

entire population of Colombia. In fact, in Colombia, our hemispheric neighbor, there are an estimated 4 million internally displaced people, equivalent to the entire population of Los Angeles. Pakistan has nearly 2 million refugees, and Somalia, Sudan, and Iraq all have over a million displaced people each.

Displaced persons are a national security issue as much as a humanitarian crisis that violates basic human rights. This spring, I hosted Congressional briefings with Antonio Guterres, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Alexander Aleinikoff, the Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees. I commend the work of the U.N. High Commissioner and the many organizations—large and small—that are on the frontlines providing basic relief and security to displaced communities. And I will do everything I can to inform my colleagues about this important work.

But, while immediate relief is essential, we also must tackle the root causes of conflict and poverty that continue to drive up the number of displaced people. We cannot be a just and peaceful world with so many living without basic human rights and protections. So, this week, and every week, I will continue to use my voice and vote to end this humanitarian crisis and bring justice, security, and enduring peace to the millions of displaced people around the world.

FREE GILAD SHALIT

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the fifth anniversary of the abduction of Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, to demand that Hamas release him immediately and unconditionally.

On June 25, 2006, Hamas brutally attacked an Israeli military post, killing two soldiers and wounding four others. Shalit was taken captive and seemingly wounded in the process. Since that time, there has been no information about his whereabouts or the conditions of his captivity. He has not been granted visitation rights by any humanitarian organization, including the International Red Cross, as is required by international law. Additionally, he has been denied contact with his family and access to medical treatment. These conditions are inhumane and deplorable.

I urge Hamas to release Gilad Shalit immediately, and to cease all violence and hostilities against the Jewish State.

HONORING WORTH COUNTY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Worth County of Missouri's Sixth District. Worth County is celebrating its Sesquicentennial.

Worth County has the distinction of being Missouri's youngest and smallest county in both population and physical size. That distinction, however, is not reflected in the char-

acter, substance and heart of the people who live there. Its name comes from General William J. Worth who served with Zachary Taylor in the Mexican-American War and was the first American to make an amphibious military landing. On display at the county courthouse are the names of all in Worth County that have gone to defend this nation since the Civil War and who continue to defend America today. One of the first riders of the Pony Express, Robert Stricklen came from and is buried in Worth County. It is the place that Glenn Miller first picked up the trombone and was taught to play his timeless music.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Worth County, Missouri. It is an amazing place with even more amazing people who make a daily impact on Northern Missouri and the whole of the Sixth District. I am honored to represent Worth County, Missouri in the United States Congress.

PUBLIC TRUST AND THE SUPREME COURT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over ethically questionable conduct of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas that threatens to undermine public trust in our judicial system.

Justice Thomas has repeatedly engaged in questionable actions and hidden them from public view. Just this weekend, the New York Times revealed troubling details about favors Justice Thomas has received from a millionaire real estate magnate named Harlan Crow.

Despite the revelations, Justice Thomas refuses to provide details about his relationship with Mr. Crow. The report from the New York Times is the latest in a long line of troubling actions taken by Justice Thomas, yet he refuses to share the necessary information to ensure that his service on the bench is fair and free from conflict of interest.

No one should be above the law, especially those chosen to uphold it.

[From the New York Times, June 18, 2011]
FRIENDSHIP OF JUSTICE AND MAGNATE PUTS
FOCUS ON ETHICS

PIN POINT, GA.—Clarence Thomas was here promoting his memoir a few years ago when he bumped into Algernon Varn, whose grandfather once ran a seafood cannery that employed Justice Thomas's mother as a crab picker.

Mr. Varn lived at the old cannery site, a collection of crumbling buildings on a salt marsh just down the road from a sign heralding this remote coastal community outside Savannah as Justice Thomas's birthplace. The justice asked about plans for the property, and Mr. Varn said he hoped it could be preserved.

"And Clarence said, 'Well, I've got a friend I'm going to put you in touch with,'" Mr. Varn recalled, adding that he was later told by others not to identify the friend.

The publicity-shy friend turned out to be Harlan Crow, a Dallas real estate magnate and a major contributor to conservative causes. Mr. Crow stepped in to finance the multimillion-dollar purchase and restoration of the cannery, featuring a museum about the culture and history of Pin Point that has become a pet project of Justice Thomas's.

The project throws a spotlight on an unusual, and ethically sensitive, friendship that appears to be markedly different from those of other justices on the nation's highest court.

The two men met in the mid-1990s, a few years after Justice Thomas joined the court. Since then, Mr. Crow has done many favors for the justice and his wife, Virginia, helping finance a Savannah library project dedicated to Justice Thomas, presenting him with a Bible that belonged to Frederick Douglass and reportedly providing \$500,000 for Ms. Thomas to start a Tea Party-related group. They have also spent time together at gatherings of prominent Republicans and businesspeople at Mr. Crow's Adirondacks estate and his camp in East Texas.

In several instances, news reports of Mr. Crow's largess provoked controversy and questions, adding fuel to a rising debate about Supreme Court ethics. But Mr. Crow's financing of the museum, his largest such act of generosity, previously unreported, raises the sharpest questions yet—both about Justice Thomas's extrajudicial activities and about the extent to which the justices should remain exempt from the code of conduct for federal judges.

Although the Supreme Court is not bound by the code, justices have said they adhere to it. Legal ethicists differed on whether Justice Thomas's dealings with Mr. Crow pose a problem under the code. But they agreed that one facet of the relationship was both unusual and important in weighing any ethical implications: Justice Thomas's role in Mr. Crow's donation for the museum.

The code says judges "should not personally participate" in raising money for charitable endeavors, out of concern that donors might feel pressured to give or entitled to favorable treatment from the judge. In addition, judges are not even supposed to know who donates to projects honoring them.

While the nonprofit Pin Point museum is not intended to honor Justice Thomas, people involved in the project said his role in the community's history would inevitably be part of it, and he participated in a documentary film that is to accompany the exhibits.

Deborah L. Rhode, a Stanford University law professor who has called for stricter ethics rules for Supreme Court justices, said Justice Thomas "should not be directly involved in fund-raising activities, no matter how worthy they are or whether he's being centrally honored by the museum."

On the other hand, the restriction on fund-raising is primarily meant to deter judges from using their position to pressure donors, as opposed to relying on "a rich friend" like Mr. Crow, said Ronald D. Rotunda, who teaches legal ethics at Chapman University in California.

"I don't think I could say it's unethical," he said. "It's just a very peculiar situation."

Justice Thomas, through a Supreme Court spokeswoman, declined to respond to a detailed set of questions submitted by The New York Times. Mr. Crow also would not comment.

Supreme Court ethics have been under increasing scrutiny, largely because of the activities of Justice Thomas and Ms. Thomas, whose group, Liberty Central, opposed President Obama's health care overhaul—an issue likely to wind up before the court. Mr. Crow's donation to Liberty Central was reported by Politico.

In January, the liberal advocacy organization Common Cause asked the Justice Department to investigate whether Justices Thomas and Antonin Scalia should have recused themselves from last year's Citizens United campaign finance case because they had attended a political retreat organized by the billionaire Koch brothers, who support