

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OATH CEREMONY ON OCTOBER 12,  
2018

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty-one individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on October 12, 2018. This memorable occasion will be 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 October 12, 2018, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Wafa M. Shahin, Maher S. Isleem, Noor M. Isleem, Daniela Ivette Ponce, David Seo, Marianne Bushra Abdelmalak, Joana Maritza Grose, Monica Ying Williams, Atanacio Serrano, Charity Gross, Beatriz Cervantes, Esther Maria Arellano, Cedrick Dizala Mukinay, Wassim Shwaiki, Maria Flores De Leon, Evelin Yamilet Sanchez, Liza Safwat Assad, Miguel Angel Lima, Carmen Marquez, Thelma Alvarez Portney, Vic Dey, Audrey Harriette Gilbertsen, Manar Haddad, Alberto Lopez, Shirley Oduro-Nkansah, Hadja Fatimah Ouattara, Susana Rodriguez Perez, Kim Hoang Pham, Maria Guadalupe Rodriguez, Ramon Sandoval Jr., and Adriana Figueroa Trejo.

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 will become citizens of the United States of America on October 12, 2018. They, too, are American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

IN HONOR OF NATHAN PRATT  
JENNINGS'S HEROIC ACTIONS

**HON. ADAM KINZINGER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Nathan Pratt Jennings, a Corporal in the Illinois Army National Guard and my constituent from Machesney Park, for his heroic actions in saving the life of his fellow citizen.

On August 3, 2018, Mr. Jennings was driving home from work along Interstate 90 when out of the corner of his eye, he saw a big splash in a retention pond by the side of the road. Being an avid duck hunter, he knew that something was wrong. He pulled his car over and ran to the pond where he saw an upended vehicle, rapidly sinking into the water.

Mr. Jennings' military training kicked in and he acted decisively, taking off his suit and jumping into the muddy water. After his first attempt to find the driver failed, he asked another individual to hold his feet while he dove into the submerged vehicle. After what felt like an eternity, he managed to find the driver and pulled her limp body from the car.

As Mr. Jennings brought her to shore, he was certain she had drowned. Luckily, a group of Good Samaritans were waiting and ready to administer CPR until the paramedics arrived. While the others worked to save the life of the female driver, Mr. Jennings went back into the water to ensure that no one was left behind.

Mr. Speaker, had it not been for Mr. Jennings' quick actions, August 3rd could have ended tragically. I am glad to say that the driver of that car is alive and well thanks to Mr. Jennings and the other Good Samaritans who helped in her rescue. On behalf of Illinois' 16th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Nathan Pratt Jennings for his heroic actions in saving the life of his fellow Illinoisan.

CONGRATULATING BOLTON VOL-  
UNTEER FIRE COMPANY ON ITS  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Bolton Volunteer Fire Company on its 100th Anniversary.

Since its incorporation in 1918, the Bolton Volunteer Fire Company has upheld its mission to provide fire protection and rescue services to the residents of Bolton, New York. Over the last 100 years, the fire company has made many improvements to its alerting methods, truck models, and training systems to respond to the community's evolving safety needs. Today, the company proactively en-

gages the community through a variety of services, including a program to educate elementary school students on fire safety and smoke detector advocacy campaigns.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate the Bolton Volunteer Fire Company on its 100 years of exceptional volunteer service and thank the firefighters for their dedicated commitment to keeping the Bolton community safe.

HONORING GRANT HITCHCOCK

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant Hitchcock. Grant is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1042, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Grant has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Grant has become a member of the tribe Mic-O-Say. Grant has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Grant refurbished a large, multi-level deck and stairs at the Hope House in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Grant Hitchcock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF ALEX SPANOS

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alexander Gus Spanos, who passed away at the age of 95 this week.

A native Californian, Alex was well known for his skillful business acumen and his generous philanthropy. He is perhaps best known for founding one of the largest apartment developers in the United States, A.G. Spanos Companies, as well as serving as the owner of the Chargers NFL Franchise.

Born the son of Greek immigrants in Stockton, California in 1923, Alex's tireless work ethic and boldness was instilled in him at a very young age, when he began working in his father's bakery at the age of eight. A tough upbringing coupled with the unshakeable belief that he could accomplish anything he set his mind to continuously drove Alex to succeed and overcome countless obstacles.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Alex was a proud American who truly lived the American Dream and loved the country that enabled him to live it. When World War II broke out, Alex left college to join the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he served as a B-29 tail gunner. After the war, Alex returned to school and earned varsity letters in both swimming and diving at the College of the Pacific in Stockton.

In 1951, Alex started a small business selling sandwiches to migrant workers in the San Joaquin Valley. Four years after starting this business, Alex made his first million dollars and began investing his earnings in real estate and started to build apartments. In 1960, he founded A.G. Spanos Companies that, within the following two decades, became the largest apartment builder in the United States.

Always an enthusiast for sports and athletic activity, Alex fulfilled one of his lifelong goals in 1984, when he purchased the San Diego Chargers. One his most memorable moments as the owner of the Chargers was watching them defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers to play in Super Bowl XXIX in 1995.

Being equally passionate about the Chargers franchise's impact off the field, Alex created and funded community outreach programs like the Chargers Community Foundation, that continues to exist, supporting numerous critical causes, individuals in need, and organizations that benefit the Southern California community.

Alex was a creative entrepreneur, who also knew how to conduct business the right way, firmly establishing an honest and forthright reputation in both his personal and professional relationships. For many years, I had the honor and privilege of knowing Alex and his beloved wife Faye, who also passed away earlier this year. He was always the consummate gentleman, who consistently worked to give back to the country that had given him so much and I was always grateful for his counsel and friendship.

Alex Spanos was a beloved pillar of our California community and will be greatly missed, but his legacy will undoubtedly live on for many generations to come. With his passing, Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the legacy of this exemplary citizen and proud patriot, who lived a life that should serve as an inspiration to us all.

#### HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JAMES FARRINGTON

#### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege today to honor the life of a dedicated community leader and loving husband, James Farrington, who passed away at the age of 51 after decades of service to Northern Michigan. Through his extreme courage and selflessness, James became an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

A native of Lansing, James dedicated his life to fellow Michiganders. After beginning his career with the Lansing Board of Water and Light, James spent 10 years as a journeyman lineworker at Traverse City Light and Power prior to joining Consumers Energy. He was well-known for his expertise, willingness to

mentor others, and love for his work. It takes years of study and experience to be a journeyman lineworker, and the tremendous physical stamina and knowledge necessary to do this vital work demands respect and appreciation from our community. James braved hazardous conditions and unforgiving weather to ensure that members of his community had access to reliable electricity—a matter of life and death for many in Northern Michigan. As we look for solace after this tragedy, I want to express my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. James' tireless devotion to the public good has touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, James Farrington's family and community can take pride in knowing that Northern Michigan is a better place thanks to his life's work. On behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of an outstanding community leader whose contributions will continue to bless Michiganders for many years to come.

#### GREATER FORT WORTH ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors (GFWAR) on their 100 years of service to the Fort Worth community. With more than 3,200 realtor and affiliate members, GFWAR is a strong advocate for real estate professionals and Texas property owners.

The members of GFWAR are devoted to protecting private property rights and supporting homeownership, and their members have been among Fort Worth's most prominent citizens.

Among the leading members of GFWAR include the late Charles McMillan, former president of GFWAR, the Texas Association of Realtors (TAR) and the National Association of Realtors. Several other GFWAR members have also served as president of TAR; these include Walter Curlee, James D'Arcy, Raymond Estes, A.L. Purvis, Lester Weatherby, and William C. Jennings.

Additional prominent members of GFWAR include my friend State Representative Charlie Geren, who serves Texas House District 99, former State Representative Rob Orr, who served Texas House District 58, and Billie Heffner who was the first woman to chair the Texas Real Estate Commission. Prominent past members of GFWAR also include the Mayor of Fort Worth, Betsy Price.

Members of the Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors have provided valuable professional services to Fort Worth residents for a century. On their 100th anniversary, I would like to commend all those affiliated with this notable organization and extend best wishes for continued success.

Please join me in thanking the Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors for their proud history and centenary of service to Fort Worth, Texas.

#### HONORING ISAIAH FREESTONE

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Isaiah Freestone. Isaiah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Isaiah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Isaiah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Isaiah has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Isaiah planted trees at Lyons Park in Kearney, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Isaiah Freestone for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF KENNETH ANTONIO "TONY" COXEY

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a man that dedicated himself to this country and the people of Mississippi. Kenneth Antonio "Tony" Coxey, a native of Monroe County Mississippi, passed away on Monday, September 24, 2018.

Tony graduated from Smithville High School in 1994. In April of 1996, at the age of 20, he decided to join the Mississippi Army National Guard. He proudly served this country for over 20 years. In 1999, Tony joined the Amory Police Department and began his career in law enforcement. He was a devoted patrolman for the city of Amory, as well as a part-time patrolman with the Smithville Police Department.

Tony's law enforcement career was interrupted in 2004 when he received his orders to serve our nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. After serving for 18 months in Fallujah, Iraq, with the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Tony returned home to serve as a road deputy with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. He later transferred to the Narcotics Division and became a Lieutenant.

Tony returned to Iraq from 2009–2010 as Personal Security Detachment for Colonel William "Bill" Glasgow. In 2011, he deployed to NATO (Bosnia) as Personal Security Detachment for General Gary E. Huffman. Shortly after, Tony retired from the Mississippi Army National Guard as an SFC E-7.

After his final deployment, Tony returned home and began working for the Alabama and Gulf Coast Railway. While working, Tony was involved in a serious train accident that left him fighting for his life. With the help of God and against all odds, Tony made a remarkable recovery. He used this accident to tell his story about how God pulled him through to anyone that would listen.