

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CHAUNCY D. BUCHHEIT

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chauncy D. Buchheit, Executive Director of the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission in Perryville, MO. Mr. Buchheit began his work for the Commission in 1980 and was named Economic Developer of the Year by the Missouri Economic Development Council in 2003.

He has helped make communities better throughout Southeast Missouri as he worked to help both the public and private sectors identify needs, secure funding and pave the way for economic development. For almost 40 years, Chauncy has proven to be a valuable resource for cities and towns in the 7-county region he serves.

As he retires at the end of 2017, Chauncy's enthusiastic participation in economic growth, his valuable expertise and his genuine sense of caring for Southeast Missouri will be genuinely missed by all of us who were privileged to work together with him to make Missouri better.

It is my great pleasure to honor Chauncy D. Buchheit today before the United States House of Representatives for his passionate dedication to the people of Southeast Missouri.

A LETTER FROM CONSTITUENT LINDA SOBEL KATZ URGING CONGRESS TO HELP CANCER PA- TIENTS GET THE CARE THEY DESERVE

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a beautiful letter I received from my constituent Linda Sobel Katz, a former legislative aide to one of my predecessors in the House of Representatives from Maryland's 8th Congressional District, Representative Michael Barnes. To summarize Linda's thoughts would be a disservice to her passionate and eloquent message about America's priorities today, so I will simply include in the RECORD her letter:

"In the late 70s and early 80s, I was honored to be an aide to Maryland Congressman Mike Barnes on international human rights issues. It was my job to help Rep. Barnes speak out for those suffering discrimination and worse in their homelands. The climate in Congress was different then. Democrats and Republicans willingly forged coalitions to protect and rescue individuals from hostile leadership far from our shores. As a commu-

nications consultant, this is the path I have chosen for my life's work—to champion causes to help better humanity and our environment.

"Never did I ever think I would need to speak out for myself, especially to the esteemed U.S. Congress—once a beacon of democracy, fairness, and justice to the free world and those silenced by totalitarianism.

"As an American citizen who deeply cherishes our land, I am horrified by the indifference of the majority in Congress who would strike out against innocent Americans. First, against children who are losing their CHIP coverage. To what gain? And now, against Americans suffering from one of humankind's worst diseases—cancer. To what benefit?

"What you are doing is causing a sense of powerlessness and despair among those you have a sworn duty to protect. I am such a constituent. As of this writing, you still have not restored the Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, which expired September 30. And you show the worst side of your natures by denying coverage for cancer treatment to those over 65 and paying for Medicare.

"I have been raising my granddaughter Sabrina, as her legal guardian, for the past 10 years since the death of her mother when Sabrina was four. During this time, I also spent seven years caring for a husband with Alzheimer's. Formerly co-owner of an insurance agency, my husband Hershel was denied long-term care coverage because of two prior heart attacks in his 40s and 50s. CHIP has been a godsend.

"We paid for Hershel's huge health needs out of pocket, and it was nerve-wracking to consider whether our family could survive financially.

"I am grateful that we are able to live in my home of nearly 40 years in a comforting neighborhood of Silver Spring, just outside the Nation's Capital.

"Less than a year after my husband's passing in November 2015—with no symptoms, other than a yellow tinge to my eyeballs, and feeling in good health—I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, one of the most deadly forms of this insidious disease. I have been in chemotherapy at Georgetown University Hospital for a year and remain stable after an initial setback that prevented me from undergoing a previously planned Whipple surgery to remove the tumor.

"But chemotherapy is not a permanent fix and has its own limiting side effects. With my oncologist, we must explore clinical trials and other emerging treatments to find a way for me to stay alive so I can continue to raise my granddaughter, now 13 and in 8th grade. Robust federal funding for cancer research is so critical to the survival of cancer patients. And so is the reassurance of coverage for treatment through Medicare.

"Dear Members of Congress, do not wash your hands of cancer patients on Medicare. So many of us continue to contribute to family life and society in myriad, constructive ways. Surely, you must have family members, friends, and constituents suffering from cancer through no fault of their own. Why strip away our hope and ability to live fully and be useful members of our communities? Why choose to be cruel, heartless, and mindless leaders lacking compassion for your fellow citizens? You are fostering an unjust

world, not the America that sets the example for civilized behavior and wins universal respect.

"I have a personal wish to live five more years so that I can continue to raise my beautiful, bright, and wise granddaughter and see her graduate from high school and be launched into a future of service and commitment in a gracious and caring world.

"Yes, she does wonder what will happen to her if I die because cancer treatment is no longer accessible to me, especially knowing that her U.S. government precipitated this hostile action. What a tremendous burden for a young teen!

"So, I ask: What will you do to ensure that children have a healthy future and that cancer patients get the care they deserve? Our health care system should be a model in a world still craving for leadership from America. Do not let us down."

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to heed this thoughtful message and ensure that children in our country have meaningful access to health care; to have the courage to stand up for the cancer patients, the sick and suffering, the chronically-ill and their families who rely on Medicare to keep them alive; and to demonstrate, as Linda says, true American leadership. America is counting on Congress. Let us act with wisdom and decency comporting with our highest values.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MR. GAYRON FERGUSON

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special recognition to Mr. Gayron Ferguson, Jr. for his service to our troops and his remarkable leadership through The Hugs Project of Western Kentucky.

Mr. Ferguson's patriotic aptitude is evident through his leadership of The Hugs Project and his over 10 years of volunteer work supporting our troops. Through this great organization, Mr. Ferguson donates his time to sending care packages to our brave men and women serving abroad.

Because of Mr. Ferguson's robust leadership, more than 40,000 care packages have made their way to over 12,000 troops in the Middle East. With his helping hand and enthusiasm for giving back to others, those serving overseas can receive a little piece of home through The Hugs Project.

It is individuals like Mr. Ferguson whose patriotic spirit and sense of compassion creates lasting impacts on our communities and ultimately create a better world through service and consideration of others, especially our troops. I congratulate Mr. Ferguson on his years of volunteerism through The Hugs Project and the joy he has brought over the years to countless men and women serving abroad.

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