

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 May 13, 2016, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Inger Adriana Hamilton, Allen Grayson Oliver, Filip Kaevski, Deepa Majumdar, Mary Kumba Narsu Nyuma, Harnet Singh Bhangoo, Leda Louie Medera Sarmiento, Reynaldo Zavala Reyes, Dhruvi Dharmesh Shah, Shaymaa Kareem Abdulameer, Saima Ali Khan, Lyubov Mykolayivna Shteyn, Obren Gutovic, Eugenio Miranda Leon, Andrea Leal Espino, Carlos Grageda Arzate, Mary Cruz Aguilar, Mia Bella Alvarado, Arturo Amezcua, Elena Leona Bowser, Sherry Chen, Jose Estrada, Fatima Dinora Vazquez, Maria Concepcion Gonzalez, Tin Mang Hlawnceu, Emilia Tabas Jagier, Jesse Jimenez, Mirlym Italia Milfort, Dimitar Vladimir Paunche, Rose Tran, and Chinelo Marilyn Udokoro.

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 May 13, 2016. 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.

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HONORING JACK BERITZHOFF

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jack Beritzhoff, who passed away on Thursday, April 21 in San Rafael, California at the age of 97. A Merchant Marine who served in both World War II and the Korean War, Mr. Beritzhoff advocated for the federal government to recognize his service and the service of nearly a quarter million other WWII Merchant Mariners.

After a sea accident curtailed his Navy service, Mr. Beritzhoff joined the war effort as a Merchant Marine, a civilian sailor on ships carrying military cargo and supplies. During the war, he and his fellow Mariners delivered 203 million tons of materials, including bombs, guns, tanks, and troops, at great personal risk. Although the WWII Merchant Marines faced

the second highest casualty rate, they were not officially recognized as Veterans. During the war, President Franklin Roosevelt had promised that the Mariners would receive full Veterans' benefits, but when he passed away that promise died with him. Mr. Beritzhoff and his fellow mariners were left out of the G.I. Bill, and it was not until an act of Congress in 1988 that they became eligible for Veteran status, which allowed them to enter VA hospitals, among other services.

In the years since, Mr. Beritzhoff was a fierce advocate for recognizing the Mariners' contributions to the war, lobbying the White House and Congress and writing a book about his experience at sea. Last year, my colleagues JANICE HAHN and JOHN DUNCAN introduced H.R. 563, the World War II Merchant Mariners Act. If passed, the bill would recognize the 3,000–5,000 eligible WWII Merchant Marines “for their bravery and sacrifice,” and award them \$25,000 each.

A lifelong Californian, Mr. Beritzhoff will be remembered for his sense of humor, love for his family, and steadfast devotion to his cause. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and express our deepest condolences to his surviving family and friends.

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HONORING REVEREND JON PEDIGO

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of Ordination of our pastor and friend, Reverend Jon Pedigo.

Reverend Pedigo currently serves as a pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in East San Jose and has been a fixture in our community's spiritual life for over two decades. His dedicated and adroit leadership in the issues of immigrant and workers' rights, LGBT rights, and a focus on carving a path forward to a more peaceful world have been well known and a source of pride throughout our community. As a pastor at St. Julie Billiard Parish in South San Jose, Reverend Pedigo delivered his homily on the story of Bartimaeus in this way: “Physical sight was Bartimaeus's issue,” he said, “but the real sin was the blindness in the seeing-people around him. Seeing-people see skin color, status, age, gender, weight, orientation, education level, etc. They do not see the real you.” Reverend Pedigo has been and continues to be a strong advocate for equal rights and fairness before our laws and in our culture.

As he now serves the community at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, a spiritual haven to many working class immigrant families, Reverend Pedigo helps draw together multiple generations of parishioners of diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and preaches inclusivity and mutual respect in the face of the issues that sometimes divide our society. “In a time of hate, we must be love,” he has said. “At a time of exclusion, we must be inclusive.”

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to honor Reverend Pedigo for his twenty-five years of service to our community. Reverend Jon Pedigo is an exemplar of selfless service to others. With

his dedicated work, he has served to improve the lives of the parishioners who come to him for solace, respite, and guidance. I know that his many friends and colleagues join me in recognizing this milestone in his life.

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RECOGNIZING APRIL 17 AS WORLD  
HEMOPHILIA DAY

**HON. SCOTT H. PETERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 17 as World Hemophilia Day.

Hemophilia is among the range of disorders that impacts fewer than 200,000 annually—thereby classifying it as a rare disease. It is a genetic disorder in which the blood doesn't clot, causing excessive bleeding and easy bruising. Without proper treatment, it can lead to organ damage, serious joint and muscle problems, and terrible pain. More than 20,000 Americans suffer from hemophilia, including an estimated 400 newborns.

In my district, the Hemophilia Association of San Diego County provides educational programming and support services for families in San Diego. They have worked with national organizations and industry partners to improve healthcare, support research, and provide necessary resources for the bleeding disorders community since 1973.

Today, there are about 141 federally-funded treatment centers and programs across the country, including two Hemophilia Treatment Centers in San Diego; Rady Children's Hospital and the University of California San Diego Health. The financial burden for individuals with severe hemophilia is often \$250,000 a year or more. It is important to acknowledge the financial burden for individuals with severe hemophilia and their families. We must continue to invest in research and support efforts to make treatment more accessible to help improve the quality of life for people with Hemophilia.

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RECOGNIZING ROSEANNE BUTLER-  
SMITH AS SHE IS HONORED BY  
THE AMHERST WOMEN'S  
INTERCLUB COUNCIL

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Roseanne Butler-Smith for her honorable service and dedication to our communities, especially our libraries, on the occasion of the Kentucky Derby Luncheon at the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village, hosted by the Amherst Women's Interclub Council.

Ms. Butler-Smith earned her B.A. degree in History from Canisius College, as well as a Master's in Library Science and Information from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is an active member of the community who loves to garden, travel, and even serves as a Boy Scout Leader with Troop 468. She currently serves as the Director of the Amherst Public Libraries, which includes the Williamsville Branch Library. Ms. Butler-Smith