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RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST
INDIANA'S NEW CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who took their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2016. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony took place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the League of Women Voters of the Calumet Area and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, was held at The Pavilion at Wolf Lake 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. The oath ceremony was 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 July 4, 2016, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Robert Ian Macmahon, Francisco Javier Coronado Longoria, Ann Zeno, Eiman Faiz Hamoudeh, Bolanle Olusanya, Frank Ajisafe Olusanya, Manal Hany Mamdoh Altahan, Dhaisy Borghonia Sniadecki, Juan Villegas Macias, Samer Bedaywi, Ami Jageshkumar Patel, Jageshkumar Kirtikummar Patel, Himali Jageshkumar Patel, Susan Wambui Njoroge, Swati Virendrakumar Gupta, Aimee Sebastian Dela Cruz, Joewil Dacuycuy, Jose Antonio Aguado, Naba Al Ammarei, Juan Alcantar, Teresa Arroyo, Kevin Yue Chen, Marco Coria, Ariadna Margie Corral, Martin Antonio Da Costa, Cristal Garcia, Marta Maria Ghunaim, Luz Del Carmen Hernandez-Valdez, Nisrein Abdel Alhakam Odeh Issa, Sondas Abdel-Hakam Odeh Issa, Nejma Abed Alhakam Odeh Issa, Kevin Joonghoon Koh, Yechan Lim, Manuel Salvador Loza, Joaquin Martinez, Maria Claudia Mijes-Escamilla, Diana Eloisa Nemshick, Triet Sy Thanh Nguyen-Beck, Michael Ssemwanga Njucki, Ericka Elizabeth Ogaldez, Laura Ruiz, Arnold Alvin Sey, Jean Paul Shumbusho, Leticia Sosa, Alfonso Soto Jr., Natalia Torrenza, Linh Truong, Nadia Maria Tudorache, Yesica Yaneth Villasenor, Noel Rodriguez Villavicencio Jr., and Mohamed Masoud Youseff.

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 that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these individuals, who became citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2016, the anniversary of our Nation's independence. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are 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 THEO MARINESCU

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Theo Marinescu, who tragically lost his life after a long struggle with drug addiction.

Theo Marinescu, who grew up in East Hampton, Long Island, had a bright future ahead of him and was taken too soon from his family and community. According to his mother, Violeta, “Theo was a warm, loving, and handsome young man who was known for his wonderful personality and huge laugh. He was gifted both academically and athletically—he played linebacker on the football team and was an honor roll student. He always found a way to make people laugh and loved his little brothers with all his heart. Even during his years of drug use, we never became distant from one another. Although it was tumultuous and very difficult at times, Theo loved his family and we loved him right back.”

Violeta explained that Theo's addiction began when he started experimenting with marijuana during his last years of high school and then progressed to harder drugs, including opioids, which ultimately took his life. According to Violeta, in the midst of his addiction, “Theo desperately tried to get clean as he felt so deeply the pain and anguish he was inflicting upon his younger brothers and mother.” She said he was in and out of rehabs and sober living homes, but that, “he never received the proper treatment or care that was needed to address his mental health issues.” Ultimately, after struggling with his disease, Theo lost his life on May 17, 2015 at just 25 years of age.

Unfortunately, Theo's story is one that is becoming all too familiar to families around the country and in my home district on Long Island. Tragically, 78 people each day will lose their battle with addiction, and their life, as a result of an opioid or heroin overdose. It is our duty to find solutions and figure out ways to prevent the devastating effects drug abuse and addiction have on our children. We, as members of Congress, must all continue to support legislation that addresses the rise in heroin and opioid abuse to stop the tragic loss of life that has been devastating families and communities across America.

MANVEL HIGH SCHOOL TEAM ADVANCES TO NATIONAL SEAPERCH CHALLENGE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Manvel High School Team Nautilus, for placing second in the Poster Board and Interview competition at the National SeaPerch Challenge at Louisiana State University.

The U.S. Navy National SeaPerch Challenge is an underwater robotics competition. The Manvel High School Team built and operated their own remotely-operated vehicles that function underwater and are designed to complete an obstacle course. They received the 2nd Place Poster Board and Interview in Open Class. In addition, they were also awarded The “Against all odds and Overcoming Obstacle Diversity” Award. The SeaPerch Challenge competition judges the students' underwater vehicles in poster and interview first, and then two underwater challenges follow. The first being an obstacle course and the second being an orbs challenge where the students move different sized balls into submerged containers. The students develop problem-solving, teamwork and technical skills through this competition. They are sponsored by Larry Garrett and Jacob Smith. We are very proud of what these bright young students have accomplished.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Manvel High School Team for placing second at the National SeaPerch Challenge. Keep up the great work, we look forward to seeing what other inventions these bright minds will engineer.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH MASUMI
SHIMOGAWA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, joining with Anaheim Unified High School District, to remember Kenneth Masumi Shimogawa. Mr. Shimogawa was a staunch supporter of public education and dedicated advocate for workers' rights in his eighteen years as a history teacher at Cypress High School. Anaheim was heartbroken to learn of his untimely passing at 52.

An Anaheim native, Mr. Shimogawa grew up in Southern California, received his B.A. from California State University, Long Beach, and returned to his hometown to begin his teaching career.

Mr. Shimogawa was described as both hard working and passionate about global affairs and civic engagement. He was passionate about helping his community and he understood the importance of public service. Mr. Shimogawa proudly served as a City of Anaheim Library Board Member, as well as advising the chess club at Cypress High School and encouraging students to love reading and think critically about the world they live in. He