

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.