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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

also served as the Executive Board Member of the Anaheim Secondary Teachers Association Political Action Committee.

Mr. Shimogawa was worldly and broke down barriers for teachers in Orange County. He always said that although he loved being a teacher of history and politics, his proudest accomplishment was being the husband of Teresa Shimogawa and father of his four beloved children.

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Mr. Shimogawa demonstrated selflessness in the way he assisted the community. His passing is a great loss for Orange County, but his passionate spirit will forever live on.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lakewood High School for winning the Division II Ohio High School Softball State Championship.

An achievement such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Ohio High School Athletic Association has enabled talented teams and individuals to earn state titles since its founding in 1907. Throughout this time, the champions of OHSAA state level competitions have represented the highest achieving and most talented athletes in Ohio. Each year these elite competitors join the ranks of those who embody Ohio's proud history of athletic success.

Lakewood's victory caps a tremendous season. This sort of achievement is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and hard work. They have set a new standard for future athletes to reach. Everyone at Lakewood High School can be extremely proud of their performance.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Lakewood Softball on their state championship. I wish their team continued success in their future athletic endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MITCH HERRICK ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Mitch Herrick, who I have been privileged to work with for many years.

Mitch Herrick began his career in aviation as an air traffic controller in Albany County, NY. Since 2005, he has served as an air traffic controller at Miami Air Traffic Control Tower and Terminal Radar Approach. In addition to the substantial responsibilities of his job, Mitch has also represented the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) as its local facility vice president and legislative representative.

Mitch's career has had several notable highlights, including serving as the chair of NATCA's Realignment Committee, which works jointly with the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure that all air traffic control centers are working as efficiently as possible and serving the appropriate regions. Additionally, Mitch was the NATCA's lead representative in implementing a sweeping safety program, the Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS). Mitch worked with the FAA and Raytheon, a defense contractor, to upgrade the equipment that will keep passengers and our airspace safe.

In recognition of his invaluable contributions to the air traffic controller profession, NATCA awarded Mitch with its highest legislative awards honor, the Trish Gilbert Legislative Activism Award, in 2013.

In my work with Mitch, he has always proven to be straightforward, dependable, and honest. It is clear he has a true passion for his profession, and he has prioritized safety over politics and worked tirelessly to advance the interest of NATCA members. I am proud to be able to call Mitch a friend. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Mitch on his illustrious and productive career, and thank him for his service both in the United States Marine Corps and as an air traffic controller.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mitch Herrick for his tremendous service to the Miami community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH—BOWLING GREEN, VA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shiloh Baptist Church of Bowling Green, Virginia on its 150th Anniversary. During its 35 years of selfless service to the Kingdom of God and to the community, this church has proven itself to be a congregation full of energy, conviction, and action.

Shiloh Baptist Church was formed in 1866 in the Bowling Green historic district located in Caroline County, Virginia. The Mattaponi Baptist Association, an association consisting of 72 local churches established to enhance fellowship, resolve issues, pool resources, and assist local churches further their mission, was formed in 1879 in Shiloh Baptist Church.

Shiloh Baptist Church, led by Pastor Rogiers, has played a pivotal role in the community for the past 150 years. Shiloh Baptist Church has drawn members, both new and old, to Bowling Green, Virginia to celebrate the life of their church; occasions such as these illustrate to us that love combined with grace and trust will always stand the test of time.

Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt gratitude that I congratulate Heritage Baptist Church on their 35th anniversary. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless and prosper this congregation for many years to come.

MARY MAREK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 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 Pearland, TX Mary Marek Elementary School Aqua Tigers, for placing third in Open Class at the National SeaPerch Challenge at Louisiana State University.

The U.S. Navy National SeaPerch Challenge is an underwater robotics competition. Mary Marek Elementary School qualified for nationals by finishing in the top seven overall teams at the regional competition. The team built and operated their own remotely-operated vehicles that function underwater and are designed to complete an obstacle course. 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. The Aqua Tigers were awarded 3rd Place over in Open Class and 3rd Place Obstacle Course for Open Class. 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 Mary Marek Elementary School Aqua Tigers for placing third at the National SeaPerch Challenge. We look forward to following the competition. Keep up the great work.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF SAN JOSE POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL JASON KATHERMAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Officer Michael Jason Katherman who died tragically and honorably while serving his community on June 14, 2016, at the age of 34, in San Jose, California.

Officer Katherman, was born on October 18, 1981, and attended Valley Christian High School and Simpson University in Redding, California. For 11 years he served with distinction on the San Jose Police force. For the past two years he was a well-respected motorcycle officer.

Officer Katherman was eulogized in superlatives. He was described as a moral person, a man of deep Christian values, a hero, a man willing to put others before himself, and someone who always dreamed of becoming a police officer. He was also described as an excellent athlete and a lover of ice cream.

Officer Katherman was devoted to his parents, his brother, his wife and his entire family, particularly to his sons Josh and Jason. He loved coaching them in basketball and passed on to them his love for dirt-biking and fishing. For him, they always came first.