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IN RECOGNITION OF KENNETH LEVENO, MD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary work and life of service of Kenneth Leveno, MD with Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Leveno was instrumental in developing a number of the innovative programs that are an integral component of Parkland's Women and Infant's Specialty Health division for decades.

He earned his undergraduate degree at Notre Dame University and his medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine. Dr. Leveno joined the Parkland medical staff in the 1970s and passionately sought to provide the best obstetrical care for patients entrusted to Parkland's care. His clinical studies demonstrated that access to prenatal care could mitigate health disparities among patients who face high levels of socio-economic hardship. He collaborated with medical, nursing and administrative leaders to create a highly organized, evidence-based system of care that led to excellent clinical outcomes and became known as the "Parkland Way."

Dr. Leveno was a pioneer in the deployment of advanced practice providers to expand services to an ever-growing population of patients in need of care. In addition to the development of a low-risk delivery unit, he initiated the nurse-midwives program at Parkland. In 1987, Dr. Leveno recruited midwives across the U.S. and even abroad to launch Parkland's program, now one of the largest and most respected Certified Nurse-Midwives services in the United States. His groundbreaking research and development of innovative obstetrical care practices transformed Parkland's obstetric service and created a unified system that integrated prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care.

Dr. Leveno devoted more than fifty years of his life to the medical profession, including serving as the UT Southwestern Jack A. Pritchard Chair in Obstetrics & Gynecology and was recognized as the Distinguished Physician Award by Parkland Hospital in 1998. His positive impact and worthwhile contributions to the medical profession will be sorely missed by the patients he so diligently served and by the colleagues who held him in great esteem. I am deeply grateful for his friendship and service and pray for comfort and peace for his wife and family.