

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PULMONARY HYPERTENSION AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and the outstanding work the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) in the fight against the rare and debilitating disease, pulmonary hypertension (PH).

Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) is high blood pressure that occurs in the arteries of the lungs. It 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 it can lead to heart failure and death.

I am proud to represent the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) headquartered in Silver Spring. PHA is dedicated to extending and improving the life of those affected by PH. PHA was the first organization in the world dedicated to providing comprehensive PH patient and caregiver support; medical education; specialty care services that improve patients' quality of life; and research funding. As a result of PHA's advocacy for continued investment in medical research and sustained scientific progress, there are 14 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 2.5 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.

I am proud to work with PHA in their efforts to increase awareness of PH and create new programs that promote early and accurate diagnosis and quality care for PH patients.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing November as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and to continue supporting 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.

STEVEN SUMMER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steven Summer, who after 45 years in the healthcare arena, including 13 years leading the Colorado Hospital Association, is retiring. From Medicaid expansion to advancing hospital safety improvements, Steven's four and a half decades of service have resulted in work to improve the quality, access, and payment innovations in healthcare systems.

Steven began his career with the Association of American Medical Colleges, moving first to the Maryland Hospital Association, and then serving as President and CEO of the West Virginia Hospital Association, before capping his career for the past 13 years at the helm of the Colorado Hospital Association. These positions reflect his talent for bringing people together and fostering and strengthening collaboration in developing healthcare policy and finding healthcare delivery system solutions—and all with a smile on his face.

Steven's consensus-building approach contributed to Colorado's successful Medicaid expansion, the creation of Colorado's Telehealth Network, and advanced an innovative substance use disorder treatment partnership between emergency physicians and hospitals to find alternatives to opioids, which serves as a model for other states. Programs like the alternatives to opioids effort have been incorporated in federal opioid legislation and many of CHA's initiatives under his leadership have informed federal policy and decision-making in Washington.

Throughout his career, Steven has provided countless time and resources to his community by serving on local and state healthcare boards and commissions, volunteering with the Kavod Senior Life Home, and many local programs like school and youth organizations.

I congratulate Steven on a lifetime of service and wish him all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN BRADLEY FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Justin Bradley of Lolo for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and his service to his community.

Mr. Bradley is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps from 2001 to 2006 serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in the Philippines and Afghanistan with two additional

deployments to Japan. He received multiple commendations during his time in the Marines, including the Combat Action Ribbon, a NATO Ribbon, and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

Following his service in the Marine Corps, he returned to serve his community at the Department of Corrections in the Probation and Parole Division. There, he has dedicated himself to the protection of the community through accountability and never complaining about the long hours. In addition to this role, he works closely with the Missoula County Sheriff Crime Task Force, the High Intensity Drug Task Force, and the U.S. Marshalls. Mr. Bradley is known to help fellow officers individually in developing proper firearm safety, as well as self-protection for when they are on the job.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Justin Bradley for his service and his dedication to his community.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT M. RECHNITZ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Robert M. Rechnitz. Mr. Rechnitz, a longtime resident of the Locust section of Middletown, New Jersey, passed away on October 12, 2019 after a vibrant life filled with numerous professional and personal accomplishments.

Robert (Bob) Rechnitz was a prominent member of the community and a fixture of the thriving arts and humanities landscape in Monmouth County. As co-founder and executive producer of Two River Theater, Bob was committed to providing an outlet for creative expression and a preeminent institution for the public to enjoy. In addition to his extensive background and work in theater, Bob was an esteemed educator, stalwart preservationist and dedicated philanthropist. He lived his life in service to his community and his achievements and generosity have been recognized by many awards and tributes over the years.

His love of nature and the theater and his commitment to social and humanitarian causes left an indelible impact on the community. From his support of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation and Monmouth University to his contributions to Monmouth Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center, to name just a few, his philanthropic endeavors will benefit generations to come.

Bob leaves behind a loving family, including his devoted wife and partner Joan, their children Emily, Adam and Joshua, son-in-law John Paladino, daughter-in-law Elizabeth Fordi, grandchildren Max and Flora Paladino and Esme Rechnitz, as well as many dear friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Robert M.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Rechnitz for his devotion to his family and his immeasurable contributions to the greater Monmouth County community.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY MEYERS

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Meyers, Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS), for his many years of service and leadership in state government, including his four-year tenure as Commissioner.

Prior to joining NHDHHS, Jeff previously served as an Assistant Attorney General for the state's Department of Justice, as well as the New Hampshire Senate's legal counsel, and as chief counsel to former Governor John Lynch. During Jeff's time with NHDHHS, he was the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, leading the agency's efforts to implement programming, strategies and services. In 2016, Jeff was nominated by Governor Maggie Hassan and confirmed by the New Hampshire Executive Council as Commissioner of the state's largest agency.

As Commissioner, Jeff has managed significant initiatives including the implementation of the state's bipartisan New Hampshire Health Protection Program, which expanded access to health insurance for thousands of underserved Granite Staters. In addition, he negotiated a federal waiver to support the capacity of the state's behavioral health system and has promoted the integration of mental health and substance use disorder services with medical care. I commend Jeff Meyers for his leadership as NHDHHS Commissioner, his commitment to our state and wish him all the very best in his professional endeavors.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Jeff Meyers for all he has done to better health and well-being in our state and look forward to our future work together.

RECOGNIZING GREGORY GROVE FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gregory Grove of Eureka, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Grove is a veteran of the United States Navy. He served from 1983 to 1984 as a Diesel Engine Technician.

Mr. Grove is best known for his coaching of the local Special Olympics team. His passion and dedication to children has made a huge impact in the community. Mr. Grove leads with a tender heart and truly loves being a positive influence on our youth. He has been involved

with the Big Brothers program, Boy Scouts, 4-H, and coached Little League baseball. For ten years he has coached for Special Olympics. He's also an incredible Santa Claus. If you saw Mr. Grove, you could tell why his smile makes every little face he sees light up during Christmas time. He is also a member of American Legion Eureka Post No. 74 and plays an important role in the Highway Fatality Marker program in Lincoln County.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Gregory Grove for his service to his country and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, on November 15, 2019, my vote was not recorded on the McAdams amendment to H.R. 4863 (Roll Call No. 619). I would like to reflect how I intended to vote: YEA on Roll Call No. 619.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, due to business that took me off the House floor on November 15, 2019, I was unable to vote in time to express my support of the McAdams amendment to the United States Export Finance Agency Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 619.

RECOGNIZING DONALD HELMBRECHT FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald Helmbrecht of Victor for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and dedication to veteran causes in his community.

Mr. Helmbrecht served in the U.S. Army for seven years, spending time in both Vietnam and Korea. Mr. Helmbrecht received multiple commendations during his military service including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

His dedication to his country and community continued after his time serving in the Army. Mr. Helmbrecht serves on the American Legion Honor Guard with Corvallis Post 91 where he helps maintain the American Legion roadway cross program, as well as veteran crosses. Additionally, he is an active volunteer in his church, and for many other community activities.

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

CELEBRATING PATHWAYS EARLY EDUCATION CENTER OF IMMOKALEE'S 55TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2019

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in recognition of American Education Week, I rise today to congratulate Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee on celebrating their 55th anniversary and to commend them for their dedication and exemplary service to Southern Florida.

Originally named Immokalee Child Care Center of Immokalee, Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee was founded in 1962 by members of the Church Women United, who recognized a need for childcare facilities in their community. At the time, working parents, specifically migrant workers, were left with few options for childcare. This led to parents having to make a difficult decision—leave their children unattended or take them to the fields during the workday. Both options posed significant dangers for these children. Knowing that this practice cannot continue, dedicated members and community groups worked together to raise funds and open a facility, which immediately served twenty-five children.

Since its founding, Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee has not strayed from its mission of providing quality education and developmental services for the children of Southern Florida. Presently, Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee serves 125 students from diverse backgrounds and continues to grow. Their curriculum centers on developing critical social, emotional, linguistic and academic skills for their students to ensure that each child has the ability to meet age-appropriate milestones. However, understanding that children need more than just in-classroom teaching to be successful, Pathways plays an active role in supporting children and their families after the school day ends. They identify students who need additional assistance and partner with agencies who provide them with access to mental health services, food and shelter needs, and healthcare options.

Having had the privilege of working with Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee for a number of years, I continue to be impressed by their steadfast commitment to each and every child they teach. It cannot be stated enough how important early childhood education centers, like Pathways, are for empowering students to reach their full potential. I am proud that Florida's 25th Congressional district is home to such a dedicated childcare center.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee for their fifty-five years of service to Southern Florida and the Immokalee community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable organization.