

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-

forts 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 WORK-
PLACE RIGHTS AND RESPON-
SIBILITIES

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