

IN APPRECIATION OF JAMES LIEBERMAN'S CAREER AT U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AGENCY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fine constituent and public servant, James Lieberman. After thirty years, Mr. Lieberman will be retiring from a prolific and significant career at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency.

Between 1985 and 2005, Mr. Lieberman's career blossomed as a U.S. Customs Service Contract Specialist. During this period, he served as a Procuring and Administrative Contracting Officer on many of the highest-visibility, highest-priority and highest-impact acquisitions within the agency. From 2005 to 2007, Mr. Lieberman was asked to serve as Chief of the Business Management Branch of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency supervising contracting professionals who provided acquisition services to support the Offices of the Commissioner, Chief Counsel, International Trade, Internal Affairs, Congressional Affairs, Public Affairs, Finance, Training and Development, and Human Resources. Between 2007 and 2012 James served as the Director of the Border Patrol Contracting Division. His division was responsible for acquiring all supplies, equipment and services for Office of Border Patrol. After an exemplary demonstration of skill, Mr. Lieberman was asked to serve as the Director of the Border Enforcement Contracting Division from 2012 to 2017. His career crescendoed during his time as the Acting Executive Director, Procurement Directorate, from 2016 to 2017. His department is comprised of seven divisions authorized for 166 full-time employees.

We appreciate Mr. Lieberman's profound commitment to public service and honor his long and successful career.

HONORING DR. THOMAS E. STARZL

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Thomas E. Starzl of Les Mars, Iowa. A pioneer in the world of science and medicine, Dr. Thomas E. Starzl will forever be remembered as an extraordinary member of our community. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Starzl revolutionized medicine by successfully performing the first ever human liver transplant. Dr. Starzl's work saved thousands of lives, and he became known as "the father of transplantation." On March 4, 2017, Starzl passed away peacefully at his home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Thomas Starzl was born in Les Mars, Iowa to a family of first generation Americans. As an undergraduate, Dr. Starzl attended Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri and eventually went on to complete an M.D. and Ph.D. in neuroscience at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Starzl would spend a majority of his early ca-

reer working at the University of Iowa and the University of Colorado until his move to University of Pittsburgh, where he remained until his retirement. In 2006, President George W. Bush awarded Dr. Starzl the National Medal of Science for his pioneering work in transplantation. He has also received awards from the National Institute of Medicine, the American Liver Foundation, the National Kidney Foundation, and the American Medical Foundation, among others.

Dr. Starzl was considered a "force of nature" to those who knew and loved him. One of his former students remarked that he came to recognize Dr. Starzl's "work ethic and pragmatism as characteristics in many of my patients and think that his salt-of-the-earth values must have been instilled at an early age." I and other Iowans are proud to call Dr. Starzl one of our own.

BERNADETTE GRAY-LITTLE

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bernadette Gray-Little for her unwavering leadership and service as the 17th Chancellor of the University of Kansas. As her tenure comes to an end and we reflect on her eight years as Chancellor, we celebrate the work Bernadette Gray-Little has done to positively impact the university, the state of Kansas, and beyond.

Chancellor Gray-Little has championed initiatives for the University such as the implementation of new admissions standards, prioritizing retention and graduation rates, and succeeding at growing the freshman class for five consecutive years. She has overseen the physical transformation of KU's campuses by securing support for new projects as well as major renovations for the university.

Additionally, she has demonstrated courage and compassion by leading university conversations on matters such as sexual assault, diversity and inclusion, campus safety, and the living and working environment on the university's campus.

When it comes to the state of Kansas, Chancellor Gray-Little has made her imprint through undertaking university efforts that would help in creating new jobs to spur economic growth, launching startup companies, developing corporate partnerships, licensing new technologies, and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among faculty, staff and students alike.

Chancellor Gray-Little demonstrated national leadership as a member of the board of directors of the Association of American Universities and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. As a member on these boards, she played an important role on the national level as a strong advocate for higher education and the importance of research funding. We can see her impact as she led the university to new heights in research funding that will benefit people around the globe.

As Chancellor of KU, Bernadette Gray-Little made history as the first female and first African-American Chancellor in the university's existence. Chancellor Gray-Little has led the University of Kansas with strength and humil-

ity. She truly has been an inspiration to students, staff, faculty, and colleagues throughout the state and our nation.

I extend my deepest appreciation to Bernadette Gray-Little for her service and commitment to the University of Kansas and I wish her all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING MR. ROGER SHALALA

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the esteemed career of Roger Shalala following 50 years of dedicated service to the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company in Elbridge, New York.

On December 6, 1966, Mr. Shalala joined the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company to serve his community. He served as the Department's President during 1968 and then maintained a 24 year tenure as Secretary, where he gained a wealth of knowledge of the Department's history and background. As such, Mr. Shalala has become known as the resident historian of the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company.

During his time serving the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company, Mr. Shalala's passion for serving his community has never faltered. He regularly volunteers at events to benefit the Department, including parades, fundraisers, pancake breakfasts, and chicken and biscuit dinners.

It is my honor to recognize Roger Shalala's 50 years of devoted service to our community.

IN HONOR OF JESSICA MARK'S RECEIPT OF THE YAVAPAI COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Ms. Jessica Marks of Yavapai, Arizona. Jessica is an accomplished and respected educator whose distinguished career has inspired countless young people in Arizona to follow their dreams. Currently, she teaches Language Arts to the students of Glassford Hill Middle School in Yavapai. Her inspiring service to the youth of our district is deserving of all of our admiration. It comes as no surprise that she is being recognized as the Yavapai County Teacher of the Year.

Jessica's career in education began in 2011, where she taught at Liberty Traditional School and later became a founding teacher at Prescott Valley's Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center. On account of her teaching excellence, 100 percent of her students passed AIMS testing. Jessica has prioritized community engagement, leadership skills and well-rounded character in her pedagogical approach. Outside of the classroom, she has served as an adviser to the student yearbook, the community service organization Panthers in Action, the National Junior Honor Society, and the school newspaper, amongst other extracurricular responsibilities. Jessica also

works hard planning the annual eighth grade trip to Catalina Island.

Jessica's service and mentorship to our youth is commendable. Her track record of excellence began when she undertook her first teaching position, and has continued to the present day. Jessica's amazing career serves as a beacon of civic duty and care for one's community, and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to recognize her today.

HONORING NEW CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate fifteen individuals who took their oaths of citizenship on Friday, April 21, 2017. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge John E. Martin, was held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On April 21, 2017, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Laura Yvette Tirado, Siblu Kudakkachira Mathew, Chiedozie Destiny Felix, Ofelia Juarez Hernandez, Servando Leal, Graciella Lopez-Strambu, Cecilia Mercy Mumbi Muchiri, Uyen Thi Thu Nguyen, Andy Dai Nguyen, Nakyung Nikkie Park, Yasmin Rahim, Alicia Ramirez, Hortencia Rodriguez, Hun Young Susan Yang, and Bahradine Abderhmane Zakaria.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on April 21, 2017. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

COMMENDING ALPHA OMEGA—
HENRY SCHEIN CARES HOLO-
CAUST SURVIVORS ORAL
HEALTH PROGRAM

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in commemoration of Yom HaShoah, to solemnly remember the six million Jews and the millions of others murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. We reaffirm our commitment to stand up and take action when we encounter persecution or an assault on human dignity. As Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Professor Elie Wiesel counseled, “the opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.”

As we mourn those who perished, we must honor the more than 100,000 survivors of the Holocaust who live here in our United States of America, an estimated one third of whom live in poverty. It is through our understanding of history that we “never forget” their plight and act to ensure that they live their lives in comfort and dignity.

I would like to commend the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, an innovative public-private partnership that has improved the lives of this most vulnerable population. In under two years, this program has provided critical, pro bono dental care to more than 600 Holocaust survivors in 18 cities across North America. The program serves as a model for what we can accomplish when we work together to help those in need.

As a Member of Congress who represents constituents of the Jewish faith I am compelled to remember today the millions of Jews as well as individuals of other faiths who were murdered during the Holocaust and pay tribute to a partnership committed to enhance Holocaust survivors' quality of life. May their efforts serve as an inspiration to us all to always choose action over indifference.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WESTHILL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victory of the Westhill Senior High School Boys' Basketball Team in the New York State Public High School Association Class B Championship on March 18, 2017. The Westhill Warriors defeated the Canton Golden Bears by a score of 80–62 for their fifth state title.

The Warriors, ranked number one in their class, finished the season 25–1. The team had four players who scored double digits in the title game, including senior Kemeran Jackson with 22 points, juniors Sean Dadey and Owen Matukas with 15 points each, and junior John Geer with 11 points. Members of the state championship team include Jackson, Dadey, Matukas, Geer, as well as seniors Braedon Elmer and Antonio Scrimale, juniors Holden Carroll, Corey Frassica, Chris Holt,

Jordan Marcano, and EJ Zawadzki, sophomores Charlie Bolesh and Michael Laszlo, freshmen Zechariah Brown, and Dan Washburn. The team is coached by Kevin King.

I am honored to recognize Coach Kevin King on his fifth state title in program history and to honor the teamwork displayed by the Westhill Warriors in earning the Class B Championship. I congratulate the members of the team, their families, the coaching staff, and teachers at Westhill Senior High School. This is a historic win for Central New York and I am confident that the positive experiences from the 2017 season will yield continued success in both athletics and academics.

FIFTY YEARS OF COLORADO LEADERSHIP ON ABORTION RIGHTS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago today, Colorado blazed a trail for the rights of women and girls when it became the first state to loosen restrictions on legal abortions. Until then, the procedure was available only if the woman's life was at stake.

The new law allowed an abortion if the woman's physical or mental health was threatened, if the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest, or if the child might have serious birth defects.

Mr. Speaker, this was seven years before the U.S. Supreme Court would affirm a woman's constitutional right to choose in *Roe v. Wade*. Today, polling consistently shows that seven in 10 Americans do not believe that *Roe* should be overturned. But back in 1967, allowing any loosening of the near-absolute ban on abortion was a risky move from a political point of view.

A freshman Colorado state lawmaker, Richard Lamm, decided the risk was worth it, even if it meant the end of his career. After introducing the bill, he worked State Senator John Bermingham and many others to persuade the overwhelmingly male and Republican-dominated legislature to pass it. Within weeks, Republican Governor John Love signed it into law.

The year before, only 10 abortions had been reported to Colorado's health department. During the eight months remaining in 1967 after the bill was signed, 120 abortions were reported—including for a 12-year-old girl who had been raped. Without that law, her only recourse would have been either a back-alley procedure or carrying the pregnancy to term.

Within the next three years, 11 other states emulated Colorado, while four others loosened restrictions on legal abortions even more.

Rather than see his career come to an end, Richard Lamm went on to serve three terms as Colorado's governor. Now age 81, he's the co-director of the University of Denver's Institute of Public Policy Studies.

Mr. Speaker, as a leader in women's reproductive rights, I am proud to hail from the state that, half a century ago, led the way in giving women and girls more control over their own bodies. It's thanks to enlightened people