

Among the most dramatic parts of the Tick-Borne Diseases Working Group meeting were the public comments. We present two of them here, both from the inaugural meeting on December 11, 2017.

Air Force Colonel Nicole Malachowski, the first female pilot ever chosen to fly in the elite Thunderbirds, told the panel she would soon be permanently medically retired due to damage and ongoing effects of neurological tick-borne illness. (Later, the Working Group named her to the Access to Care Services and Support to Patients Subcommittee.)

Listen to her compelling story below:



Olivia Goodreau, a 13-year-old girl from Denver, Colorado, has been living with Lyme disease for half her life. She started with flu-like symptoms, which progressed to include vision problems, a hand tremor, and debilitating headaches. She told the committee it took 18 months and more than 50 doctors before anyone thought to evaluate her for Lyme disease.

Listen to her story below:



To watch more of the public comments, click below:



Editor's note: Any medical information included is based on a personal experience. For questions or concerns regarding health, please consult a doctor or medical professional.