and neuroscience, we know for a fact that a mother's stress during pregnancy can shape her child's gene expression, leading to poor birth outcomes and psychological and physical disorders.

If you call yourself pro-life, why would you not want to do everything you can to protect these babies from being subjected to elevated risk for serious birth defects?

This is a train we have seen coming for miles and miles, and Republicans are refusing to step out of the way.

It is bad enough that House and Senate Republicans are refusing to provide the funding our health experts say is necessary to fight this disease, but now House Republicans are insisting on cutting Ebola funding to do it.

Last week, the House passed a partisan bill that would have provided a mere \$622 million to fight Zika. That is a third of what the experts say they need, and they offset the costs by raiding Ebola money.

House Appropriations Chairman HAL ROGERS called it "excess funding left over from the Ebola outbreak." That couldn't be further from the truth.

I recently spoke with the CDC Director Tom Frieden who told me some troubling news. Last month, there was another cluster of Ebola cases in West Africa, about a dozen new cases. What they have now found is that the Ebola virus can stay in a man's system for up to 1 year, allowing it to be spread to others.

Ebola may not be front page news in the United States right now, but that is largely because our CDC disease detectives are on the ground in West Africa, nearly 100 of them, fighting to contain its spread.

If we keep stealing the funding that enables them to do their job, Ebola could soon again be front page news.

Since Republicans have been dragging their feet on Zika funding, the White House was forced, as a last ditch, stop-gap requirement, to transfer \$510 million away from the Ebola response to fund the immediate response needs for Zika.

As the White House's Ebola czar, Ron Klain, said last week, "we are taking a

fire hydrant out of the ground in one place and moving it someplace else to fight a different fire."

This Ebola money that was moved was the CDC's funds for the next 2 fiscal years, funds that are to be used to build a frontline defense for our own country. It invests in the public health capacity of partner nations, so we aren't waiting for local outbreaks to hit our shores as global epidemics.

These "leftover" funds are being used to develop and test vaccine candidates for Ebola, and late-stage clinical trials are moving forward, but they need those funds to continue validating these vaccines.

Now House Republicans want to drain these Ebola funds again.

We already know what happens when we have to take money from one place in the public health budget and move it elsewhere. State and local health departments lost \$44 million in CDC preparedness grants earlier this year because of a reprogramming of funds that were moved to high-risk Zika States. Illinois lost \$2 million in total. A recent survey of State health departments said that this \$44 million cut will result in staffing reductions and could hamper Zika preparations by forcing a reduction in laboratory services and epidemiological activities. So to be clear, States at lower risk for Zika, like Illinois, lost money to States at higher risk like Mississippi, Texas, and Florida. And this cut will mean that Illinois and other States that lost money are now less prepared for Zika.

Public health preparedness is not done with a wave of a magic wand. It requires steady investments in people, lab testing, and epidemiology and dedicated research and clinical trials.

We did not require our Ebola, H1N1, or avian influenza supplementals to be offset, and we certainly should not begin down that dangerous path now.

As with our response to Ebola here in the U.S., proven public health protocols will work against Zika, but we need to listen to the experts and fund the needed response.

That means we cannot wait any longer to pass an emergency Zika funding supplemental.

Some Republicans have said this money can wait until October 1 when our new fiscal year starts. Do you think mosquitos know when the new fiscal year begins and will wait to buzz and bite until then?

This weekend is Memorial Day weekend. I don't know about you, but in my hometown and across Illinois that means people will be outside and having barbecues. Then comes the Fourth of July and, soon after, Labor Day weekend.

We do not have time to wait around. We need to approve the Senate's Zika supplemental as a down payment, and we need to send it to the President's desk this week.

Over 1,380 people across 44 States, Washington DC, and 3 U.S. territories,