

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ALEX  
AZAR

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2020*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Alex Azar, 80, of Salisbury, MD. He is remembered as a brilliant and devoted physician, passionate for his family and community.

Born May 4, 1939, in Johnstown, PA Dr. Azar graduated from Westmont Hilltop High School in 1957. He attended University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown for three years before accepting early admission to Pitt's Medical School where he graduated magna cum laude in 1964. He was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, an Honor Medical Society membership I shared with him, as well as Phi Beta Kappa.

After interning at Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital, he served as a Captain in the US Army Medical Corps at Fort Bliss, TX from 1965–1966. He eventually completed a preventive medicine and ophthalmology residencies at the Ohio State University.

In 1976, Dr. Azar joined Dr. Robert Dickey in practicing ophthalmology in Salisbury. Over the course of 40 years, he founded both the Peninsula Eye Center and the Azar Eye Institute. He discovered several new and innovative eye surgical techniques and ophthalmology care to several communities on the peninsula across southern MD and DE.

He was noted for his devotion to his patients, never denying care because of a patient's inability to pay. He often made house calls in the evening, even performing eye surgery on a patient in a rocking chair on his porch on Smith Island.

As part-time faculty of the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University, he was voted most outstanding part-time professor in ophthalmology in 2011 and 2012. In 2015, he received the prestigious Arnall Patz Fellowship Award through the local Lions Club and the Wilmer Institute for his contributions to the field of ophthalmology.

In 1996, Governor Schaeffer appointed Dr. Azar as the first and only physician member on the five member MD Health Care Access and Cost Containment Commission. He held various state and county medical society leadership positions, including President of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society.

An active member of his community, Dr. Azar served on the Board of Directors of the local YMCA, the Board of the Three Lower Counties, the Center for a Healthy Maryland, the local Humane Society, as treasurer of the Camp Horizon Board of Directors, and as an officer of the Greater Salisbury Committee. He was also a 32nd degree Mason, a member of Wicomico Lodge #91, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, and the Scottish Rite.

I am honored to acknowledge the legacy of a fellow caregiver and community servant. I join his family and community today in celebration and memory of his lifetime of meaningful contributions to humanity.

bration and memory of his lifetime of meaningful contributions to humanity.

HONORING BENTON, ARKANSAS

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2020*

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize the City of Benton, Arkansas, for the healing and hope promised as part of their Wall of Prayer in the city's downtown.

Benton Mayor Tom Farmer has constructed a lattice wall for residents to share their prayer requests on while preparing for the National Day of Prayer, May 7.

This initiative reflects that many of Benton's residents are looking for opportunities to maintain their sense of community during the current public health crisis due to COVID-19 while at the same time staying safe by following social distancing guidelines.

Residents are encouraged to hang a prayer written on a piece of cloth on the wall, and each day at noon until May 7, faith leaders will pray over the wall uniting in the shared experience.

While they are there, they can further show support for their community by taking a picture with the nearby "I Love Benton" sign.

I congratulate Mayor Farmer and the City of Benton for this creative way to come together and pray for our community, and I look forward to joining in prayer for this strong community on May 7.

RECOGNIZING SWEDISHAMERICAN HOSPITAL FOR SHARING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WITH THE ROCKFORD COMMUNITY

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2020*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor SwedishAmerican Hospital for its kindness and generosity in sharing personal protective equipment with at least 15 long-term care and rehabilitation facilities in Rockford, Illinois. The hospital recognized a need in the community and decided to use their resources to step up.

SwedishAmerican Hospital has received numerous donations in the past two weeks, allowing it to share gloves, hair nets, masks, Lysol wipes and other items. When other facilities were running low on supplies and did not have the capacity to organize and accept donations themselves, SwedishAmerican Hospital stepped in and helped ensure that supplies were delivered. For more than a century, this hospital has been serving the Rockford

community in many ways. The people working at SwedishAmerican Hospital are Hometown Heroes for all they do to serve patients and their community.

It is because of community leaders such as SwedishAmerican Hospital that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize SwedishAmerican Hospital for identifying the need in the Rockford community and filling that need.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP DURING COVID-19

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2020*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, government and public health officials in the U.S. have started grappling with how to reopen the economy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of this discussion has understandably focused on what we need to do here in the U.S. such as drastically expanding testing capacity and hiring additional personnel to conduct a massive amount of contact tracing. For us to be prepared to prevent outbreaks here at home, however, we also have to think beyond our borders.

The reality of infectious diseases like COVID-19 is that outbreaks anywhere in the world threaten transmission here in the U.S. The pandemic has upended countries in almost every corner of the world, but the impact on developing countries will be especially devastating. Not only do these countries already have low-resourced health systems but many are facing other challenges caused by conflict, climate change, droughts, migration and displacement. Their ability to prevent, contain, and respond to outbreaks is severely limited, making assistance from the international community critical.

While the prevalence of COVID-19 in most developing countries remains unknown due to limited testing, the impact of the crisis is already taking its toll. The economic fallout from the pandemic will hit vulnerable populations the hardest; hundreds of millions of people could be pushed into poverty. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has warned of a looming food crisis caused by significant strains on the global food supply chain. By the end of this year, the number of people on the brink of starvation around the world could double.

In the short-term, the U.S. must bring significant investments in emergency economic and humanitarian relief to the table. The potential for drastic increases in poverty and widespread famine will foster further instability and displacement. Progress in developing countries to reduce conflict, increase economic opportunity, and promote good governance will be set back. Providing immediate additional resources to combat COVID-19 in other countries will not only alleviate the humanitarian

• 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.