

complete clearance of the amyloid plaques that prevent brain cells from communicating, leading to irreversible memory loss and cognitive decline.

Our witnesses yesterday told us more about these and other advances that offer hope that Alzheimer's—if not effectively prevented—can at least be more successfully treated. Once we in developed countries can get a better handle on diagnosing and treating Alzheimer's, we hope to share what we know with developing countries so their citizens can better escape what has in the past been a very bleak future for all concerned.

While we work to prevent and find a cure for Alzheimer's, we must not neglect those currently living with this disease and address the public health crisis we are currently facing. This Congress, I joined my colleagues in introducing the "Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act". This bill establishes Alzheimer's Centers of Excellence around the country, provides funding to state and local health departments to implement interventions and best practices from the Centers of Excellence; and increases the collection, analysis, and reporting of data on cognitive decline and caregiving to inform future public health actions.

Additionally, I have re-introduced Kevin and Avonte's Law to reauthorize and expand the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program to address the issue of wandering among individuals with Alzheimer's and children with disabilities. It's common for a person with Alzheimer's to wander and/or become lost, and it can happen at any stage of the disease. 6 in 10 individuals with Alzheimer's will wander at some point. They may try to go home when already there or attempt to recreate a familiar routine, such as going to school or work. Funding from this program could be used to provide proactive educational programming to prevent wandering to families & caretakers of individuals who wander, as well as training to first responders in order to recognize and respond to endangered missing individuals and facilitate their rescue and recovery. This funding could also be used for innovative locative technology for law enforcement that would facilitate rescue and recovery.

Next week, I will re-introduce the Global Brain Health Act to increase research on prevention and treatment of autism, hydrocephalus, Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. This legislation would encourage the building of treatment capacity for these brain disorders among caregivers in developing countries and support increased international cooperation in research and implementation of strategies on prevention and treatment. These actions also would benefit those with these disorders here in the United States.

HONORING MS. PAULA VAN NESS

**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2017*

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paula Van Ness upon her retirement as the President and CEO of the Connecticut Community Foundation after six tremendous years of leading and growing the organization. During her tenure, Paula

oversaw the organization's growth into a more supporting group.

Prior to joining the Connecticut Community Foundation in 2012, Paula had worked with nonprofits for more than four decades, including Make-A-Wish America, the Starlight Children's Foundation, and as the founding president of the National AIDS Fund, which has grown into AIDS United. The Connecticut Community Foundation, founded in 1923, serves twenty-one towns across the Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills region. The Foundation supports local nonprofits with grants, administrative resources, and strategic guidance that ensures those organizations can maximize their impact on the community. In 2016, the Foundation awarded 471 grants totaling \$2.4 million.

Over the course of her leadership, Paula has been instrumental in the Foundation's growing role in our community, especially by developing key relationships with local and state government officials. She has also managed to ensure the Foundation meets the needs of the broad range of nonprofits it serves, from essential human services to arts and culture.

Mr. Speaker, Paula Van Ness has been a visionary leader of the Connecticut Community Foundation for the past six years, and her work has strengthened the Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills communities. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

#### BOULDER CREST RETREAT ARIZONA FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN WELLNESS

**HON. MARTHA MCSALLY**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2017*

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I had the honor to meet with the leadership team of Boulder Crest Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness in beautiful Sonoita, Arizona.

The 130-acre retreat is nestled in a riparian valley in southern Arizona just 60 miles south of Tucson, Arizona. This beautiful facility is the second rural retreat established to provide free respite, activities and programs for our nation's seriously Wounded Warriors and their family members. Boulder Crest provides private accommodations, recreational and healing activities focused on the science of posttraumatic growth for approximately 700 personnel each year. The retreat has much to offer including:

Three beautiful homes that can accommodate up to six people and are available for 2 to 7 night stays;

A lodge where guests can gather to connect with other families and participate in programs;

Extensive outdoor amenities that include an archery range, nature trails, playground, organic garden, bird sanctuary and fishing pond;

Recreational activities and programs include nature walks, fishing, archery, gardening, swimming and kayaking in the nearby Parker Canyon and Patagonia lakes, hiking the Arizona Trail; and

Numerous healing activities for combat stress and first responder recovery to include yoga, meditation, journaling, art and music

therapy, canine, and equine assistance therapy.

Retired U.S. Navy bomb disposal expert, Master Chief Ken Falke and his wife Julia came up with the idea after numerous visits to severely wounded EOD personnel at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

The Falkes founded the EOD Warrior Foundation and wanted to provide a place where Wounded Warriors and their family members could escape their grueling treatment schedules and find solace outside of the hospital.

Boulder Crest Retreat Virginia has hosted over 3,000 personnel in four years since opening Boulder Crest Retreat Virginia and we are very excited to bring their success to Arizona. Please also know that a \$10 million gift was provided to make this happen by the A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation in Bethesda, Maryland.

I would like to take a moment to honor Ken and Julia Falke, the staff, the volunteers, and donors for making this idea a reality.

I am proud to have this remarkable facility in my state. God bless our troops and God bless the United States of America.

I would like to include in the RECORD the following press release on receipt of a transformational \$10 million donation from the A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation to heal combat veterans and their family members:

(From PRNewswire, July 6, 2017)

A. JAMES AND ALICE B. CLARK FOUNDATION PROVIDES \$10 MILLION TRANSFORMATIONAL DONATION TO HEAL COMBAT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

BOULDER CREST RETREAT EXPANDS OUT WEST

SONOITA, AZ.—Today, Boulder Crest Retreat announces a \$10 million donation from the A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation. This is the largest gift in Boulder Crest Retreat's history. The gift provides the capacity to expand its programs to the western United States for veterans and families who are healing from combat-related stress.

After 16 years of war, the longest in American history, it is estimated that 2.1 million combat veterans and family members struggle with invisible wounds. With only 50 percent of those struggling willing to seek help from the mental health system, Boulder Crest Retreat offers a non-clinical, accessible, acceptable, and effective approach that ensures veterans and their family members can make peace with the past, live in the present, and plan for a great future at home.

The \$10 million donation enables Boulder Crest Retreat to double the number of people they serve in their current Virginia facility and expand geographically by helping to support the purchase a newly remodeled 130-acre Apache Springs Ranch just 45 minutes south of Tucson, Arizona in the beautiful town of Sonoita.

Four years ago, the Foundation provided a donation of \$250,000 to Boulder Crest Retreat to build the first of four log cabins in Bluemont, Virginia. One year later, the Foundation donated \$1.25 million to construct the A. James Clark Lodge in Bluemont. These donations enabled Boulder Crest Retreat to host more than 2,600 combat veterans and family members to date.

Halfway through an 18-month longitudinal study conducted by leading psychologists Dr. Richard Tedeschi and Dr. Bret Moore, it is clear that Boulder Crest's PATHH (Progressive and Alternative Training for Healing Heroes) programs deliver results that far outpace the status quo, and represent a ground breaking and scalable solution for PTSD and combat-related stress.

The results of this study led the board of directors at Boulder Crest Retreat on a strategic mission to scale their success nationwide. The Foundation's investment allows Boulder Crest Retreat to expand and work with other organizations around the nation that are interested in adopting the Boulder Crest Retreat Warrior PATHH curriculum.

"We are humbled beyond words and honored by the decision of the A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation directors. The Clarks are true patriots and philanthropists—I personally know their passion for serving our nation's military," says Ken Falke, chairman and founder of Boulder Crest Retreat. "This gift will change the lives of tens of thousands of military and veteran family members, and allow them to live the great lives they deserve."

Boulder Crest Retreat provides combat veterans and their families with a strength-based healing and recharging program. These programs come in two forms—PATHH programs which are based on the science of Posttraumatic Growth (PTG), a proven framework to transform times of deep struggle into profound strength and lifelong growth. PATHH programs are free and include Warrior PATHH, Family PATHH, Couples PATHH, and Caregiver PATHH. In addition to its PATHH suite of programs, Boulder Crest Retreat devotes a portion of each calendar year to Family Rest and Reconnection (R&R) Retreats. These free retreats are 2-7 nights in length and provide families with the opportunity to rest, reconnect, recharge, and grow—together.

The A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation, formerly the Clark Charitable Foundation, provides investments to help hard workers with a drive to achieve. The Foundation seeks out grantees that build practical, immediate, and concrete connections between effort and opportunity—from creating scholarships for engineering students, to improving schools for D.C.'s children, to providing veteran reintegration programs.

"Our mission has always been to enrich the lives of people in our community and to give back," explains Bob Flanagan of the A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation. "Our team has witnessed the beauty, attention to detail, and impact of Boulder Crest Retreat Virginia and is very excited to provide this gift in Mr. Clark's honor to help replicate Boulder Crest Retreat in Arizona."

ABOUT THE A. JAMES AND ALICE B. CLARK FOUNDATION

We believe in the power of hard work. This conviction enabled our founder, A. James Clark, to grow a local construction company into a national success. And it guides the philanthropic giving we continue in his name today. At the A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation, we invest to help hard workers with a drive to achieve. We seek out grantees who build practical, immediate and concrete connections between effort and opportunity—from scholarships for engineering students, to better schools for D.C.'s children to veteran reintegration programs. Then we give our grantees the resources and autonomy they need to succeed, holding them to the highest expectations on behalf of the individuals they serve. For more information about the A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation, please visit <http://www.clarkfoundationdc.org>.

ABOUT BOULDER CREST

Boulder Crest Retreat Foundation owns and operates two rural sanctuaries that provide free accommodations, recreational, and therapeutic activities, and breakthrough combat stress recovery programs to help our nation's military and veteran personnel and their families thrive and live great lives—full of passion, purpose, and service—here at

home in the aftermath of war. Boulder Crest Retreat Virginia is a 37-acre facility located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Bluemont, Virginia, just 50 miles west of Washington, D.C. Boulder Crest Retreat Arizona is a 130-acre ranch located just 45 minutes south of Tucson, Arizona in Sonoita. Boulder Crest is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is entirely funded through private donations from individuals, foundations and corporations. For more information about Boulder Crest Retreat, please visit <http://www.bouldercrestretreat.org>.

## RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF EVA LYNNE DISBRO

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Eva Lynne Disbro of Collegedale, Tennessee, on her retirement after nearly 40 years at McKee Foods Corporation. Ms. Disbro retires from the position of Vice President of Human Resources to the family-owned bakery of snack cakes, granola, and many other baked goods. In her current role, she manages over 6,000 employees across Tennessee, Arkansas, Virginia, and Arizona. During her time at McKee Foods, she helped launch the company's Government Relations team and oversaw the establishment of a new bakery in Stuart's Draft, Virginia, which now employs about a thousand people in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is truly an honor to represent McKee Foods and its dedicated employees in Virginia's Sixth District.

Ms. Disbro's future plans include participating in church mission trips and serving as an active member of the Board of Trustees to Laurelbrook Academy in Dayton, Tennessee. She is also determined to write at least two books in the coming years. Throughout her retirement, she also plans to spend ample time with her grandchildren and extended family.

Thank you to Eva Lynne Disbro for her decades of dedication to her colleagues and community. I wish her a healthy and joyous retirement.

## TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF WESLEY LEE FOX

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the life of Wesley Lee Fox of Blacksburg, Virginia. Colonel Fox died on November 24, 2017 at the age of 86. He devoted his life to his country and the United States Marine Corps. The many decorations he earned throughout his storied career included the highest military award our country can give, the Medal of Honor.

Colonel Fox always sought action throughout his career. Growing up as a farm boy in Virginia, he was inspired to enlist by his cousin's service during World War II. After completing basic training at Parris Island, he fought in Korea and was wounded. The war ended, but he remained in the Marines.

When the Vietnam War intensified, Colonel Fox knew he wanted to be on the front lines. He received a temporary commission as second lieutenant and served for a time advising South Vietnamese forces. Eventually he achieved his goal of taking the fight to the enemy by assuming command of a Marine rifle company.

On February 22, 1969, Colonel Fox's company came under heavy fire from a larger, hidden enemy force in the A Shau Valley. His company at that time had less than 90 men active out of 240. According to his Medal of Honor citation, he steered the unit into a better position to prepare a plan of attack. Colonel Fox and many of the company's leaders were wounded when it went into action, but he coolly continued to lead his men in the fight. After his company fought off the enemy, Colonel Fox refused medical attention while other wounded Marines were evacuated. In the words of the citation, "His indomitable courage, inspiring initiative, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger inspired his marines to such aggressive action that they overcame all enemy resistance and destroyed a large bunker complex."

After Colonel Fox retired from the Marines in 1993, he served for eight years as Deputy Commandant of Cadets at Virginia Tech. He also wrote three books and spoke regularly with high school classes about his experiences. I had the honor of meeting Colonel Fox at a ceremony recognizing him with the unveiling of a Medal of Honor postage stamp at the Blacksburg Post Office in 2015.

Colonel Fox leaves his wife of 56 years, Dotti, his three daughters, and nine grandchildren, as he goes now to rest with the heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 640 and 641 on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 as a result of the flu. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on these two votes.

## RECOGNIZING THERON GERTZ FOR THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Theron "David" Gertz of Butte for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Gertz joined the United States Navy in 1986 where he served two West-Pac tours. In 1989, he was on leave in Paris, France during Bastille Day celebrations when his hotel caught fire. Thanks to his shipboard firefighting training, he was one of the first to become aware of the fire and helped alert and save others.