

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OATH OF CITIZENSHIP

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on Friday, February 2, 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 February 2, 2018, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Patrick Joseph Fay, Monica Soledad Aguayo Paredes, Feda Izzedin Aljobe, Olalak Khamkhosy Baccam, Henriette Uwimpuhwe Balinda, Carolina Brambila, Sandra Campos, Jazman Abigail Cruz, Felix Dorado Amaro, Maria Echeverria, Oluwole Elenitoba-Johnson, Maria Isabel Galicia, Omar Agustin Garcia, Martin Herrera, Naomi Juarez, Katalin Csiszar Moore, Cain Eliseo Morales Jurado, Grissel Morelos, Mung San Myi Shi, Otilia Snezana Nikolovski, Hernan Osorio, Ashok Patel, Elena Rangel, Delia Ruiz, Jorge Luis Sullon, Susan Oluwaiemisi, Aleksandar Todorovich, Hannah Tran, Pedro Vargas, and Otoniel Verdugo.

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 February 2, 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANCES GRICE

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today it is my distinct privilege to pay tribute to the life of Frances Grice. Frances was a beloved member of my community who committed her life to the people of the Inland Empire. Frances believed whole-heartedly that every person, regardless of skin color, religion or economic status, deserved to be treated equally, and with respect and compassion.

A civil rights leader and longtime advocate for racial equality, Frances led the charge to desegregate public schools in San Bernardino, California. As a cofounder of the Community League of Mothers, Frances became a voice for the African-American community in the San Bernardino region, and used her tenacity and compassion to represent the interests of one of the area's most under-represented populations.

Frances later founded Operation Second Chance, a training program to help young people in the Inland Empire gain work experience and become economically independent. Her students still remember her fondly, and her dedication to those who were in need made a lasting difference in the lives of countless young people across the Inland Empire.

Sadly, Frances passed away last month. I speak on behalf of the entire Inland Empire community when I say our region is devastated by this loss, and that her contributions to making our community a better place to live will never be forgotten.

HONORING DR. SURIN PITSUWAN

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Dr. Surin Pitsuwat of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Dr. Surin, a great friend to countless Americans in the diplomatic and Peace Corps communities, passed away on November 30, 2017.

Dr. Surin became a household name in U.S. diplomatic circles, first as Thailand's foreign minister and later as Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Throughout his life in government and academia, Dr. Surin wielded his skills to influence and forge peaceful partnerships with America and the world.

Dr. Surin first entered the American experience as an impoverished teenager in southern Thailand as a student of David and Phyllis Johnston—his “Angels of Hope” as he called them—two Peace Corps volunteers who

helped him receive an American Field Service scholarship to attend his senior year of high school in Minnesota. With the help of grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Winston S. Churchill Association, Dr. Surin received his bachelor's degree from Claremont Men's College (now Claremont McKenna College) in California and a master's and doctorate from Harvard University, and through a Congressional Fellowship from the Asia Foundation worked in the office of Representative Geraldine Ferraro.

For a Muslim of Malay-descent who didn't own a pair of shoes until the age of 11 to later become a globetrotting envoy, Dr. Surin never lost his deep sense of humility and grace and ease with communicating. Dedicated to improving the lives of others, he always made time during his frequent trips to his family's hometown to meet with the poor and see how he could help them. He is survived by his wife, Alisa, and their three sons, to whom I extend my deepest thoughts and condolences.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Surin in 2014 while he was in America to receive the National Peace Corps Association's Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award. Dr. Surin accepted the award on behalf of what he called “the millions of other so called ‘Peace Corps Products’ all around the world whose lives have been enriched and influenced by [Peace Corps volunteers].” From his “Big Break,” as he called it, with volunteers David and Phyllis until the day he died, Dr. Surin channeled the spirit of the Peace Corps to partner in peace, progress, and understanding. I hope that Dr. Surin's life and work can serve as a model for all of us.

HONORING JOHN HARRITY, PRESIDENT OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE COUNCIL OF MACHINISTS, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered today to celebrate an outstanding member of Connecticut's labor movement and my good friend, John Harrity. John, who has been a proud member of IAM since the day after he was hired as a vertical turret lathe operator at Pratt & Whitney nearly forty years ago, marks his retirement having served as President of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists since 2012.

John began his union service with IAM Local 1746 where he served as a Shop Steward and Senior Steward as well as editor of the Local Lodge 1746 newsletter. In 1986, he was elected Business Representative, beginning his service with the Connecticut State Council of Machinists, and four years later he

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

was asked to take the position of Editor/Organizer for IAM District 91 and then an organizer for IAM District 26, a position which he has continued to hold until now. From contract negotiations to communications to organization efforts, John's work has helped to secure economic and retirement security for his members and their families. As President of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists, John has been the voice for more than 10,000 active and retired IAM members and they could not have asked for a more passionate or dedicated leader.

John's work for IAM members has extended far beyond his role within the union itself. He has served as director of GrowJobsCT, a program that brings together labor and state business interests on issues of common concern in order to support manufacturing and its associated jobs throughout Connecticut. He has also served on a number of boards and commissions related to jobs, including as a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Green Bank and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Roundtable on Jobs and Climate. He was a founding member of the Connecticut Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Coalition, a member of the Advisory Board of Connecticut's Manufacturing Innovation Fund, and co-chair of the Workforce Development Committee of the Manufacturing Innovation Fund in its Investing in Manufacturing Community Partnerships federal initiative. John also played a critical role in the development of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at Goodwin College where he is an adjunct faculty member.

Over the years, John and I have worked on countless issues together and I will always be grateful for his candor, friendship, and support. He has dedicated a lifetime to ensuring safe workplaces. Today, as he marks his retirement, I am honored to stand and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to John Harrity for his bold leadership and outstanding contributions to IAM and Connecticut's labor movement. I wish him, his wife, Cindy, his children and grandchildren the very best for many more years of health and happiness as they begin this new chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, my vote on January 22 is the same as my vote the prior time: No. The situation is the same as it was then, except there is one week fewer to actually get something done.

This legislation represents a fundamental failure on the part of Republicans to govern. This bill does next to nothing for Community Health Centers, the Children's Health Insurance Program, our veterans, our pension systems—some of which are in a state of crisis, and the victims of natural disasters. Hundreds of thousands of people in Puerto Rico remain without power. And, most glaringly, this bill does nothing to improve the situation of two-thirds of a million Dreamers, who deserve certainty and protection but whose lives Trump's reckless actions have turned upside down.

The situation continues to be outrageous, and it doesn't have to be this way. The prior-

ities I'm fighting for are broadly supported by the American public. We should be able to address them directly and quickly, but I fear that we will be in the exact same spot in three weeks.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVE MILLER'S SERVICE TO KENTUCKY'S SECOND DISTRICT

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my sincere thanks to Steve Miller of Shelby County, Kentucky, who is retiring after nine years of service as a field representative with my office.

My friendship with Steve began when I was first elected to the Kentucky State Senate. Steve worked for the Senate leadership office, and I quickly learned how much everyone loved Steve. He built friendships quickly and had a deep knowledge of legislation and policy, so when I was elected to serve the Second District in the U.S. House of Representatives, I knew I wanted Steve on my team.

Steve rose up to the challenge and immediately developed a reputation for serving constituents effectively. He understood early on that service transcends ideological differences. Once, when Steve had an introductory meeting with a local official, he was rebuffed because the official was of a different party. Steve chuckled and explained that he wasn't there to be political—he was there to serve that community and be a resource to that official. A great relationship began in fifteen minutes and endures still.

For the past nine years, I've heard my constituents tell similar stories of appreciation for Steve. He wakes up each day thinking about who he can introduce me to as he hits the road to visit the constituents of Kentucky's Second District. I will miss Steve, but I wish him and his wife Donna good health and good times with their family during retirement.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, in recognition of the Santa Rosa Junior College's centennial anniversary. Serving more than 1.7 million students since opening its doors, this public institution has grown from seven women's vision for a local junior college into a nationally and internationally recognized leader in removing barriers to higher education.

Founded in 1918, the Santa Rosa Junior College was conceived of by members of the Federated Home and School Association of Santa Rosa, an organization of prominent women from across the City of Santa Rosa who came together around the idea of bringing higher education to their community.

Starting with an inaugural class of 19 students, the college had eight faculty members and was located in the basement of Santa Rosa's primary high school. Within the first seven years of operation, Santa Rosa Junior College went through great adversity: briefly closing due to a severe city-wide influenza outbreak, losing its basement location due to a fire, and operating nomadically out of several temporary spaces for four years. But out of this early turmoil came remarkable growth and resilience.

By 1927, the college attained the stability it needed to succeed and grow. Operating out of a permanent campus on over 40 acres of land, the college was able to begin extending its roots throughout the community, becoming the inaugural member of the newly created Santa Rosa Junior College District.

Today, Santa Rosa Junior College has grown significantly in scholastic capability and quality. Now spanning a combined total of more than 500 acres, the college district operates two campuses, a public safety training center, and a nationally ranked farm laboratory, among other facilities. The college now employs over 3,000 faculty and staff to instruct the more than 28,000 students who enroll each semester. With these sizable gains in students, facilities, and staff, the district has also expanded to serving 15 major high school campuses and 1,600 square miles, making it one of the largest college districts in the nation.

Santa Rosa Junior College, one hundred years old, offers exceptional academic, career technical, athletic and performing arts programs that have consistently garnered state, national and worldwide attention. Mr. Speaker, after a century of steady scholastic achievement and operational stability, the continuing success of Santa Rosa Junior College has led to immeasurable social and economic improvements for not only the North Bay community but the nation. It is therefore appropriate that we stand together in recognition of this momentous occasion.

SUPPORT CROSS-STRAIT STATUS QUO BETWEEN TAIWAN AND CHINA

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express serious concern and opposition to the unilateral decision by the Chinese Civil Aviation Authority to activate four air routes in the Taiwan-Strait. The decision was made without any consultation with the government of Taiwan, which is a clear violation of international law according to the International Civil Aviation Organization. This action by China could pose a grave threat to the cross-strait status quo between China and Taiwan. The cross-strait status quo has been essential in preventing a military crisis between the two countries that could be a threat to peace and security in East Asia.

All relevant parties, including the Taiwanese Government, support the continuation of the cross-strait status quo. The Chinese Government must come to the negotiating table with Taiwan in order to return to the status quo. I