

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OATH CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 6, 2019*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate twenty-nine individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on September 6, 2019. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a county 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 September 6, 2019, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Mohamed Refaat Ahmed Saleh, Dominic Thomas Chaloner, Phennapha Flood, Jose Luis Perea, Ubaid Mohammed, Rosalinda Martinez Canales, Cirilo Favela, Margaret Sophie Foster, Mimzy Vanessa Bohannon, Maria Ysabel Coria, Jazmin Alejandra Lang, Henry Javier Alavez, Rosa Janeski, Kadir Cizreliogullari, Magdaleno Vargas, Hanan Misbah Abdel Qader, Nisreen Marji Ziadat, John V. Pollalis, Concepcion C. Arroyo, Maysa Katbi, Sam Farah, Nicolas Lehner, Virginia Lehner, Ralph Maximiliano Cortes, Eder Jahir Nunez Benitez, Jose Luis Martinez, Jessika Alejandra Lemere, Devashish Ratankumar Pal, and Sumedha Dhar.

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 September 6, 2019. They, too, will be 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.

JOSEPH KENT BRENNAN

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 6, 2019*

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army National Guard Veteran, Command Sergeant Major Joseph Kent Brennan of Woodbury in Gloucester County located in New Jersey's First Congressional District.

Command Sergeant Major Joseph Brennan was born on April 1, 1962 in Woodbury, NJ and graduated from Gloucester High School. On October 9, 1979, CSM Brennan enlisted in the United States Army National Guard and after four decades of service to the nation, on October 31, 2019 he will retire.

Command Sergeant Major Brennan is a combat Veteran who fought for our great nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Over the years he has served in various leadership capacities with the U.S. Army, most recently as a Maintenance Assistance and Instruction Team Noncommissioned Officer in Charge.

To honor his courage, valor and bravery through his service to America, Command Sergeant Major Brennan's decorations, awards and citations include the Bronze Star OIF, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Humanitarian Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, NCO Professional Development, Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Order of St. Barbara and the Ordinance of Samuel Sharp.

The Command Sergeant Major Brennan is very proud of his ongoing association with the Boy Scouts of America Troop 7 chartered to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church where he has served as Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman, Member and, was also Cubmaster of BSA Pack 7. He is a certified member of the American Legion Post 133, VFW Post 303, 114th Regimental Association, 112 FA Association, EANGUS, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and the NJ Enlisted Association.

Commander Sergeant Major Brennan and his wife Maryanne have three children Joseph, Pat and Katie. He is a certified Master Truck Mechanic, was employed at Cornell & Co. and currently is employed at Borelli Steel Fabricators in Vineland, NJ.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Command Sergeant Major Joseph Kent Brennan's valiant service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 6, 2019*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Los Angeles LGBT Center upon its 50th Anniversary.

The center has worked tirelessly for over half a century to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) community, combat bigotry, and create a more tolerant and equitable world. The center has promoted its values of integrity, respect, inclusiveness, innovation, and excellence throughout its prestigious history, helping LGBTQ people to thrive.

The Los Angeles LGBT Center assists over half a million people each year through its housing, healthcare, legal aid, and education programs, among countless other services. The Anita May Rosenstein Campus, opened in April, 2019, embodies the center's continuing mission, providing housing and wellness services to LGBTQ youth and seniors and serving as a symbol of the LGBTQ community's resilience and creativity. In addition, the center has provided free Internet access, computer skills, and resume creation through its David Bohnett CyberCenter, cultivating a more informed and well-connected community.

The center has been on the frontline of the fight against HIV/AIDS since the earliest days of the epidemic in the 1980s. The center provides HIV and AIDS specialty care, maintains HIV and STD testing and prevention programs, and conducts studies and clinical trials aimed at ending the epidemic.

Today, supported by hundreds of volunteers and employees, the center works from local to global, training activists and advancing LGBTQ advocacy as nearby as Los Angeles and as far away as China. Additionally, the center shares information and expertise with sister organizations in order to support LGBTQ people around the globe.

I am proud to recognize the Los Angeles LGBT Center for five decades of outstanding service to the LGBTQ community. I ask all members to join me in congratulating them for their remarkable achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF MIAMI-DADE

**HON. DONNA E. SHALALA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 6, 2019*

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Boys & Girls Club of Miami-Dade on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Wild About Kids Gala.

Founded in 1940, the Boys & Girls Club has become a cornerstone of South 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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