



**County Executive Pittman's  
First Anniversary of the Key Bridge Collapse  
Written Remarks  
March 26, 2025**

I'll never forget the phone calls that night, first from my friend Mayor Brandon Scott, then from my friend Governor Wes Moore, then from my friend County Executive/now Congressman Johnny Olszewski.

Then our Fire Chief Trisha Wolford whose divers were en route, then our Police Chief Amal Awad who was at the site with our northern district commander and our homeland security team, and of course our Chief Administrative Officer, who doesn't seem to sleep.

I mostly tried to stay out of the way, as Governor Moore stepped up, and showed the world that government works - that Coast Guard, Army Corps, State Transportation, State Police; all of the public servants at the federal, state, and local levels can do seemingly impossible things together; to find and bring home to their families the bodies of beloved men who were working to improve the bridge we depend on; and to clear the channel faster than anyone thought possible so that international trade could resume at the Port of Baltimore.

I took pride in the way that our workforce development, economic development, and social service agencies stepped up to serve county residents whose livelihoods were threatened by closure of the port, and the loss of the bridge.

But the greatest impact, the part that moved me personally, and that spoke to our county, our region, our country, and the world, was who it was - that was working that night. Who it was - that was tending the bridge, the bridge over our river. Who it was - doing work that needed to be done, work that most of us lack the skill and the drive to do.

It was men from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

Each one of them had crossed our southern border, looking for a better life for their families.

Each one of them was on that bridge making life better for the people who live here. Better for Marylanders, better for Americans.

They didn't choose to sacrifice their lives for our country, for our bridge, but our country noticed that they did. Our country needed to see that.

Miguel Angel Luna lived in Glen Burnie, in the northern part of Anne Arundel County.

His extraordinary wife Maria del Carmen, runs a small business, selling delicious food out of a food truck, Salvadoran food.

I spent May 11 last year at Miguel's memorial service and burial. I felt the love and the strength of Los Salvadoreños que viven en nuestro condado.

Their culture, their community, their love makes us stronger.

Yo quiero decir a todas las familias que esta aqui hoy - te queremos aqui.

Tu haces que nuestra comunidad sea mejor.

Y tambien, el pueblo unido jamas sera vencido.