

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 Aljohbeh, 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 PIT'SUWAN

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 Pitsuwon 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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