

Mr. Gertz was honorably discharged in 1990 and continues to serve. He is a role model to younger generations as a high school counselor to military dependents at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending David Gertz for his dedication and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION AWARENESS MONTH

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and the outstanding work the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) including the Lone Star Chapter of The Woodlands, TX, has done during the last sixteen years in the fight against the rare, debilitating disease known as pulmonary hypertension (PH).

PH was first brought to my attention by my friend, Jack Stibbs, whose daughter, Emily, had been recently diagnosed at an early age. Due to Emily's early diagnosis, she has been able to lead a relatively normal life and Emily has recently graduated college. However, not all patients are as fortunate.

PH is high blood pressure that occurs in the arteries of the lungs. The disease reflects the pressure the heart must apply to pump blood from the heart through the arteries of the lungs. As with a tangled hose, pressure builds up and backs up, forcing the heart to work harder and less oxygen to reach the body. PH symptoms generally include fatigue, dizziness, and shortness of breath with the severity of the disease correlating with its progression. If left undiagnosed or untreated, PH can lead to heart failure and death.

Investment in medical research and sustained scientific progress in this area has led to fourteen Food and Drug Administration-approved targeted treatment options for two forms of PH. When individuals are diagnosed with PH quickly and begin appropriate therapy, their prognosis and life-expectancy improve dramatically. However, it currently takes an average of two and a half years to receive a diagnosis and three quarters of patients have severe PH when they are finally diagnosed.

Without treatment, historical studies have shown a mean survival time of 2.8 years after diagnosis for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). Patients with advanced PH cannot benefit as greatly from available therapies and often face dramatic and costly medical interventions, including 24-hour IV infused medication, increased risk for hospitalization and in some cases heart-lung transplantation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing November as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and continuing to support federal activities that improve the lives of patients impacted by PH, including research programs at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CONGRATULATING DR. BETTIE TRUITT ON HER RETIREMENT FROM BLACK HAWK COLLEGE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Bettie Truitt on her retirement from Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois. For 29 years, Dr. Truitt has demonstrated a strong commitment to education. She has influenced the lives of thousands of students over the course of her career, and her efforts have resulted in many improvements to the college and the surrounding community.

Dr. Truitt began her distinguished career at Black Hawk College in 1989 as an instructor in the Mathematics Department, and she has held various academic and administrative positions in the following years. In 2007, Dr. Truitt began working as Dean for Instruction and Student Services, and was promoted to Executive Vice President in 2012. She has served as President of Black Hawk College since 2014. Dr. Truitt played an instrumental role in expanding the programs offered at Black Hawk College. This included the opening of a \$13 million Health Sciences Center at the Quad Cities Campus in Moline and a \$6.9 million Veterinary Technology Center at Black Hawk College's East Campus in Galva. Dr. Truitt also made a significant impact on Black Hawk College's transfer program, which allows students to seamlessly transfer the college credit that they earned affordably at the community college to any participating four-year college.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Dr. Bettie Truitt for her commitment to inspiring the next generation of students. Dr. Truitt has undoubtedly made a difference in the lives of her students, and her retirement will be a significant loss to Black Hawk College and the community. I congratulate her on a well-earned retirement and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on November 29, 2017 I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on No. 640 and 641.

IN APPRECIATION OF IDAHO HUMANITIES COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RICK ARDINGER

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Rick Ardinger, the executive director of the Idaho Humanities Council. I wish to congratulate him on his retirement after 26 years of service leading the state's ef-

orts to promote and inspire the study of history, literature, philosophy, jurisprudence, cultural anthropology, comparative religion, art history and criticism, music history and other interpretive disciplines.

A Massachusetts native, Rick moved to Idaho to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing and quickly acclimated to the local writing scene. In 1976, Rick and his wife Rosalind started producing a literary publication, *The Limberlost Review*. The publication quickly turned into the *Limberlost Press*, an independent publishing company that has produced books by Pulitzer Prize winning novelist John Updike and Idaho native Sherman Alexie, among others.

Rick joined the Idaho Humanities Council staff in 1991, and became executive director in 1996. During his tenure, the IHC broadened its outreach not only by awarding grants for humanities projects and programs throughout the state, but also by sponsoring a number of flagship council-conducted initiatives to bring attention to the importance of lifelong learning in the humanities.

Under Rick's leadership, the Council also launched a successful \$1 million fundraising campaign to establish an Endowment for Humanities Education with the Idaho Community Foundation, providing a sustainable source of support for the Council's annual, weeklong, residential summer institutes and workshops in the humanities for K-12 teachers. In 1997, the Council held its first annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner in Boise, an event which has brought to Boise a long list of nationally prominent novelists, journalists, and historians to speak before hundreds of supporters every fall.

In addition to the annual event in Boise, the Council also hosts Distinguished Humanities Lectures in Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, and Coeur d'Alene. The Council also sponsors statewide reading and conversations programs, supports the work of the City Clubs of Idaho Falls and Boise, brings annual tours of Smithsonian traveling exhibitions to the state, hosts an ongoing Humanities Speakers Bureau, and funds the statewide annual "Let's Talk About It" program in partnership with the Idaho Commission for Libraries. For several years, the Council has underwritten Idaho Public Television programming, and has produced a number of publications that have explored Idaho history and recently an anthology of essays about the meaning of wilderness in Idaho.

As a supporter of local and national arts and humanities programs, I consider Rick a friend and an advocate for sharing Idaho's cultural significance with the world. It's hard to imagine the Idaho Humanities Council without Rick, but I know he leaves the organization in a good place. For his enduring service to our great state, I thank and congratulate him.

REQUIRING COMPLETION OF TRAINING PROGRAM IN WORKPLACE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support H. Res. 630, which would require that

each member of Congress, as well as officers and employees of the House of Representatives, complete anti-harassment training each session of Congress. We are in a watershed moment in our country and we in Congress must draw a line in the sand and make it clear that sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

We have witnessed countless accusations come out in the news about high-profile individuals, and millions of women around the country have opened old wounds and shared their stories to show just how systemic this problem truly is. Congress is not impervious. Accusations against current and former members have flooded the news, and it has highlighted how insufficient our sexual harassment prevention and remediation processes have been in both the House and the Senate.

I am proud to join so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in support of this resolution, which is the first step in creating an environment on Capitol Hill that is safe and supportive for everyone. However, we must not let this be our last action. We cannot introduce this bill and wash our hands of the problem. We must continue to work in a bipartisan manner to improve the complaint and investigation procedures in both chambers, and we must evaluate the rules and scope of the Ethics Committee to ensure the committee is fully staffed and prepared to evaluate sexual harassment cases in a timely manner. We need to implement a process that does not silence women, but gives them a voice and allows them to be heard.

And, together we must condemn this behavior—regardless of party. We must show that we are united in our commitment to dismantle this system that has shielded perpetrators for so long. We must stand with survivors and demand justice. Today we are showing that we want to ensure that this process starts within the halls of Congress.

RECOGNIZING MR. GENE BELL 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 Gene Bell from Belgrade for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Bell joined the United States Marine Corps during the height of World War II. He served in the operation to liberate Guam and fought at Iwo Jima. His service to country did not stop when he finished his military career.

Mr. Bell is a member of the Iwo Jima Survivors Association and frequently travels and speaks about his experiences. Mr. Bell is described by his friends as a walking, talking Marine Corps advertisement who is knowledgeable and well-spoken. He has a positive outlook, and is a gentleman to everyone he meets.

I ask my colleagues today to join me in commending Gene Bell for his dedication and service.

WELCOMING RABBI DAVID SIFF TO SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Temple Torat Emet's new Rabbi, David Siff, to the South Florida community.

Rabbi Siff has been an inspiration to Jewish communities across the country, from South Carolina to Philadelphia, and now he joins us here in Boynton Beach. Since receiving his rabbinic ordination in 2006 and a Ph.D. in Jewish Philosophy in 2009, both from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, he has cultivated a culture of warmth and inclusiveness for everyone in the community. Rabbi Siff has been key in developing Shabbat and holiday programming that engages families with young children, promoting a vibrant and hopeful future for the American Jewish community. His dedication to Tikkun Olam, or repairing the world, will be a great asset to the Temple and to South Florida.

Temple Torat Emet and the rest of the Jewish community of South Florida is lucky to have Rabbi Siff, and I'd like to join them in extending him a warm welcome.

IN MEMORY OF SHERIFF DAVID C. HOBBS, JEFFERSON COUNTY FLORIDA

HON. AL LAWSON, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who has made a remarkable impact on Jefferson County, and indeed all of Florida, Sheriff David C. Hobbs who passed away on Monday, November 27, 2017 at the age of 58, due to complications from cancer.

Sheriff Hobbs was a dedicated public servant who served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps and his community as Sheriff for four terms. I honor his service and all law enforcement officers for risking their lives to keep others safe.

Sheriff Hobbs was born and raised in Monticello, Florida. He was a graduate of the Florida Highway Patrol Academy and a member of the Florida Highway Patrol for 11 years. He served as a Deputy Sheriff of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office for eight years and was elected Sheriff in 2004 and was re-elected subsequently.

He promoted legislation requiring state drivers' licenses and identification cards to rapidly identify sexual offenders who prey on children. For many years, he sponsored the Cops & Kids program which provided bicycles to many underprivileged children at Christmas. He also implemented Project Lifesaver in Jefferson County, to aid in the search for persons with special needs. Additionally, Sheriff Hobbs began the Ag Watch Program in late 2014 to assist the agricultural community in the prevention of the loss of livestock and equipment as well as recovery of any property loss.

Florida Governor Rick Scott recognized his talents and value by appointing him to the

Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission in 2014. It is fitting that the Governor has ordered the State and U.S. flags to be flown at half-staff at the Jefferson County Courthouse, Monticello City Hall, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and the State Capitol in Tallahassee from sunrise to sunset through the day of Sheriff Hobbs' funeral service on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Hobbs had a larger than life personality, which explains the larger than life void that Jefferson County and the citizens of the state of Florida are feeling. His loyalty and love to his family, God and community, will be remembered and Sheriff Hobbs' spirit and attitude will be truly missed.

HONORING THE LATE ROBERT LEE BROWN, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Robert Lee Brown, Jr., who passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 and will be interred in the Arlington National Cemetery for his service to our nation in the United States Army.

Robert Lee Brown was born on July 21, 1938, the third child of Robert and Minerva Brown. In his early age, he was baptized in Brodnax, Virginia and received his early education in Brunswick County, Virginia.

Mr. Brown and his siblings believed firmly that happiness must be found in service to others and that the most noble professions required public service. His sister was an elementary school teacher. He and his brothers contributed over 100 years of combined military service to our nation.

In 1956, Mr. Brown reached the age of 18 and was drafted in the United States Army, initially serving at the Army Depot in Richmond, Virginia. In time, his service took him on tours through Korea, Panama; and he served in Vietnam during the Vietnam.

Robert also spent fifteen years of his military service at the Military District of Washington Ceremonies and Special Events in Washington, D.C. where he retired from the United States Army in 1989. After his retirement, he accepted a position as Superintendent of the Soldier's and Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

In 1962, Robert Brown married his best friend, Yvonne Mushaw, to whom he devoted 54 years until the day of his passing. Together, Robert and Yvonne had two sons, Darrell and Derreck Brown, both of whom Robert was extremely proud.

Following his second retirement, Robert and Yvonne returned to Brodnax, Virginia where he dedicated himself to the Miles Bethel Memorial CME Church as a member of the Steward Board, President of the Men's Chorus, and Chairperson for Ministry of Men. He also offered his skills to Oris P. Jones Funeral Establishment.

I want to recognize and offer my condolences to Robert's surviving family: his widow, Yvonne, his son Darrell and daughter-in-law Robin Pena Brown, his son Derreck and friend Christopher Johnson; aunts, Alma Jenkins-Davis, and Mary Boyd-Lewis Salley; brothers,