

STATEMENT OF MRS. FE NIOSCO LASTRELLA
BEFORE THE
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE
HEARING ON
“TOYOTA GAS PEDALS: IS THE PUBLIC AT RISK?”
FEBRUARY 24, 2010

Chairman Towns, Congressman Issa and members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me here today to testify relating to Toyota’s recalls as they relate to my beloved families, whose lives were prematurely taken away from us.

My name is Fe Niosco Lastrella, I am a school teacher by profession, and pursued a career in the real estate business when we moved to Vallejo, a suburb in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. I am married to Cleto L. Lastrella, for 46 years, a retired Command Master Chief, (SKCM, USN) who served in the military for 30 years, then worked for the Federal Government for 10 years. We have 5 children and supposed to be 4 grandchildren. Cleofe Lastrella Saylor was the oldest and Chris Niosco Lastrella was the middle of our five children.

Cleofe Lastrella led the younger siblings the proper way. Love, respect and honesty were the family values they embraced. Values that Cleofe instilled to her daughter, Mahala. Cleofe was member of Hogan High School cheer leading team. Cleofe graduated from University of California, Davis and worked for various pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. Her last job was at AMBRX, in La Jolla, California, where she received an Achievement Award for significant technological innovations, awarded on October 2nd 2009.

Mark Wesley Saylor, was a respectful and caring person. He was a person of honor and integrity. He was a very religious man, a devout husband and father. He gained respect from his colleagues and friends. Mark dedicated his life to his family and to his job. On August 29, 1997, Mark responded to a traffic collision Northbound on Interstate 5 south of Gilman Drive. Mark save the driver who was trapped in his burning vehicle. Mark received a certificate of commendation on November 20, 1997 for superior effort and act.

Mahala Manda Saylor was a promising athlete. Her love for soccer made her team captain. Mahala was so blessed to have Mark and Cleofe as her parents. After working hours their time were spent for Mahala’s activities, school, games, community participation and church. The week of the tragedy, Cleofe took off work for a week to prepare Mahala for entering high school at Mater Dei Catholic High School, September 2009. Mahala missed the invitation and opportunity to travel as a Sports Ambassador to the People to People Soccer Cup in Vienna, Austria. Knowing Mark and Cleofe, they will make an investment on their child’s future.

Chris Niosco Lastrella’s passion was basketball. He graduated at St Vincent – St Patrick High School in 1989. He worked for the United Parcel Service (UPS) as loading Supervisor. After his graduation at California State University, Hayward, and now East Bay, with B.S. in Criminal Justice Chris worked at various financial mortgage services, his last one was at Wells Fargo Mortgage, and then went to San Diego to continue his new found secretly ambition “voice acting”. Chris’s voice over series of classes

and auditions made him so composed and the 911 messages to the whole world were so clear. “ Hold on, Pray, pray, pray!

August 28, 2009 was the tragic date that triggered us all. On the morning of August 29, 2009 when a law enforcement officer came to our door with the note to contact the coroner’s office in San Diego, California devastated our family, even our 7-month old grandson, Connor Toyooka would not give us a smile.

To the honorable members of the committee and the honorable members of the congress, the answer lies in your hands.

Thank you.