

and more to pray after the 35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis.

Reverend Chamberlin also had the honor of being the 25th President of the National Council of Churches from 2009 to 2011. She was the first Minnesotan and the fourth woman to hold that position. The NCC has been a leading force in increasing collaboration among various Christian groups throughout the United States.

Reverend Chamberlin has also been the recipient of numerous awards, including former Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson's Woman of Excellence award in 1994, the NOVA (Non-Violent Alternatives) Peace and Justice Award presented by St. Cloud State University, and Angel of Reconciliation award from Unity Baptist Church.

After 21 years, Rev. Peg Chamberlin has chosen to retire. Twenty-one years of mobilizing faith communities to engage in civic matters, strengthening ties within different religious denominations, and emphasizing the importance of welcoming refugees to our nation. Through her accomplishments, she has excelled in bringing to life MCC's mission to manifest unity in the church and to build the common good in the world.

I commend Rev. Peg Chamberlin, and all she has done for the state of Minnesota. I want to thank her for her dedication and service in creating interfaith connections and a safe atmosphere for people of all faith communities.

IN HONOR OF NEW CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who took their oaths of citizenship on Friday, May 12, 2017. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew P. Rodovich, 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 May 12, 2017, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Xuezhe Wang, Jyoti Awasthi, Jovan Bujaroski, Karen Jazmin Flores Martinez, Amane Seid Djoubar, Rosa Brisco, Hilda Alvarez, Mario Alqraini, Emmanuel Chigozie Chijioke, Ayodeji Ekundayo, Thiola Makhiwa Moyo, Andy Dai Nguyen, Gerson David Plaza, Julio Rolando Plaza Jr., John Michael Prejmak, Bianca Yasmin Rafidia Vargas, Omar Awad Sobih, Alma Valencia, Jafar Ziad Thawabi, Klimentina Suleska, Maria Patricia Quezada, Josselyn Russell, Cece Mumbi

Maina, Esther Galvez, Nguyet Phan, Milton Alexi Guerrero, Lowel Alabastro Recososa, Carl Recososa, Manuel Miranda, and Manuel Pena.

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 May 12, 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.

IN MEMORIAM PETE GARCIA

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community leader, a U.S. Army veteran, a native Arizonan and a tireless advocate for economic, racial and social justice. Pete Garcia is truly an Arizona legend and his contributions to our community will live on for generations to come.

Pete volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1962 and served in Germany. After his honorable discharge, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service while putting himself through Phoenix College.

Pete worked for many non-profit organizations in Phoenix including Phoenix Job Corps, Valle del Sol, and perhaps most notably, Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC). Under his leadership at CPLC, the organization's operating budget grew from \$3 million to over \$60 million. In 2008 it was named the second largest Hispanic non-profit in the United States by Hispanic Business Magazine. During his tenure as President and CEO of the organization he received numerous awards and recognition, including being invited to participate in the Ditchley Foundation Conference in the United Kingdom three times. He was selected as a Johnson Fellow, named an AARP Inspire award recipient, received the Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Institute legacy award, Pioneer in Excellence by Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and “One of the Valley's Most Influential People” by the Phoenix Business Journal, among many others.

Pete was a dedicated husband to Sarah and a devoted father to Daniel, Hilario, and Ilana. He was also a grandfather to Brenna, Morgan, Pete, Leila and Alya. In his spare time he enjoyed coaching his children's Little League teams, playing basketball, and playing with his own kids as well as other neighborhood children.

After his tenure at CPLC ended, Pete went on to be a successful philanthropist in his “retirement.” He started a whole new foundation focused on educational opportunities for underserved students, which he named the Victoria Foundation in honor of his own mother. From 2008–2017 Peter raised more than \$4 million to enable students to attend ASU, UA, NAU GCU, Maricopa County Community Colleges and several out of state schools. The foundation offered scholarships to 80 community college students, 60 university students, and 4 medical school students. Pete also raised money through the Victoria Foundation to provide 300 bikes for inner city youths, stockings to the elderly at Christmas, and to provide turkey dinners to veterans on Thanksgiving.

Pete leaves behind a legacy of generosity, advocacy, and hard work. Arizona is grateful for his contributions to our community, May his memory be a blessing to his friends and family.

RECOGNIZING AMINAH AL-JABER

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aminah Al-Jaber for her hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Fourth District as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office for the Spring of 2017.

The work of this young woman has been exemplary, and I know she has a bright future. She served as a tour guide, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity, and look forward to seeing her build her career in public service.

Aminah plans to continue pursuing her degree at the end of this internship. I wish her the best as she pursues her career path. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Aminah Al-Jaber for her service the last several months to the people of Colorado's 4th district.

RECOGNIZING PICNIC CAFÉ AND DESSERTERY

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the success of a small business in Dahlonega, Georgia in honor of Small Business Week. The Picnic Café and Dessertery, owned and operated by Sam and Julia Norton, has been serving Dahlonega residents and tourists coffee, sweets, and lunchtime favorites since 2001.

The Picnic Café and Dessertery, often times simply called “Picnic” by its regulars, has won multiple awards for its food and desserts. Its place on the Dahlonega town square brings a warm and welcome presence to the center of one of the South's best small towns, as hailed by Southern Living magazine. From college students to cadets to tourists bound for the Appalachians, the Picnic Café offers guests a chance to rest and be refreshed.