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Denis J. O'Keefe, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., Professor of Social Work, New York University, Past President, International Psychohistorical Association.

Jennifer C. Panning, Psy.D., Founder, Mindful Psychology Associates (Evanston, IL).

John O. Pastore, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine, Former Research Physician, Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Mark Peppercorn, M.D., Professor of Medicine Emeritus, Harvard Medical School.

Claire Pouncey, M.D., Ph.D., Former President, Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry.

Robert C. Rutherford, M.D. M.P.H., Emergency Physician, Former Director, Monroe County Health Department, Florida.

Larry S. Sandberg, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Stephen Soldz, Ph.D., Professor, Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis, Former President, Psychologists for Social Responsibility, Co-Founder, Coalition for an Ethical Psychology.

Lise Van Susteren, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, George Washington University School of Medicine, Consultant Profiler to the Executive Branch, Federal Government.

Michael J. Tansey, Ph.D., Former Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychology, Northwestern University Medical School.

Mark W. Weber, Ph.D., L.I.C.S.W., Former Lecturer in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.

John Zinner, M.D., Clinical Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Behavioral

Science, George Washington University Medical Center, Former Head of Family Therapy Studies, National Institute of Mental Health.

#### TRIBUTE TO NEW CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES: NATURALIZATION CEREMONY IN PORTLAND, MAINE

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I speak today to recognize the powerful and inspiring remarks delivered by Judge Stacey D. Neumann of the U.S. District Court of Maine at a recent naturalization ceremony in Portland. Her words capture the profound significance of becoming an American citizen and the role immigrants continue to play in shaping our country.

I ask unanimous consent that her remarks be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

Today we have 30 new citizens from 17 countries here this morning: Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Russia, South Korea, Spain, and Vietnam.

Welcome.

I have the high honor and personal privilege of being the first to welcome you as newly admitted citizens of the United States. This is a momentous event not only for you but for generations of your family to come. So cherish this moment; savor this moment; but perhaps most importantly, go home today and write about this moment so that future generations can learn the story of their American citizenship. Before you leave, take a moment and look at each other: you, individually and as a group, are now America. Welcome to your new citizenship.

I am thrilled to be here with you today. This is, without question, among the most significant and moving duties we perform on the federal bench. Thank you for letting me share this moment with you.

A naturalization ceremony is one of the purest expressions of what this country aspires to be. America is not defined by ancestry, heritage, or any single story. It is defined by an idea: that people from every corner of the earth can join together to build a more generous, creative, and hopeful future. 2 Today, your stories—your journeys, your sacrifices, your determination—become part of the American story.

We often hear that America is a "nation of immigrants." almost as if it were a slogan. But it is a profound truth. From our earliest days, people have come here fleeing hunger, war, persecution, or poverty; seeking education, safety, work, and possibility. And in every era, immigrants have expanded this country's conscience, creativity, and capacity to grow.

Today you join a community bound not by a single language, ethnicity, or religion, but by a shared promise: that a free and democratic nation can be strengthened by the talents, dreams, and hard work of people from all over the world. Your presence here shows that this promise endures.

As a nation of immigrants, we have long been shaped by people who carried that same longing for freedom into the work of building this country.

Chinese laborers—many just teenagers—laid the rails that connected a continent, Mexican and Filipino farmworkers, led by

Dolores Huerta, taught the nation that dignity in labor is a human right. Japanese American soldiers served in the 442nd Regiment with extraordinary bravery during World War II, even as their families were unjustly incarcerated at home. Immigrants and the children of immigrants have not merely contributed to America's progress—they have pushed it to live up to its own ideals.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, whose Puerto Rican parents brought their hopes and determination to the mainland, has spoken of the impact of immigrants, reminding us that "the dynamism of our nation comes from our immigrant roots." Immigrant contributions reach beyond politics and law, shaping art, memory, music, and business. Consider Elie Wiesel, who survived the Holocaust, and taught that memory is not passive—it calls us to act with courage and conscience. Maya Lin, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, reshaped our national memory with her design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—a memorial my father, a Vietnam veteran and son of Polish and German immigrants, visits to honor fellow soldiers. Yo-Yo Ma, the renowned cellist, reminds us that culture can be a bridge across differences. Indra Nooyi, former CEO and Chair of PepsiCo, shows how immigrants have shaped innovation and American economic growth. And I am thrilled to add 3 to this list Alysa Liu, the daughter of a political refugee, whose 2026 Olympic gold medals prove that the pursuit of excellence—and the American Dream—knows no borders. Their contributions strengthen our communities, enrich our economy, and uphold the promise of our democracy.

Still the deeper truth is this: even as a nation shaped and strengthened by immigrants, America has not always lived up to those ideals. Many immigrants still face challenges—long waits, complicated systems, moments of doubt, and times when the journey feels harder because of misunderstanding or prejudice. Our history includes painful chapters: the exclusion of Chinese laborers, the incarceration of Japanese American families, and the many moments when newcomers met suspicion instead of open doors.

Yet again and again, America has returned to its core promise. We growl morally, economically, and culturally—when we choose inclusion over exclusion, hope over fear, and community over isolation. We become stronger when we recognize the dignity and potential of those who arrive on our shores. Today, as new citizens, you step into that ongoing story, joining generations of immigrants who have woven their own dreams and achievements into the very fabric of the American promise.

You may not think of yourselves as part of American history—but you already are. Your children and grandchildren will look back on this day as a turning point. They will inherit the courage it took to move to a new country, learn a new language, begin again, and persist through every challenge. They will inherit your belief in possibility—and America will inherit your talents, your dreams, and your love for your families, your communities, and this country.

Becoming an American citizen does not erase your past; it honors it. Your languages, your cultures, your food, your music, your memories—they do not make you less American than anyone who has lived here for decades. They make America more herself: a nation always expanding, always learning, always becoming. Today, you join this nation of immigrants—scholars, artists, inventors, caregivers, soldiers, teachers, engineers, parents—who have made this country what it is.

Isabel Allende, who immigrated from Chile, has said, "Life is a gift—and with that

gift comes a responsibility to help others." As new citizens, you gain rights that people around the world long for—the right to vote, to serve on a jury, and to run for local office, as well as the full protections of our Constitution and laws. But these rights carry responsibilities. Our democracy depends on citizens who stay informed, who speak up, who serve their communities, who defend justice, and who treat others with dignity and respect—even when we disagree; especially when we disagree. You will strengthen your neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and places of worship. You will enrich our culture, our economy, and our democracy. In doing so, you join generations of immigrants who have renewed and redefined what America can be.

We are a nation of immigrants. I am deeply honored to have shared this ceremony with you. What a privilege it is to welcome you as the newest citizens of the United States. This nation is stronger, richer, and more complete because you are now a part of it.

Congratulations—and welcome home.

STACEY D. NEUMANN,

*U.S. District Court Judge for the District of  
Maine.*

#### REMEMBERING DANIEL "DAN" BICE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Daniel "Dan" Bice, a powerful force in Wisconsin journalism and politics who worked as a political reporter and columnist for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for 33 years. For Dan, no one was too powerful or off-limits from his reporting, and Wisconsinites are better for the coverage and his pursuit of the truth. Our community mourns his loss, and his contributions will be remembered for generations to come.

Dan was a native of West Virginia and studied ancient Greek and English at Bryan College before receiving a master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago. After spending time as a journalist in Florida and West Virginia, Dan took a job at the Milwaukee Sentinel, where he would go on to spend 33 years conducting award-winning journalism and political reporting.

A few years after the Milwaukee Sentinel and the Milwaukee Journal merged to become The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Dan teamed up with Cary Pivak, another reporter at the paper, to head a new watchdog column where the pair earned the nickname "The Spice Boys." Their work for the column earned it the prestigious National Headliner award for its "first-rate reporting with an attitude."

Dan's writing was known for its mix of humor and humility, but also for his efforts to uncover stories on both sides of the political aisle. His column "No Quarter" has been published since 2007 and is known for its investigative watchdog reporting on scandals, political figures, and campaigns.

Dan built a reputation as a force to be reckoned with in Wisconsin politics. His work will undoubtedly leave an empty space in Wisconsin's political environment and in our hearts. I have no doubt that his undying dedication

to the truth will continue to inspire new generations of journalists for years to come. I share my deepest condolences with his family, friends, and colleagues at the Journal Sentinel.

#### REMEMBERING JOANNE BLAND

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor civil rights activist and icon Joanne Bland. Ms. Bland was only 11 years old when Bloody Sunday occurred in her hometown of Selma, AL, and one of the youngest people to join the historic 1965 Voting Rights March from Selma to Alabama's capital of Montgomery.

I was honored to meet Ms. Bland in 2005, when I joined her and hundreds of others during an early Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage, led by the late Representative John Lewis of Georgia, to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma on the anniversary of Bloody Sunday. We later interacted frequently during her visits to Wisconsin.

Those of us in Wisconsin were privileged to enjoy a special relationship with Ms. Bland. Beginning 25 years ago, after participating in a presentation called "Milwaukee: the Selma of the North," she traveled to campuses and communities throughout Wisconsin dozens of times to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the contemporary meanings of the movement for voting rights. She established ongoing relationships with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Beloit College, sharing her work and story with countless students. In turn, many of these students spent time in Selma to help her build the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute. Ms. Bland was the institution's first director.

Ms. Bland's dedication to activism in her civil and human rights work touched the lives of her community in Selma and far beyond. She grew up in segregated Selma, where she witnessed and participated in some of our Nation's most monumental civil rights battles. Committed to nonviolent civil disobedience—a hallmark of the civil rights movement led, in part, by her teacher and mentor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—she was arrested for the first time at just 8 years old. By the time she reached 11 years old, she had been arrested a further 13 times in pursuit of civil rights.

Throughout her life, Ms. Bland remained a fearless advocate for racial justice and a pillar of Selma's community. She served in the Army and graduated with a bachelor of arts from the College of Staten Island. She was an educator and historian of the Selma March and cofounded the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute in 1993, where she stressed the idea that the history of civil rights is not just Black history, but American history. A central tenet of this work was her belief that history had all too often rendered invisible the untold stories of countless women and children who had

been at the core of the March and that these stories now needed to be told. The museum she helped build was grounded in the grassroots, and to this day, the museum has been able to operate for more than three decades without a major Federal funding grant.

More recently, she launched Foot Soldiers Park which, to her, was "more than a memorial." She saw it as a space where young people could come together to learn about history, art, music, and leadership to invest in their own dreams. In 2010, she created her own touring agency, Journeys of the Soul, to teach the public about the history of the civil rights movement with a focus on Selma, AL. In 2015, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary march jubilee, she organized a panel in which now elderly footsoldiers who had been teens in 1965 came into dialogue with the teens of today. It was her way of reminding these young people of the important role they must now play at a time when voting rights are being threatened again as never before. Ms. Bland's passion for educating her community will impact Selma and the Nation for years to come.

Ms. Bland's life work of activism and education towards a better America will be remembered in all our hearts. As a lifelong civil rights leader, her impact on Selma and beyond will continue through the institutions she has built and will be felt beyond her passing. Ms. Bland has taught us the value of giving back to our community and investing in future generations. I am honored to join our community in celebrating her life defined by her love and dedication to this country. We recognize and honor her extraordinary contributions not only to Alabama, but to the greater civil rights movement and fight for racial equality.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD RITTER

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mr. Richard Ritter, a true patriot who has dedicated more than 55 years of service to this country, first as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force and later as a civil servant and Senior Executive Service leader with the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, and the Missile Defense Agency.

A native of New York City, Mr. Ritter graduated from Manhattan College with a degree in electrical engineering, earned a master of science from New York University, and entered Active Duty in 1971 as an engineering officer. Over a distinguished 27-year Air Force career, he served in a range of critical roles, including systems engineering, telecommunications leadership in Germany, and strategic analysis of command, control, and reconnaissance systems.