

Paul Johnson loves his camper. His family bought their first one 10 years ago so they could spend more time together making their own Montana moments. For Paul, his wife, and their four kids, camping is a huge part of their lifestyle, and they cherish their time together. But this year looked a little different for the Johnson camper. It served as a home for Paul as he worked at Benefis West campus to keep his patients and family safe from the coronavirus.

Back in March, the Benefis Health System instituted a respiratory clinic for the sole purpose of treating COVID-19 patients. Paul was one of three commissioned physicians to oversee the clinic, putting him in direct contact with COVID-19 patients. Formerly a part of the U.S. Army Reserve and currently in the National Guard, it's in Paul's DNA to serve others.

For nine weeks, Paul camped at the Benefis West campus and the local KOA campground, away from his wife and children. Paul says he had to do what was best for his family. His eldest son was home, about to be deployed to Afghanistan. His daughter also worked at a family ranch that had guests coming and going. Paul simply didn't want to jeopardize his family's health if he was an asymptomatic carrier.

Paul is good at putting things in perspective, though. He says it certainly wasn't as bad as being deployed out of country. Still, the experience was emotionally and mentally draining, especially since there wasn't a clear light at the end of the tunnel. But to Paul, the easiest thing to do was grab the bull by the horns and take care of his patients.

His family is very proud of him, and so am I.

Living out of a camper in March with no heat wasn't easy. When it was below freezing, his water wouldn't run, so he used the hospital for a warm shower. Cooking for himself was a challenge. Paul says there were a lot of busy days and sleepless nights. To pass the time, he tied flies. When it wasn't cold, he was able to take a socially distant dog walk with his wife, but there was no hand-holding or kissing. Paul says that was one of the hardest parts.

Many may ask, "Why go to these lengths?" For Paul, he was committed to treating his patients and serving his community in a time of need.

Madam Speaker, for his outstanding service to country, for his dedication to family, and for his selfless, unwavering patient care, I recognize Paul Johnson of Great Falls for his Spirit of Montana.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE KEVIN COLLINS

#### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2020*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Pine Bluff police detective Kevin Dwaine Collins. His life tragically cut short in the line of duty on Monday, October 5, we take this time to thank him for his life of service and his family for their ultimate sacrifice.

A member of the Pine Bluff Police Department since 2015, Detective Collins had proven

himself to be a valuable resource and friend to his community. While his family and friends refer to him as a leader and a "gentle giant," it was well-known that Detective Collins held his calling to law enforcement with the greatest zeal.

Prior to his work with the police department, Collins served in a variety of public service areas like the Arkansas Department of Corrections and the Metropolitan Emergency Communication Association. In 2017, he was named Pine Bluff Police Department's Officer of the Year.

Detective Collins is named by community leaders of Pine Bluff as "one of the finest officers you could ever hope to have." His work was not just a job, "but it was his mission." It is clear from his years of service and his commitment to love his fellow man that Detective Kevin Collins is a man deserving of the highest honor. I take this time to celebrate his legacy and to thank him for the sacrifice he has made for our community and our home.

#### HONORING DR. GOVINDAPPA VENKATAWSWAMY

#### HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2020*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, who devoted his life to preventing blindness in India and across the world. His work preserved the vision of millions of men, women and children, allowing them the blessing of sight and the opportunity to enjoy independent, productive lives.

Dr. V, as he was affectionately called, was born October 1, 1918, in a small village in Tamil Nadu, India. After graduating from medical school, he joined the Indian Army Medical Corps, but had to resign after contracting a severe form of rheumatoid arthritis that left his hands permanently disfigured. Unable to practice in his chosen field of obstetrics, Dr. V. returned to medical school to complete specialty training in ophthalmology and, despite his infirmity, mastered the art of cataract surgery. In 1956, he was appointed head of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Madurai Medical College, where he performed thousands of ocular surgeries until reaching the mandatory retirement age of 58.

Dr. V's work at the medical college sensitized him to the terrible impact of blindness on those without means to pay for care or cope with disability. That experience, and his deep religious conviction that the noblest purpose in life is to serve others, inspired him to pursue an extraordinarily ambitious program to end preventable blindness in India. In 1976, immediately after retiring from government service, Dr. V and members of his family founded the first Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, India.

Dr. V took a special interest in the lean business processes of highly efficient enterprises like McDonald's restaurants, while maintaining the highest standard of care. The self-sustaining Aravind Eye Care System is notable for its imaginative division of labor, consistent delivery of positive patient outcomes, and intense focus on reducing costs. One highly successful byproduct of this focus:

Aurolab, a Dr. V innovation that manufactures high-quality intraocular lenses so competitively priced that it exports the majority of its production to clinics all over the world.

The Aravind Eye Care System has been acclaimed by Harvard Business School and is the focus of an HBS case study; was recognized for excellence in publications including *Fast Company*, *Forbes* and the *Wall Street Journal*; and has inspired health-care organizations throughout the developing world. From its humble beginnings in Madurai, the Aravind Eye Care System now provides care to over four million patients and performs over five hundred thousand surgeries each year in hospitals and clinics in South India. Its consulting and training arm—the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO)—supports ophthalmologic health care programs throughout the world, and the Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute investigates causes and evaluates treatment options for various eye diseases, and provides clinical and operations support.

Thankfully, Dr. Venkataswamy's service to humanity did not go unnoticed during his lifetime. The Government of India bestowed upon him one of its highest civilian honors, the Padma Shri Award, in 1973. Other honors include recognition by Helen Keller International, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Harold Wit Lectureship at Harvard Divinity School, and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. Additionally, in 2008, the Aravind Eye Care System received the prestigious Gates Award for Global Health from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. V passed away in 2006, but his legacy continues to give eyesight to those who otherwise would be blind, and his story continues to inspire. His life is best celebrated by his own words: "[when] we identify ourselves with all that is in the world . . . there is no exploitation. It is ourselves we are helping. It is ourselves we are healing."

#### HONORING PARAMEDIC KIMBERLI R. WHEELER AS A RECIPIENT OF THE VALOR AWARD

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2020*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cape Fear Valley Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Kimberli R. Wheeler as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. An outstanding member of Cape Fear Valley EMS, Ms. Wheeler went beyond her call of duty when responding to a 911 call.

After her ambulance was struck by a motor vehicle and inverted, Ms. Wheeler saved the lives of two individuals who were critically injured on the scene. As she hung from her seat belt, she checked on her partner and calmed an alarmed EMS student. Bystanders assisted in freeing her and her team from the ambulance, and Ms. Wheeler immediately began to render aid to the critically injured victims in the other vehicle.

Ms. Wheeler's quick actions, bravery, and dedication to service is a credit to her, her family, and Cape Fear Valley EMS. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for her unwavering service and cannot thank her enough.

Ms. Wheeler is deserving of this honor, and I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and wish her success as she continues to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Cape Fear Valley EMS Paramedic Kimberli R. Wheeler for receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

#### HONORING HARRY WEDDLE

#### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2020*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Harry Weddle on receiving Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital's 2020 Advocacy Award.

Like many Americans, Harry has faced unprecedented challenges spurred by the coronavirus pandemic. Prior to his time at Encompass Health, Harry had spent over thirty days at UPMC-Altoona and another four weeks at Select Specialty Hospital. After these lengthy stays, he was transferred to Encompass. Throughout this ordeal, Harry also courageously battled COVID-19, while enduring isolation from family and loved ones.

Harry is a fighter. He beat COVID-19 and continued on the road to recovery. Thankfully, Harry was able to return home to his wife.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I am proud to honor Harry Weddle and celebrate his recovery. I wish Harry and his family every continued health and happiness in the chapters to come.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. THOMAS LAUBACH

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2020*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today, not only on behalf of Missouri's 5th Congressional District, but also on behalf of the Subcommittee on Monetary Policy. I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Thomas Laubach. Dr. Laubach dedicated his exceptional economic mind to serving his county and dedicated his life to serving the world at large. His was a powerful and touching life that was tragically cut short by cancer on September 2, 2020. He was just 55 years old. Dr. Laubach's legacy will live on in the work he did, the lives he touched, and the story he left behind.

Dr. Laubach began as an undergraduate in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany at the University of Bonn, where he graduated with a degree in economics in 1993. He then went on to receive a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University just four years later. At Princeton, Dr. Laubach's thesis advisor was none other than Ben Bernanke, who would go

on to serve as the 14th Chair of the Federal Reserve from 2006 to 2014. With an illustrious education under his belt, Dr. Laubach began his even more illustrious career. First making a name for himself in my home district as an Economist at the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank, Dr. Laubach started on a path to change the world of economics forever. After working at the Kansas City Fed for three years, Dr. Laubach became an Economist, and then Senior Economist, for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. He then took four years to teach and serve as Chair of Macroeconomics at Goethe University Frankfurt while taking research stints at Deutsche Bundesbank and the European Central Bank. He returned to the Board of Governors in 2012, this time as the Associate Director, before being appointed Director of the Division of Monetary Affairs in 2015. He served in that capacity until his death on September 2nd. At the time of his death, he was leading the central bank's new strategy to lower unemployment while responding to the changes brought on by the devastating pandemic that has so deeply affected our nation's economy.

Though his life in the economic world was impactful in countless ways, he is most well-known for two groundbreaking contributions. The first, of course, is Dr. Laubach's indelible mark on central bank interest-rate policy, which continues to affect both the U.S. Federal Reserve and central banks across the world. The second came in 2001, when Dr. Laubach co-authored a paper titled "Measuring the Natural Rate of Interest" alongside John Williams, who is currently serving as the president of the New York Federal Reserve. That paper set forth a transformational theory on the neutral rate of interest that will forever be known as the Laubach-Williams model.

Dr. Laubach wore many hats throughout his career: brilliant economist, dedicated researcher, bold thinker, curious student, and generous professor. A friend to many, he is also remembered as a kind, calm, and collegial presence. When critics attacked his ideas, Dr. Laubach responded with kindness and respect. When young economic minds sought his wisdom, he responded with patience and empathy. He was, above all, a beautiful soul who sought to employ his talents to alleviate suffering and serve others, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

When such a quietly influential figure passes on, I find myself wondering what I myself can do to help preserve their legacy. But in that respect, Dr. Laubach's own work will do much more than any tribute or eulogy could ever hope to do. His ideas, his writing, his influence is already a part of the fabric of the economic world. His legacy lives on in global monetary policy, in economics classrooms around the country, and in the thinkers he helped prepare to take on the crises of tomorrow. Madam Speaker, please join me, my district, and the Subcommittee on Monetary Policy for the House Financial Services Committee in honoring Dr. Laubach's memory and offering heartfelt condolences to his loved ones. We have lost a bright light, an irreplaceable mind, and a dedicated public servant, but we are blessed with the dark places his light illuminated, the theories his mind made crystal clear, and the lives his service helped touch. He was taken from us far too soon, so let us all carry his torch forward by committing our passions, skills, and talents to the service of others.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE WHITE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2020*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial Celebration of the White County Farm Bureau.

The White County Farm Bureau had its origin in 1920 when farmers organized an association to accomplish together what one farmer could not do alone. Following a mass meeting of area farmers at the White County Courthouse, and after many stirring speeches, the White County Farm Bureau was organized. The most important issue of the time was soil composition, and poultry was the most important industry in the county followed by dairy and livestock.

As is the case today, the strength of the early Farm Bureau laid with its members. For example, in 1925, a tornado crossed the county causing widespread destruction and death. The Farm Bureau worked closely with relief organizations to help neighbors get their farming work done and back on their feet.

The purchase of alfalfa seeds was a growing interest to the Bureau in the 1930s. And as the financial condition of White County farmers improved, so too did the value of the organization. Membership increased, especially with women, and in 1940 the White County Home Bureau was organized.

The Farm Bureau moved into its new building in 1947, paying the final loan installment in 1957. Through the 1960s and 1970s, the organization was involved in legislative, marketing, and membership policy development programs. Steady membership growth ensued, and member participation reached an all-time high.

In the 1970s, the Illinois and county Farm Bureau's successfully lobbied for legislation to reduce fees for farm truck and trailer license plates. In addition, the Bureau was busy studying taxation policy, concluding early on that property taxes needed reform.

Madam Speaker, the spirit of cooperation and hard work lives on in today's White County Farm Bureau, continuing a proud legacy filled with accomplishments and overcoming challenges. To celebrate this legacy, the Bureau plans to share historical photos and documents on social media, interview past leaders, compile a video presentation, produce a Centennial Booklet for members, and hold the 100th Annual Meeting in January 2021.

It is an honor to stand today to acknowledge the centennial anniversary of the White County Farm Bureau, and I wish the Bureau many more years of success.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN PATRICK MULLINS

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor John Patrick Mullins, who is retiring as Assistant City Manager and who served the