

MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF  
JOHN P. WEISS

**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend John P. Weiss for nearly thirty years of service to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. John is more than an extraordinary public servant, he is a humanitarian and a great advocate on behalf of the American people.

On January 3, 2000, John Weiss officially retired as Officer in Charge of the Hartford, Connecticut INS Office. John's leadership and commitment to excellence has ensured high quality and efficient service for immigrants and their families living in Connecticut. John set a standard that all of us in public service should work to emulate.

In 1988, my office was inundated with calls from U.S. citizens who were filing their I-130 petitions for their foreign born spouses at the

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INS Service Center in Vermont. Unfortunately, the processing time in Vermont was quite lengthy. After approaching John with this problem and expressing the frustration of my constituents, he agreed to look into the problem. John then implemented a new processing policy for I-130 and I-485 petitions filed by citizens on behalf of their spouses. He clearly empathized with the stress they were feeling due to being separated from their spouses. John allowed the Hartford INS office to begin accepting I-130 petitions from citizens for their spouses. This accelerated the processing time tremendously. He truly made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of people. Families were able to reunite much sooner than they had originally expected.

I have remarked many times throughout the years that Connecticut is indeed very lucky to have such a compassionate and caring individual such as John Weiss running the INS office. John's career is quite distinguished. One of his most remarkable assignments began in 1973 when he was assigned to investigate Nazi war criminals. John spent a great deal of time interviewing Holocaust victims and chron-

icling the atrocities that occurred during the Second World War and tracking war criminals who might have attempted to fraudulently enter the United States. I know this was an experience that deeply affected John's life and perspective on the world.

Whenever John Weiss learned about a problem or an individual with extenuating circumstances, he took steps to address it. It never mattered how busy he was with his duties, he always made time to address the needs of every constituent. In this respect, he is a model for all of us in public service.

Mr. Speaker, John Weiss is a public servant in the very best tradition of our country. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of the citizens of Connecticut and provided the highest quality service. He has also brought a sense of compassion to his work.

I am proud to be able to join his former colleagues and members of the community in thanking John for his service and commitment to bettering the lives of immigrants and their families.

*February 1, 2000*