Pulmonary Hypertension research at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and complement the private efforts of the PH Community.

Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) is a rare lung disorder in which the pressure in the pulmonary arteries rises above normal levels and may become life threatening. When pulmonary hypertension occurs in the absence of a known cause, it is referred to as primary pulmonary hypertension (PPH). PPH is extremely rare, occurring in about two persons per million population. As of 1998, approximately 5–10 thousand individuals suffer from this disease— the greatest number reported in women between the ages of 21 and 40. Nonetheless, we now know that men and women in all age ranges, from very young children to elderly people, can develop PPH. It also affects people of all racial and ethnic origins equally.

I first became aware of this illness a couple of years ago when one of my constituents and close friend came to speak to me about a disease he now has. His eight-year-old daughter, Emily, had just recently been diagnosed with Primary Pulmonary Hypertension. At that time, the family was informed that there was no cure for PPH, and that Emily could not be expected to live beyond 3–5 years. I began to think that in order to get Emily and other PH sufferers a chance to really experience life, the federal investment in Pulmonary Hypertension research must be expanded to take full advantage of the tremendous potential for finding a cure or effective treatment.

Why does the federal government have a role in our fight against Pulmonary Hypertension? Pulmonary hypertension is frequently misdiagnosed and has often progressed to a late stage by the time it is accurately diagnosed. More importantly, PH has been historically chronic and incurable. This unpredictable survival rate has not been encouraging to patients, their families or physicians. Furthermore, in 1996–97 almost six million, Americans took anorexic drugs which can cause PPH in some people. Thousands now have PPH and are in terminal stages or have already succumbed to the disease. It is anticipated that many more cases of PPH from diet drugs will be diagnosed within the coming years.

I also believe that federal resources will complement the dollars and efforts the Pulmonary Hypertension community is doing on their own. This public-private partnership will also help ensure that everyone is working together so that we get the most “bang for the buck.”

However, thanks to efforts Congress has long been aware of the Pulmonary Hypertension Registry, which is helping to change all this. The registry was established in 1999 to help track the progress of the disease and to provide much-needed support for families affected by PH. In addition to tracking the number of people diagnosed with PPH, the registry also collects data on the severity of the disease and the effectiveness of treatment options.

The registry has provided valuable information to researchers and clinicians, who are using this data to improve their understanding of the disease and develop new treatment strategies.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor the important work being done by the registry. The Pulmonary Hypertension Registry is a vital resource for families affected by this disease. It has helped to increase awareness of the disease and to provide much-needed support for those affected by PH.

Pulmonary Hypertension is a rare and often deadly disease, but thanks to the work of researchers and clinicians, we are making progress in understanding and treating this condition. By continuing to support research and development, we can work towards a cure for this devastating illness.
from his professional job, he will continue to work very hard on behalf of his community.

His work has not gone without recognition. He has received the Black Achievers in Industry Award for the Harlem YMCA, the Man of the Year Award from the Brooklyn Branch of the NAACP, and a Melvin Jones Fellowship from the Lions Club.

Mr. Speaker, Douglas X. Alexander has been a role model for youth, a community leader and a business leader who firmly believes that if he can help someone along life's way then his living shall not be in vain. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly outstanding man.

RETIRED OF NEIL L. RUDENSTINE, PRESIDENT OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I join with my Massachusetts colleagues—John Moakley, Edward J. Markey, Richard Neal, Barney Frank, John Olver, James P. McGovern, Marty Meehan, John F. Tierney, and William Delahunt—in honoring Neil L. Rudenstine on his retirement as the twenty-sixth President of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Harvard, founded in 1636, is the oldest university in the United States and one of the premier academic institutions in the world. Many of Harvard's distinguished graduates have become leading public servants throughout our nation's history, including seven Presidents, as well as many members of the United States House and Senate.

Neil Rudenstine began his service as President of Harvard in 1991. He brought to the post the benefit of a distinguished career both in and out of academe. Prior to becoming Harvard's President, Mr. Rudenstine served three years as Executive Vice President of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Before that, he was a Professor of English at Princeton University, his undergraduate alma mater, a member of the Class of 1956. While at Princeton, Mr. Rudenstine held a series of administrative posts, including Dean of Students (1968–72), Dean of the College (1972–77), and Provost (1977–88).

He is a renowned scholar of Renaissance literature, having published works on the poetic development of Sir Philip Sidney and he is the co-editor of English Poetic Satire: Wyatt to Byron. His academic achievements are quite notable. He was a Rhodes Scholar, receiving a second bachelor's degree and a master's degree while studying at New College at the University of Oxford. In 1964, Mr. Rudenstine earned his Ph.D in English from Harvard. While there, he served as an instructor and then an assistant professor in the Department of English and American Literature and Language before leaving for Princeton in 1968. Mr. Rudenstine is an honorary fellow of New College at the University of Oxford, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, University, as well as Provost Emeritus of Princeton University. He is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Philosophical Society, and the Committee for Economic Development.

Mr. Speaker, as Harvard's last president of the 20th century, Neil Rudenstine has many accomplishments that will sustain Harvard's academic leadership as the university moves into the new millennium. He oversaw the establishment of the Center for Public Leadership at the Kennedy School of Government and the creation of the Barker Center for the Humanities. Under his guidance, the university began a new doctoral program aimed at the intersection of business management and information technology. The medical facility has made great strides in cancer research and a new Harvard Biomedical Community has facilitated collaboration with industry on important research in that field.

Neil Rudenstine also understood that a university will not achieve greatness if its doors are open only to the few. Just as our country gains its great strength from the contributions of our hard working and diverse people, a university's greatness depends upon giving educational opportunities to a wide variety of people. He expanded opportunities for Harvard undergraduates by increasing the financial aid budget by $8.3 million. This initiative has meant that students on financial aid can finish school with less debt so that they can concentrate on their educations instead of worrying about how they will pay for it. He also expanded Harvard Law School's Low Income Protection Plan so that law students can pursue the law-related career of their choice regardless of salary.

Under his leadership, not only has Harvard maintained its standing as one of the premier universities of the world, but Mr. Rudenstine saw it to that Harvard was also a good neighbor to the community around it. Through his leadership, Harvard launched a $21 million affordable housing program in the Cambridge area. The University created more than 700 new jobs in Greater Boston and achieved the largest operating surplus in Harvard's history—$120 million—during President Rudenstine's tenure. In addition, he led Harvard's most successful endowment campaign, raising an unprecedented $2.6 billion.

Mr. Speaker, President Rudenstine will visit Washington on April 22, 2001 for his last official journey from Cambridge to appear before Washington-area alumni and friends prior to his retirement on June 30, 2001. The members of the Massachusetts delegation in the House of Representatives wish to express our deep appreciation for the contributions of Neil Rudenstine to higher education, for the spirit of public service which characterized his decade as Harvard's president, his many years of academic leadership in other universities, and for the grace and elegance that he brought to all he has done. We wish him well in every future endeavor, anticipating the continuing benefit of his thoughtful expertise to American higher education.