

Colorado: Nour Abouyoussef, Bahara Amiri, Adam Mohmand.

Connecticut: Emily Bergwall, Jack Ferreira, Madison Henry, Jake McGillion-Moore, James Munroe, Gabriella Owens.

Florida: Lorraine Angelakos, Jessica Bennett, Jennifer Carvel, Lauren Eavenson, Cole Ellis, Michael LaShon Everhart, Katherine Gates, Alexander Goetschius, Keelie Hanley, Rileigh Hanley, Royce Howley, Cassandra James, Hannah Komroff, Ruhika Lankalapalli, Mark Lee, Connor Murphy, Maura Null, Harrison O'Donnell, Ali Jean Paksima, Mariah Perez, Christian Petrisko, Derek Petrisko, Lillian Pinkham, Matthew Powers, Michael Powers, John R. Robinson, Tanner Smith, Taylor Stevens, Lindsey Suncine, Sierra Tagman, Lillian Tougas, Shravva Vasireddy.

Georgia: Ridhi Choragudi, David Edenfield, Sophia Emmoth, Baird Kazazian, Justin Lee, Manas Mudunuri, Cutler Shiver, Albert Zhang.

Hawaii: Emily De Wulf.

Idaho: Aila Carr-Chellman, Asher Carr-Chellman, Jules Carr-Chellman, Sydney Davis, Kyler Liscinski, Quincey Lochar, Jasmine Willis.

Illinois: Ajay Balaraman, Max Bowman, Julia Canellis, Robert Daniel Claud, Amanda Dynak, Jacob Furfine, Cole Goggio, Michael Miller, Audrey Pack, Katherine Pack, Tris-tan Taylor.

Indiana: Thaddaeus Broussard, Sai Chalasani, Amanda Feagans, Agrayan Gupta, Aryaman Gupta, Vahin Vuppalanchi.

Iowa: Amy Ryan.

Kansas: Jillian Gillen, Aasim Hawa, Lucas Lopatofsky, Aditi Malay, John Tomlinson.

Kentucky: Tierra Beard, Cammeron Durham, Benjamin Ferguson, Lucas Fortwengler, Demetrius Gunn, Nathanael Sangster, Alex Satterwhite, Alderic Senecal.

Maryland: Candace Anderson, Joseph Farroha, Orion Gangopadhyay, Alex Jin, Bridgette Kim, William Longworth, Thomas Pallan, Elizabeth Rice, Jonathan Simak, Benjamin Smith, Robin Mia Tian.

Massachusetts: Michael Akerson, McAllister Bianchi, Justin Chang, Harsh Choudhary, Jean-Pierre De Jesus-De La Cruz, Yanxin Ma, Dwyn McNeil, Connor Ryan.

Michigan: Marvin Jiang.

Minnesota: Avery Lehr.

Mississippi: Jerry Clark, Jessi Davis, Taylor Fields, Jessica Gates, Jonah Holland, Jacob Lindsey, Morgan Lyons, Teiryne Miller, Cammie Moore, Kacilyn Pegues, Callie Philips, Mikayla Shelton, Maurissa Shumpert, CJ Weddle, T'ajahlon White.

Missouri: Bree Baker, Andrew Harrison Fruend, Robert Trey Fruend III, Abbey Grooms, Yijin Huang, Olivia Johanns, Nathaniel Marsters, Vivian Marsters, Trevor Rey, Caitlin Souers, Divya Srihari.

Nebraska: Mary Aumen, Ambrose Terneus. Nevada: Zachary Hammer, Ritvik Janamsetty, Salomee Levy, Zane Pasha.

New Hampshire: Sydney Richardson.

New Jersey: Zachary Asselta, Eunice Bae, Tanvi Bekal, Andre Biehli, Robert Cuff, Ciara DiMaiolo, Evan Doliszny, Caitlin D'Souza, James Foran, Anushka Iyer, Julia Jeong, Kunal Kanwar, Alexandra Kukal, James Joseph Laberee, Shannon Leahy, Krishna Parikh, Khushi Patel, Krishant Putrevu, David Takacs, Vicky Trieu.

New York: Kristen Brennan, Muhammed Colak, Madison Gorman, Blake Guzy, Becky Han, Joseph Hong, Tasneem Ibrahim, Saiomkar Iyer, Baird Johnson, Henry Lin, Jacqueline McCabe, Hannah Nyquist, Sophia Pao, Katherine Prior, Darshi Shah, Noah Stiles, Jacqueline Sutura, Olivia Zhou.

North Carolina: Abigail Amato, Lillian Amato, Angelina Bayrak, Kamin Bond, Carson Cook, Rucheer Dave, William David,

Ashlyn Edmisten, Garrett Gerda, Geoffrey Gerda, Hattie Rose Greene, Cole Heinrich, Kyla Jackson, Grayson King, Sruthi Mannepalli, Aislinn Niimi, Alaina Randolph, Bryson Rose, Brett Sims, Kristina Vaheer.

North Dakota: Lauren Knoll.

Ohio: Sai Ashish Bommasani, Ryan Brady, Grace Cousens, Rohan Desarapu, Paul Hager, Genevieve Hager van Carlowitz, Shrayan Kalahasthy, Ishita Kode, Manaswini Nedunuri, Varshini Odayar, Bailey Quitter, Pavan Raghupathy, Anjali Raju, Neha Rokkam, Emmanuel Augustin Scaria, Chatura Tamirisakandala, Samith Venkatesh, Heema Vyas.

Oklahoma: Ted Bigler, Pat Kane, Olivia Stump.

Oregon: Patrick Townsend.

Pennsylvania: Victoria Jawork, Josef Mueller, Juan Aleman IV, Ruby Chen, Rebekah Fodale, William Huang, Julia Jones, Ayush Sharma, Allison Yang, Alec Yarnoff.

Rhode Island: Grace Sowa.

South Carolina: Gunnar Hensley, Bella Kissell, Garrett May, Micah McKnight, Noah McKnight, Harrison Miller, Lucas Mayon.

Tennessee: Andrew Engebretsen, Christine Li, Mitchell Morrison.

Texas: Smriti Ahuja, Siddhant Ahuja, Hunter Beaton, Todd Christian, Paige Cromley, Connor Crowe, Saachi Dalal, Daniel Garza, Ashley Gibson, Sachi Kalvakaalva, Mamoon Khalid, Weronika Konwent, Shikha Lakhi, Jimmy Liu, Rehman Memon, Raheem Memon, Fernando Miranda-Fred, Matthew Mitchell, Elias Mosby, Samuel Mosby, Emily Kate Mosley, Rhea Mudnal, Grace Nemeç, Vishreshtha Pathak, Nevedita Ramachandran, Nikita Ramachandran, Cristian Roma, Ben Romero, Jana Sabri, Wilson Sands, Allison Sharer, Ashley Sharer, Ashley Turnage, David Wang.

Utah: Dua Azhar, Daimion Davis, Katelin Drennan, Kimberly Drennan, Fatima Faizi, Nihal Kariparduc, Thomas Klingonsmith, Sarah Shwani.

Vermont: Freedom Scott Guildford River Tansley.

Virginia: Isaac Beasey, Annika Jenkins, Sarni Kandil, Anne Kickert, Varun Kota, Madeleine LeBeau, Samantha Lee, Kasey Mize, Manvi Punukollu, Timothy Rah, Kayla Rothstein, Melina Seng, Ciara Smith, Sarah Valley.

Washington: Hailey Farrington, Trevor McArthur, Arya Selvam, Sarah Stewart, Phillip Wang, Rose Wittenmyer.

Washington, DC: Lee Clyne.

Wisconsin: Olivia McClain.

Wyoming: Alice Attebery, Mercedes Bartels, Alyssa Bedard, Sydney Bell, Makaylah Berkovitz, Madison Bindl, Abigail Bylow, Elijah Cole, Mykenzie Dean, Samantha Dijohn, Noah Dreiling, Abigail Fearneyhough, Emma Geringer, Andrew Gronning, Logan Grosz, James Hayes, Sydney Holies, Isabelle Houseman, Lane Hutchison, Caroline Johnson, Jayla Johnson, Katie Johnson, Makala Johnson, Lorin Jones, Michaijah Jones, Samantha Jurkowski, Maeve Knepper, Kamry Knotwell, Selena Landa, Megan Leavitt, Araceli Ledesma, Carmen Leon, Arianna Lewis, Taylor Maese, Jazy Manoukian, Zoey Mares, Mackenzie Marler, Alyssa Miller, Claudia Miller, Audrey Mitchell, Junuenth Morales, Abby Morillon, Quentin Moter, Johanna Moter, Tommy Neal, Thanh Nguyen, Adelle Ostrom, Kendra Ostrom, Tiffany Passehl, Cody Perkins, Julianna Pizzato, Ruth Potter, Emily Purifoy, Haley Purifoy, Chloe Rankin, Dylan Raymond, Nicole Reyes-Aguilar, Grace Ritschard, Lauren Salsgiver, Kathryn Sauerwein, Camden Schmidt, Abigail Shameklis, Jakob Shuey, Colby Stockton, Nicole Talkington, Amelia Van Winkle, Cassidy Weibel, Eleccia Wells, Micayla Whitfield, Taylor Wilson.

LANDMINES IN YEMEN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have spent much of my career in the Senate working to eradicate landmines, which kill and maim far more civilians than combatants. These insidious, inherently indiscriminate weapons often remain active for years or even decades after the fighting has ended and the soldiers have left, lying in wait for the unsuspecting footstep of a child on her way to school, or a farmer working in a field.

In 1997, the Yemeni Government signed the Mine Ban Treaty which outlawed the production, stockpiling, export, and use of anti-personnel mines. With the help of international donors, they made great strides in humanitarian demining, to the point that, by 2012, they were on the cusp of declaring the country landmine free. Unfortunately, the civil war between the Houthis rebels supported by Iran, and the Yemeni Government supported by the Saudi-led coalition, changed everything. The use of landmines made a resurgence, due to Iranian mines that the Houthis have planted by the thousands throughout the country. More than 9,000 Yemenis have reportedly been killed or injured by landmines, the overwhelming majority of them innocent civilians.

Children are especially vulnerable to mine accidents. They run and play; they explore open fields; they are curious about strange objects. Most children who step on a landmine will die from loss of blood before they can obtain medical attention, and the survivors often do not have access to the specialized care and support they need. Even children who do not become victims are affected by landmines in their communities. They cannot play or go to school without fearing for their lives, and they suffer from malnutrition when militants turn farmland into minefields.

As I have said many times before, the use of landmines is an affront to civilized societies. Regardless of who uses them, they are an illegitimate weapon, triggered by the victim, and are often used to terrorize and brutalize the innocent. They impede development for decades, even generations. In Vietnam today, for example, landmines continue to kill and injure civilians 44 years after the war ended. The Houthis' use of landmines cannot be justified any more than their use of child soldiers and other violations of the laws of war, and should stop immediately.

Similarly, the United States should stop supporting Saudi Arabia's indiscriminate bombing in Yemen which has caused thousands of civilian casualties. This war will not be won militarily, and the longer it drags on the more innocent people will pay the price, with their limbs, their livelihoods, and their lives.

The Department of State is supporting efforts to help locate and destroy landmines in Yemen, but far more needs to be done. Even though

the Yemeni army, the UN Development program, and nongovernmental organizations have cleared more than 300,000 mines in the country, it is estimated that at least 1 million remain.

The Leahy War Victims Fund, administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development, has provided artificial limbs, wheelchairs, rehabilitation, and vocational assistance to landmine survivors in many countries, and could be used in Yemen.

Yemen was an impoverished country before Iran and Saudi Arabia decided to go to war there, which has caused immense suffering among the Yemeni people. War crimes have been committed by both sides, and by providing weapons to the Saudis, we also are implicated. Every effort should be made to pressure the Houthis to stop using landmines and child soldiers, and the Saudis to stop their bombing of civilian areas. The Department of State should increase its support for humanitarian demining in Yemen, and the U.S. Agency for International Development should increase its support for organizations that help mine victims rebuild their lives.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, tomorrow, I will be back home in Burlington, VT, to take part in a joyous occasion. In an afternoon ceremony at the Ethan Allen Homestead, I will attend a naturalization ceremony in which 14 new Americans from 11 countries will be administered the Oath of Allegiance. The participants will be surrounded by family and friends as they stand proudly next to the American flag and formally became U.S. citizens. It will be an honor to stand with them.

As we celebrate these immigrants who will join our ranks as American citizens, today, on World Refugee Day, we must not forget the plight of millions of refugees who have not been as fortunate. Right now, there are over 70 million people across the globe who have been forcibly displaced from their home countries by the horrors of persecution, war, famine, and chaos. In 2018 alone, nearly 13.8 million people were newly displaced, meaning that 25 people were forced to flee their homes every single minute of 2018. Nearly half of all refugees are children under the age of 18, many of them just infants and toddlers.

On World Refugee Day, we must recommit ourselves to the hallowed American tradition of being a refuge for the persecuted and the oppressed. Welcoming refugees with dignity is not a Democratic or a Republican priority; it is the American way. We are a better country for it. No single administration will ever be able to erase that from our DNA as a nation of refugees and immigrants.

I couldn't think of a better way to highlight the indelible contributions of immigrants and refugees to our society than to share a personal story that my

good friend, U.S. District Court Judge Bill Sessions, recently offered at a naturalization ceremony at Vermont's State House marking the 17th anniversary of 9/11. Judge Sessions' remarks came just months after he suffered a life-threatening injury, only to later discover that the medical professionals who helped save his life were the very same immigrants he had sworn in as American citizens years earlier.

I for one, am most grateful that they were here in America to save his life.

I ask unanimous consent that Judge Sessions' statement be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE WILLIAM K. SESSIONS III, VERMONT STATE HOUSE NATURALIZATION CEREMONY—SEPT. 11, 2018

I am going to tell you my story. Of course I'm not going to tell you my whole life story, just that part which relates to my injury and illness a number of months ago. So on one level I will share with you my story, my experience. But it really isn't about me. It's about all those who came to my aid. It's about wonderful people who have recently moved here to this country to pursue their dreams, and it's about what these folks do for all of us.

I've been a federal judge since 1995, about 24 years. One of my favorite parts of the job is to preside at naturalization ceremonies. Over the years, I've had ceremonies, in courtrooms, schools, museums, on boats and in legislative halls. Currently, there are 24 such ceremonies performed each year in Vermont, and between 700 and 800 people are sworn in as American citizens. I do two a year, aboard the Ticonderoga at Shelburne Museum and in the State House on September 11th of each year. The State House ceremony is very special. Patrick Leahy and I organized the first such ceremony on the first anniversary of the September 11th attack as a statement that we cherish what immigrants bring to this country, that our welcome to new citizens will not be diminished by the acts of terrorists. It's a large group of between 60 and 80 applicants for citizenship. We have held ceremonies on September 11th of each year ever since.

Naturalization ceremonies are joyous celebrations. The new citizens are from all over the world. In fact these ceremonies often evolve into celebrations of their own cultural traditions. Many come in their native dress, and all of their families share in their celebration. They come up after the ceremony for pictures with me. My photo must rest on hundreds of mantles.

There are a couple of themes that seem universal. First, they are all very happy. For many, this day is the culmination of a long struggle. Many have come from refugee camps in Bhutan or Nepal or war-torn areas, such as Somalia or Bosnia. Some were raised in Communist countries, including Russia, China and the Eastern Bloc countries. Some were from Central and South America, having come here to escape violence at home, and others were from Europe or Canada. They speak about their dreams of America. The American dream is so inspirational for so many new citizens: hope, freedom, education, employment. It is inspirational for us who have lived here all of our lives to be reminded that so many look to this country as a beacon of hope. And we are a multi-cultural community. We take pride in our diversity. The infusion of rich cultural traditions is in many ways our lifeblood.

At the same time, naturalization ceremonies mark transitions from their homes and extended families to our community, and that transition is hard. They bring with them such rich cultural traditions, but often they see in their children the influence of the western community. Fernanda spoke to this—you feel caught between two worlds.

But where do they go after being naturalized? There have been over 12,000 new citizens sworn in since I have been a judge. That's a very significant portion of our whole community. Yet I never understood where they go. How do they integrate into our Western culture? Just what were they doing here that impacts all of us? Now I have a much greater understanding of what they contribute for all of us.

Now to my story. In late February, Abi and I were skating on the frozen fields of Blue Ledge farm, our daughter's and son-in-law's property. I took a fall backwards, striking my head on the ice. The sound could be heard throughout the county. I gathered myself. I seemed to have a headache, but not more. We skated back to the car. I of course did nothing.

Over the next two months I occasionally had minor headaches. It seemed like nothing more than a distraction. Things changed on a Sunday night in May. I had trouble speaking. Abi wanted to take me to the nearby ER, I said I'd visit a doctor the next day. John Barstow called. He in his own blunt way ordered I go to the ER. Two vs. one, so we went Sunday night. A CT scan was done and sent to the University of Vermont Medical Center. A neurosurgeon reviewed it and sent back the following message: I had massive bleeding in the brain. I was to be transported to Burlington, and he had scheduled brain surgery for 4 that morning.

So I remember very well meeting the neurosurgeon outside of the operating room. He explained the presence of blood and the movement of the brain from the pressure. He then waited for my response, but I couldn't answer him. I could not speak, I couldn't make a sound. He was an older man, almost a contemporary of mine. He put his hand on mine and said in a very kind way: "We're going to make you all better." I could only nod.

I spent close to a month in the hospital, rotating between UVM Medical Center and Fanny Allen. One of my first observations was that people who took care of me were from all over the world. Those included nurses, medical technicians, and support staff. I just loved talking with them about their stories. They all had such pride in their cultural heritage. And they had such hope for their life here in the United States.

One day one of my favorite nurses said to me: "You probably don't remember me, but you swore me in as an American citizen." I didn't remember her, but I felt an immediate connection. The ceremonies were special to both of us, and I felt a joy and a level of comfort that she was taking care of me. Also there was such a sense of small world.

During my hospitalization I had a number of setbacks that are common with this type of operation. Those setbacks took away my strength. They also impacted my ability to walk and to speak. I began occupational and physical therapy and speech pathology to relearn those skills. On the second day of meeting my occupational therapist, she told me that I had sworn her in as a citizen on September 11th at a State House ceremony. She brought the program for the ceremony the next day. Yes indeed, I was the judge who performed her ceremony. And in the course of my rehabilitation, I met a number of therapists, many of whom were either naturalized citizens or were married to naturalized citizens. So the answer to my original