

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN APPRECIATION OF PLASMA DONORS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of donating plasma and to applaud those individuals that make the commitment to be a plasma donor.

Many Americans are impacted by rare, serious, and sometimes life-threatening medical conditions that are effectively managed by therapies derived from donated plasma. Patients affected by alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, hemophilia, hereditary angioedema, platelet disorders, primary immunodeficiency diseases, as well as other communities rely on plasma-derived therapies. For many of these patients, plasma-derived therapies represent life-sustaining or life-improving medicine that is only available and accessible as a result of plasma donors. Moreover, these therapies represent the cutting-edge of medicine and it often takes dozens of donations to prepare one course of treatment for a single patient.

These communities are collectively represented by the American Plasma Users Coalition, which works on policy issues to protect the safety of plasma donors and plasma products, and to ensure an adequate supply of plasma donations to meet the medical needs of patients. As science advances and we are better able to diagnose these conditions and treat additional conditions due to breakthroughs with plasma-derived therapies, we will need more Americans to make the important choice to donate plasma to ensure all patients continue to have access to essential treatments.

Many of us have already made the commitment to be either an occasional or regular plasma donor. Often times, this decision stems from knowing a patient who relies on plasma-derived therapies and understanding the tremendous impact a simple donation has on their health and the well-being of their family. Plasma donors come from all walks-of-life and all backgrounds, but to the patient community they are everyday heroes.

Madam Speaker, let us recognize the contributions of plasma donors while calling attention to the importance of plasma donation.

CONGRATULATIONS ON RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the successful career of Dr. G.P. "Bud" Peterson. On Janu-

ary 7, 2019, Dr. Peterson announced that he will be retiring from the role of President at the Georgia Institute of Technology, commonly known as Georgia Tech.

His retirement comes after eleven years of service to this great academic institution. Throughout those years, Bud demonstrated extraordinary leadership. A few examples include having the university accepted into the Association of American Universities, increasing enrollment while other academic institutions are struggling, expanding areas of research, and being named a top-10 public research university. As a graduate of Georgia Tech, I am proud of what this institution has accomplished. Thanks in part to the talented faculty and the direction President Peterson provided.

Dr. Peterson is truly leaving Georgia Tech a better place than when he arrived. Sandy and I wish him well and congratulate him on his wonderful career. I thank him for all he has done to make Georgia Tech a better place, and wish him good luck in all future endeavors.

HAVEN JOOST GIBSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Haven Joost Gibson. Haven is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 96, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Haven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Haven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Haven built 5 bat houses that hold up to 300 bats each for the Lake of the Ozarks National Park.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Haven Joost Gibson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OATH CEREMONY ON FEBRUARY 8, 2019

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam 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 February 8,

2019. 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 8, 2019, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Mahmooda Mohammed, Alice Nyambura Ngatia, Nicholas Ngugi Kiraki, Barbara Lucio, Riste Trajanovski, Janette Magallanes, Tehmina Talib, Birute Arnold, Chantal Mutabazi, Ainka Faustina de Coteau, Ian Frederick Griffiths, Huy N. Huynh, Brenda Berenice Avila Rosales, Rodrigo Garcia, Elisabeth Navarro, Ristana Lazaroska, Elva Lucero Madrigal, Audrey Corinne Kaucoud Behinan, Chulida O'Donnell, Jose Efrain Aguilar, Sohaib Aleem, Moshe Michael Abudraham, Pablo Ernesto Bernaschina, Mayra Mercado-Estrada, Mary Teresa Duffy, Norma Lizeth Cruz, Adriana Bell, Faustin Kagesera, Marisol Bosio, and Hugh Gong.

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.

Madam 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 8, 2019. 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.

RECOGNIZING ANGELA HRTIZ AS THE OKALOOSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Angela Hritz as the Teacher of the Year for Okaloosa County, Florida.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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