

works hard planning the annual eighth grade trip to Catalina Island.

Jessica's service and mentorship to our youth is commendable. Her track record of excellence began when she undertook her first teaching position, and has continued to the present day. Jessica's amazing career serves as a beacon of civic duty and care for one's community, and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to recognize her today.

#### HONORING NEW CITIZENS

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate fifteen individuals who took their oaths of citizenship on Friday, April 21, 2017. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge John E. Martin, was 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 April 21, 2017, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Laura Yvette Tirado, Sibub Kudakkachira Mathew, Chiedozie Destiny Felix, Ofelia Juarez Hernandez, Servando Leal, Graciella Lopez-Strambu, Cecilia Mercy Mumbi Muchiri, Uyen Thi Thu Nguyen, Andy Dai Nguyen, Nakyung Nikkie Park, Yasmin Rahim, Alicia Ramirez, Hortencia Rodriguez, Hun Young Susan Yang, and Bahradine Abderhmane Zakaria.

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 became citizens of the United States of America on April 21, 2017. 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.

COMMENDING ALPHA OMEGA—HENRY SCHEIN CARES HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

### HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in commemoration of Yom HaShoah, to solemnly remember the six million Jews and the millions of others murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. We reaffirm our commitment to stand up and take action when we encounter persecution or an assault on human dignity. As Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Professor Elie Wiesel counseled, “the opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.”

As we mourn those who perished, we must honor the more than 100,000 survivors of the Holocaust who live here in our United States of America, an estimated one third of whom live in poverty. It is through our understanding of history that we “never forget” their plight and act to ensure that they live their lives in comfort and dignity.

I would like to commend the Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, an innovative public-private partnership that has improved the lives of this most vulnerable population. In under two years, this program has provided critical, pro bono dental care to more than 600 Holocaust survivors in 18 cities across North America. The program serves as a model for what we can accomplish when we work together to help those in need.

As a Member of Congress who represents constituents of the Jewish faith I am compelled to remember today the millions of Jews as well as individuals of other faiths who were murdered during the Holocaust and pay tribute to a partnership committed to enhance Holocaust survivors' quality of life. May their efforts serve as an inspiration to us all to always choose action over indifference.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WESTHILL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victory of the Westhill Senior High School Boys' Basketball Team in the New York State Public High School Association Class B Championship on March 18, 2017. The Westhill Warriors defeated the Canton Golden Bears by a score of 80–62 for their fifth state title.

The Warriors, ranked number one in their class, finished the season 25–1. The team had four players who scored double digits in the title game, including senior Kemerem Jackson with 22 points, juniors Sean Dadey and Owen Matukas with 15 points each, and junior John Geer with 11 points. Members of the state championship team include Jackson, Dadey, Matukas, Geer, as well as seniors Braedon Elmer and Antonio Scrimale, juniors Holden Carroll, Corey Frassica, Chris Holt,

Jordan Marcano, and EJ Zawadzki, sophomores Charlie Bolesh and Michael Laszlo, freshmen Zechariah Brown, and Dan Washburn. The team is coached by Kevin King.

I am honored to recognize Coach Kevin King on his fifth state title in program history and to honor the teamwork displayed by the Westhill Warriors in earning the Class B Championship. I congratulate the members of the team, their families, the coaching staff, and teachers at Westhill Senior High School. This is a historic win for Central New York and I am confident that the positive experiences from the 2017 season will yield continued success in both athletics and academics.

FIFTY YEARS OF COLORADO LEADERSHIP ON ABORTION RIGHTS

### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago today, Colorado blazed a trail for the rights of women and girls when it became the first state to loosen restrictions on legal abortions. Until then, the procedure was available only if the woman's life was at stake.

The new law allowed an abortion if the woman's physical or mental health was threatened, if the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest, or if the child might have serious birth defects.

Mr. Speaker, this was seven years before the U.S. Supreme Court would affirm a woman's constitutional right to choose in *Roe v. Wade*. Today, polling consistently shows that seven in 10 Americans do not believe that *Roe* should be overturned. But back in 1967, allowing any loosening of the near-absolute ban on abortion was a risky move from a political point of view.

A freshman Colorado state lawmaker, Richard Lamm, decided the risk was worth it, even if it meant the end of his career. After introducing the bill, he worked State Senator John Bermingham and many others to persuade the overwhelmingly male and Republican-dominated legislature to pass it. Within weeks, Republican Governor John Love signed it into law.

The year before, only 10 abortions had been reported to Colorado's health department. During the eight months remaining in 1967 after the bill was signed, 120 abortions were reported—including for a 12-year-old girl who had been raped. Without that law, her only recourse would have been either a back-alley procedure or carrying the pregnancy to term.

Within the next three years, 11 other states emulated Colorado, while four others loosened restrictions on legal abortions even more.

Rather than see his career come to an end, Richard Lamm went on to serve three terms as Colorado's governor. Now age 81, he's the co-director of the University of Denver's Institute of Public Policy Studies.

Mr. Speaker, as a leader in women's reproductive rights, I am proud to hail from the state that, half a century ago, led the way in giving women and girls more control over their own bodies. It's thanks to enlightened people