

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### IN APPRECIATION OF PLASMA DONORS

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2019*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of donating plasma and to applaud those individuals that make the commitment to be a plasma donor.

Many Americans are impacted by rare, serious, and sometimes life-threatening medical conditions that are effectively managed by therapies derived from donated plasma. Patients affected by alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, hemophilia, hereditary angioedema, platelet disorders, primary immunodeficiency diseases, as well as other communities rely on plasma-derived therapies. For many of these patients, plasma-derived therapies represent life-sustaining or life-improving medicine that is only available and accessible as a result of plasma donors. Moreover, these therapies represent the cutting-edge of medicine and it often takes dozens of donations to prepare one course of treatment for a single patient.

These communities are collectively represented by the American Plasma Users Coalition, which works on policy issues to protect the safety of plasma donors and plasma products, and to ensure an adequate supply of plasma donations to meet the medical needs of patients. As science advances and we are better able to diagnose these conditions and treat additional conditions due to breakthroughs with plasma-derived therapies, we will need more Americans to make the important choice to donate plasma to ensure all patients continue to have access to essential treatments.

Many of us have already made the commitment to be either an occasional or regular plasma donor. Often times, this decision stems from knowing a patient who relies on plasma-derived therapies and understanding the tremendous impact a simple donation has on their health and the well-being of their family. Plasma donors come from all walks-of-life and all backgrounds, but to the patient community they are everyday heroes.

Madam Speaker, let us recognize the contributions of plasma donors while calling attention to the importance of plasma donation.

ary 7, 2019, Dr. Peterson announced that he will be retiring from the role of President at the Georgia Institute of Technology, commonly known as Georgia Tech.

His retirement comes after eleven years of service to this great academic institution. Throughout those years, Bud demonstrated extraordinary leadership. A few examples include having the university accepted into the Association of American Universities, increasing enrollment while other academic institutions are struggling, expanding areas of research, and being named a top-10 public research university. As a graduate of Georgia Tech, I am proud of what this institution has accomplished. Thanks in part to the talented faculty and the direction President Peterson provided.

Dr. Peterson is truly leaving Georgia Tech a better place than when he arrived. Sandy and I wish him well and congratulate him on his wonderful career. I thank him for all he has done to make Georgia Tech a better place, and wish him good luck in all future endeavors.

### HAVEN JOOST GIBSON

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2019*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Haven Joost Gibson. Haven 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 96, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Haven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Haven 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, Haven built 5 bat houses that hold up to 300 bats each for the Lake of the Ozarks National Park.

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

### OATH CEREMONY ON FEBRUARY 8, 2019

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2019*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam 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 February 8,

2019. 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 8, 2019, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Mahmooda Mohammed, Alice Nyambura Ngatia, Nicholas Ngugi Kiraki, Barbara Lucio, Riste Trajanovski, Janette Magallanes, Tehmina Talib, Birute Arnold, Chantal Mutabazi, Ainka Faustina de Coteau, Ian Frederick Griffiths, Huy N. Huynh, Brenda Berenice Avila Rosales, Rodrigo Garcia, Elisabeth Navarro, Ristana Lazaroska, Elva Lucero Madrigal, Audrey Corinne Kaucoud Behinan, Chulida O'Donnell, Jose Efrain Aguilar, Sohaib Aleem, Moshe Michael Abudraham, Pablo Ernesto Bernaschina, Mayra Mercado-Estrada, Mary Teresa Duffy, Norma Lizeth Cruz, Adriana Bell, Faustin Kagesera, Marisol Bosio, and Hugh Gong.

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.

Madam 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 8, 2019. 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.

### RECOGNIZING ANGELA HRITZ AS THE OKALOOSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2019*

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Angela Hritz as the Teacher of the Year for Okaloosa County, Florida.

• 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.

Ms. Hritz teaches World History at Davidson Middle School, where she has spent her twenty-year teaching career.

Ms. Hritz has served the Okaloosa County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

It is recognized that the teaching profession is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. Hritz has continued to exceed all expectations and proves her devotion to her profession in a multitude of ways.

Ms. Hritz possesses the dynamic capability to encompass many different facets in her lessons. She is specifically known for incorporating ELA standards within her social studies activities.

She immerses her students in the content by using Socratic Seminars to deepen their understanding and develop communication skills in a respectful environment.

Ms. Hritz exhibits her passion for education every day in her actions. Her unmistakable love for her job provides a strong foundation for her ability to successfully engage and encourage her students.

Ms. Hritz also effectively draws from her own experiences to compliment her instruction. Having traveled to some of the very places of which she teaches, enables her to better instill a sense of wonder about the world in her students and to encourage them to embrace other cultures.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Angela Hritz for her accomplishments and her profound commitment to the Okaloosa County School District. I offer my gratitude for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

WEST METRO CHAMBER 2019  
SEYFER FAMILY

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud The Seyfer Family for receiving the 2019 West Metro Chamber of Commerce's Steve Burkholder Diamond Legacy Award.

This award is reserved for individuals who achieve the highest level of respect within the their community. Nominees are known as the "shining stars" of the current business world and must have had a positive economic impact within the Jefferson County community over the last year. This is true of the one and only Seyfer family—Margie, Christy, Don, TinaMarie and Troy—who have all contributed to their community in unique and substantial ways.

Margie Seyfer has co-chaired the Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival and Wheat Ridge Kite Flight Festival as well as spearhead membership and recruitment efforts for the Wheat Ridge Business Association. For the past several years, she has also served as a reading tutor for Jefferson County and Denver Public Schools.

Christy Seyfer has also been an integral part of the Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival as their designated photographer and organizing the kid's craft booth. She has also volunteered with the Wheat Ridge Kit Flight Festival, Ar-

vada Center Dance Academy, and the Wheat Ridge High School's Boy's Tennis Team Booster Club, After Prom Committee, and STEM Program. In 2015–2016, she co-created the Wheat Ridge Business Association Christmas Tree Auction and served on the planning committee.

Don Seyfer formed Seyfer Automotive in the spring of 1961 and has been actively involved in leadership for the Automotive Service Association, both state and national chapters, and served as the National Chairman for the ASA. Locally, he served as a board member for Wheat Ridge Local Works (formerly Wheat Ridge 2020) and the Wheat Ridge Business Association.

After twenty years of working for Corporate America, Troy and Tinamarie Seyfer, decided it was time to follow their passion and start Seyfer Specialties, a hot rod specialty business in Wheat Ridge. Tinamarie has been on the Board of Directors with the Wheat Ridge Business Association for the last four years and is currently the Vice President. Troy volunteers and/or directs several car shows throughout the year in the community, including the Berkeley Bash and the All Ford Show where money is raised for different charities. In 2014, the couple created the Annual 44th Avenue Rumble which brings together community leaders, car enthusiasts, families, and small business owners in the community as well as raises funds for the Wheat Ridge High School's STEM program.

The Seyfer family has clearly demonstrated an extraordinary ability to influence their community and have used their strong leadership skills to advance community and business success through public service and philanthropy.

I extend my deepest congratulations to The Seyfer Family for this well-deserved recognition.

CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION  
OF DR. ELSIE M. TAVERAS, M.D.,  
M.P.H.

**HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2019*

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, Dr. Elsie M. Taveras, M.D., M.P.H. is Chief of the Division of General Academic Pediatrics and Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Community Health at Massachusetts General Hospital, Conrad Taff Professor of Pediatrics in the Field of Nutrition at Harvard Medical School, and Professor in the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Taveras is a board-certified Pediatrician, clinical epidemiologist, and childhood obesity researcher, whose focus of research is understanding determinants of obesity in women and children and developing interventions across to prevent obesity and chronic diseases, especially in underserved populations.

Dr. Taveras has published over 190 research studies in her career thus far and has been cited by the Institute of Medicine, World Health Organization, White House Task Force Report on Childhood Obesity, and the USDA-HHS Dietary Guidance Development Project for Birth to 24 Months and Pregnancy.

Dr. Taveras received the Public Health Leadership in Medicine Award from the Massachusetts Association of Public Health for her extensive work improving health and health care in community-based settings.

Dr. Taveras was named Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Community Health, a national center devoted to improving health outcomes for underserved patients, families and communities developing and implementing culturally-competent interventions related to substance use treatment, cancer care equity, obesity prevention, and community health training.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNDER-  
GROUND RAILROAD IN NORTH  
CAROLINA

**HON. MARK WALKER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2019*

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial anniversary of the Underground Railroad in North Carolina. With the first known stop of the Underground Railroad being in Guilford County, this portion of North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District became a refuge for slaves seeking hope and freedom. I am proud to stand and reflect on the brave individuals like Vestal Coffin and his family, New Garden Quakers who sacrificed immensely for the cause of freedom and justice. In honor of the bicentennial anniversary of the North Carolina Underground Railroad, Guilford County will be hosting several ceremonies, forums, and educational events. As we celebrate National African American History Month, I join the citizens of Guilford County and North Carolina in recognizing this important moment in our nation's history.

EARL W. AND LINDA M. LAMMERS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2019*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Earl W. and Linda M. Lammers, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on May 16, 2019.

Earl and Linda fondly recall how they met on a blind date in October and have since loved and cherished each other for over half a century. Earl and Linda have never met a flea market they didn't like and both willingly suffer through deer hunting season or never ending music shows at the Missouri Theater. They also continue to spend many days and nights a year in the most fun place on earth—Branson. Earl and Linda have leaned on each other through losses of dear friends and family, and both have spent their time together supporting their children and grandchildren in all school and community endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, their friends, and their sons, Kevin and Scott, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren in congratulating Earl W. and Linda M. Lammers and wishing them many more years of health and happiness together.