

Tier II country because of its serious trafficking problems, but was removed from the Watch List. Many of us think this was an error, and that Vietnam's response to its trafficking problems remains inadequate.

In December I met with over 60 people: government officials, political and religious activists, archbishops, heads of churches and ordinary believers. I have had several, somewhat stilted, I must admit, conversations recently with mixed delegations of religious leaders and government officials. That the Vietnamese government even consented to send these delegations was an important step. It does seem that some of the government officials at least are beginning to understand our concerns. What they will now do is the question. I believe that Michael Cromartie, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, has made the crucial observation: "We are not arguing over whether the glass is half-full or half-empty. We just do not know if the glass, so recently constructed, will continue to hold any water. Will legal developments hold in a country where the rule of law is not fully functioning? Are changes only cosmetic, intended to increase Vietnam's ability to gain WTO membership and pass a Congressional vote on PNTR? . . . Though promises of future improvement are encouraging, we should not reward Vietnam too quickly by lifting the CPC designation or downplaying human rights concerns to advance economic or military interests."

I could not agree more. We have seen various thaws in other Communist regimes. The Khrushchev thaw was followed by the worst persecution of religion in 30 years, and then the long stagnation of the Brezhnev regime. In the 60's we thought Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania would be the next Tito, I remember when we thought that was an advance; instead, he decided to be the next Kim Il-Sung. Finally, who can forget the democratic opening in China which was crushed at Tienanmen Square.

We must be sure that the change in Vietnam is real. We have a unique opportunity this year to achieve real and lasting progress in Vietnam. We should use the leverage we have, and seek to increase it. The House of Representatives has twice passed legislation authored by me on human rights in Vietnam. H.R. 1587, The Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2004, passed the House by a 323-45 vote in July 2004. A similar measure passed by a 410-1 landslide in the House in 2001. The measures called for limiting further increases of non-humanitarian United States aid from being provided to Vietnam if certain human rights provisions were not met, and authorized funding to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia and funding to support non-governmental organizations which promote human rights and democratic change in Vietnam. Regrettably, both bills stalled in Senate committees and have not been enacted into law. But we are again ready to work with the administration to find ways to encourage and promote civil society in Vietnam. I have re-introduced the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2005, H.R. 3190. I would be delighted to hear what sort of measures we could add to the bill to cooperate with Vietnam's government if it is indeed serious about strengthening civil society and the rule of law: to help promote genuine NGO's, especially faith-based NGO's, to deal with Vietnam's problems with trafficking, addic-

tion, HIV/AIDS, street children; to create an independent bar association, and help train lawyers who can defend the rights already guaranteed to Vietnam's people by Vietnam's own constitution and laws.

Human rights are central. They are at the core of our relationship with governments and the people they purport to represent. The United States of America will not turn a blind eye to the oppression of a people, any people in any region of the world. Our non-governmental witnesses: Ms. Kay Reibold, project development specialist for the Montagnard Human Rights Organization; Mrs. H'Pun Mlo, a Montagnard refugee who after many years of abuse, was finally allowed to join her family in the U.S.; Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang, the executive director of Boat People SOS; and Mr. Doan Viet Hoat, the president of International Institute for Vietnam, gave us valuable independent testimony, so that the world will get a true and complete picture of this government with whom we are growing ever closer.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MAKES A DIFFERENCE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when you think of the leaders of the future—what qualities come to mind? Civic activism? Community awareness? Personal leadership? Academic excellence? It is a privilege to recognize the members of the 2005-2006 Congressional Youth Advisory Council because they embody these qualities and more.

For the last 2 years, the members of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council have represented the young people of the Third District well by working as ambassadors of the future. Several times a year the members of the Youth Council would share a valuable youth perspective on the current issues before Congress. This year 42 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference to Congress.

For the first time, this year there was a philanthropy element to the Youth Council. For the community service project, the members of the Youth Council reached out to veterans and encouraged them to share their stories. Called the "Preserving History Project," each member had to interview a veteran. Then the student had to submit a lengthy paper detailing the veteran's service and sharing what the student learned from that experience. The students submitted a summary of their work. Today I'm proud to submit the briefs provided so the hard and valuable work of the Youth Council may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Someday, each member will be able to share with children and grandchildren—"In high school I served my community and my work will always be recognized in the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD."

A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for your time, effort and sacrifice to help make the

Congressional Youth Advisory Council a success. You're the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

I was thankful for my list of questions as my Grandpa (William Frank Morgan) began relating his military experiences to me. I learned about his life, sacrifices, and service. He was a Seaman First Class in the Navy, and later a Senior Master Sergeant when he retired from the Air Force. This opportunity to talk with him and hear his story has strengthened our relationship, and I'm so thankful for this chance to glean more knowledge about my family. Grandpa and Grandma Morgan visit once a year at Thanksgiving and I always look forward to their arrival. Reconnection through our talks and the time we spend together has become more precious each year. We also try to visit them, and keep in touch through phone calls and letters. Surprisingly, although Grandpa is not talkative, he will sporadically crack the funniest jokes. He is a good example in studying the Bible and desiring a life of a Godly character. He has a talented green thumb, and I enjoy stepping into his untidy greenhouse to watch him care for his healthy plants. When he isn't gardening, Grandpa spends time among his books, or checking the weather for the coming week. Grandpa's traveling, distance from loved ones, disrupted education, interesting experiences with food, and dangerous challenges have molded his character and sacrificially ensured the freedoms and safety Americans enjoy today.—Meredith Morgan

A native of Elmira, New York, William Stone, Jr. served in the U.S. Army for two years as an officer stationed in Germany. There he was assigned as a motor officer responsible for CMMI's beginning in 1967. Stone entered the Army as a 2nd lieutenant and reached the rank of 1st lieutenant prior to returning to civilian life. After working for several years as an insurance adjuster in New York, Stone moved to Texas, where he and his wife have been teaching in the Plano Independent School District.

As a result of this interview, I was able to gain insight into the role of our nation's military. Mr. Stone, like many others, is among those who have helped safeguard the freedoms we enjoy in the United States. Listening to his experiences has allowed me to better understand the sacrifices the men and women of the military have made on our behalf.—Albert Chang

Joe McAnally is a great man. He is my neighbor, who I have known for about four years, and is very active, knowledgeable and helpful. His tour doesn't even seem to have affected him in any adverse way. He was born, raised and still lives in the Dallas area. He chose to be in the Army R.O.T.C. because he knew, since his birthday was 12th on the draft list, he would have to serve anyway. Since he was already an officer his enlistment and boot camp were an easier transition, and since his family knew he was going to be drafted, they supported him fully. He served in the Vietnam War and had to find his own way, because he landed at midnight when everyone was asleep. He earned two Bronze Stars, the third highest medal in the service. His food was good, especially the food mailed from home, except for the muton. His platoon was well supplied and was entertained by Bob Hope once. On leave he went to Thailand and Australia. When he returned home he was offered his old job back, got married and eventually bought a business making plastic molds, which he still owns and runs to this day.—Elliot Post

I interviewed Mr. Spencer Guimarin, a retired first class petty officer in the United States Navy. Mr. Guimarin surmounted obstacles in his life that most men would consider their worst fear. He survived the first

wave of D-Day landings at Omaha Beach, the invasion of Okinawa, and every other confrontation that war threw his way. I have read books and seen movies and documentaries about Okinawa and D-Day, but to actually have the chance to sit down and talk with someone that was there was an experience I will never forget. The movies just don't do it justice. I was excited when I heard that we were going to have the chance to do a project like this, and I couldn't wait to get started. It was a humbling experience hearing his stories, yet not being able to appreciate it for what it is worth because I was not there. I learned about the lasting effects a war can have on a veteran. As I will be entering Merchant Marine Academy in July of 2006 and hope to pursue a career in the military, I realize that I may be faced with some of the same repercussions.—Doug Hermann

For my Preserving History project, I interviewed Lieutenant Colonel Charles Beck. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving as a jet fighter pilot in the Air Force. He flew reconnaissance and bombing missions over North Vietnam, tracking enemy base movement, taking surveillance pictures, and calling and participating in air strikes. He was deployed for three years. Survival rate for his fighter group was less than 50%, but Lt. Beck made it through the war without ever being captured by enemy forces. For his service to our country, Lt. Beck was awarded 27 medals, including a Silver Star.

I found it interesting how a man from such humble beginnings pursued a passion for flying. He served heroically during major combat operations. His pride and his service to our country and his love for the United States have helped me understand the important role that our veterans have played in preserving the freedoms we enjoy in America. I think that it is very important that we capture our veteran's stories so that we have documented history of not only their military service, but of the values that led them to serve their country so honorably.—Jocelyn Sedlet

For my veteran project, I interviewed Robert L. Staib, former Captain in the United States Air Force. By the end of his service, he had fought in the Vietnam War and the Cold War as a fighter pilot and a forward air controller. He received a Distinguished Flying Cross, seventeen Air Medals, and Air Force Commendation Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, and an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon. He flew in over at least sixteen countries. He was brave and courageous in all his endeavors. From this project, I learned what a hero really is. I learned that my grandfather is a hero because he was willing to sacrifice his life for the freedom of people he didn't even know. I also learned about the deep love he felt for my grandmother and mother. Most importantly, I learned that heroes don't just do great things, they do them with great motives. If my grandfather had gone into the service for glory, he would not have been a hero. He went into the Air Force knowing he might die, because he wanted to preserve and spread freedom, a freedom that I sometimes take for granted. This is a freedom that must be fought for. This project taught me about Robert L. Staib and about my freedom.—Britney Thomas

What I gained from this interesting interview was not just another few hours spent, but an insightful and rather intriguing conversation with the most well versed person I know, Mr. John Neese. Beginning as a private, Mr. Neese escalated to the height of full colonel. He became a very outspoken individual during the interview, however his personal anecdotes and stories kept me asking for more. His impact on the conflict in

Vietnam may have been easily overlooked, however, his objectives and goals at dropping leaflets and speaking in an ultimately "fire arm free" duty, was an amazing opportunity, as well as daily routine as a member of the U.S. Air Force. He gained a new insight as to how he could survive in a "dog eat dog society." By simply joining the Air Force, he received tools he could use the rest of his life—tools that are hardly apparent in everyday Americans. What I gained from the interview was a new friend. A new friend that thinks the same way I do. A man that stands for God and represents his country to the fullest.—Bryan Blair

Around the first of the year, my mom introduced me to Lt. Colonel Kirk Chandler, a den leader in my younger brother's Cub Scout pack. His military service in the Navy spanned fourteen years from May 1991, to his retirement in October 2005. With many veterans you find battle-hardiness seeping in them, and an unwillingness to recount their combat tales. With Mr. Chandler, I found a laid back former soldier who was quite positive in his descriptions of his time in the service. Although he didn't do anything extraordinary in the field of battle, I feel his accomplishments lie in the soldiers he inspired, and in the connections he still maintains to this day with the people that he served with.

In interviewing Mr. Chandler, I was given a whole new dimension with regards to the military. In talking to him, I found someone who experienced much in the realm of the world—someone who's traveled around the world, meeting new people and new cultures. I learned how one enjoys life even in the toughest of times. In meeting Mr. Chandler, I met the embodiment of an American hero and a true stand up guy who serves the community with pride.—Adam Rosenfield

I interviewed Marvin Alan Sternberg who was a part of the Army during the Vietnam War. He started as a private and ended as a 1st Lieutenant when his service ended. Mr. Sternberg gained a lot from his experience in the Army, but the biggest lesson that he was taught and forced into was growing up and becoming a man.

After interviewing Mr. Sternberg, I realize how much a person can go through just for the protection of others. It amazes me how someone like Mr. Sternberg can dedicate part of their life so selflessly in order to protect their country and fellow citizens that are totally unknown to them. I have always had a respect for veterans, but now, after this interview, I have a different kind of respect for all of those men and women who have served in our country. There is something special about people that go into the service, and I have come to find that it is people like that that I look up to and admire. It all has become a reality to me, because I actually heard what happens behind the scenes and what they really go through instead of a sugarcoated testimony that we hear in school or out of a textbook. I'm so thankful that Mr. Sternberg took time out of his day to sit down, talk, and explain to me his experiences he faced during his journey. This is an experience that I will treasure forever, because I learned firsthand how veterans are affected by war. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this preserving history project.—Kristy MacDonnell

In my interview with my grandfather, Thomas Dale Alexander, Colonel, United States Air Force (Retired), I learned quite a few things about why he does things the way he does and all sorts of things that I never knew about my mother's family. He is a much wiser man than the young high school graduate that joined the Air Force in 1943. He served in the occupation of Japan, fought

in Korea, worked with the FAA for a while, fought in Vietnam, and retired after commanding a supply squadron. His plane was shot up badly three times in Korea, but he did always manage to fly home—feats for which he was awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses. In Vietnam, he commanded a squadron of Forward Air Controllers, who interfaced with the troops on the ground and marked targets for the fighter-bombers with smoke rockets. After he retired, he moved to Junction, Texas, to build a house by the Llano River and was hired as Director of Operations at the Texas Tech Center in Junction, now called Texas Tech at Junction. After he retired for the second time, he continued to keep up with the hobbies he had started in the Air Force, like playing golf and building.—Evan Dale Wise

While his time in the Army was limited to the Postal Services, my grandfather, Charles Wallander Junior, was an excellent soldier who defined the traits of discipline, diligence, and obedience. At the completion of his military work my grandfather obtained the rank of Corporal in the Army, and was awarded with the mark of excellence in the Post Office. Through his work with the Army Post Office, my grandfather was a key factor in organizing the Korean mail infrastructure, and allowing for the Postal Service to function, in his post as Postmaster General. From this experience I can undoubtedly say that I have gained a sense of unmatched pride in my grandfather and all he has done for this country and the world. My appreciation for him is only matched by my respect for the Armed Forces at large, and my gained trust in the American way that helps to guide this country.—Andrew Schreiber

Stanley S. Malewicz was drafted into the United States Army at the age of 19 at the outset of the Second World War. After leaving his home in New York, he received five months of training before deploying to Oxford where he remained for two more months until the invasion of France. Private Malewicz entered Normandy at D-Day plus three along with the 204th Combat Engineering Battalion and General Patton's third Army. For the greater part of his service, Malewicz and his unit where tasked with transporting infantry and vehicles across the rivers of France and Germany. Whether by boat or portable bridge, they always got the job done despite fierce opposition. During his time in the service, Pvt. Malewicz earned a Purple Heart and several campaign medals. After the war was over, he got married and had two children. He also went on to become a supervisor for the Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO). Mr. Malewicz says that he did not mind being drafted one bit, and the United States of America is one great country. After completing this interview, I have gained knowledge of my grandfather I had never expected to experience. To fully understand the nature of war, you have to see it through the eyes of someone that was actually in the arena.—Erik De Sousa

The veteran I interviewed is my uncle, Matthew Hancock. The branch that he served in was the U.S. Army. His initial rank was Private, and his finishing rank was CW3. Most of the work he did during his service to this country revolved around weapons specialty. He was living in Davenport, Iowa, which was his hometown, at the time that he signed up for the military. Mr. Hancock served in the military for over 20 years, and fought in both Iraqi Wars: Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He chose to serve in the military because he felt the military offered the best opportunity for him, and he had always wanted to be in the Army since he was young. He accomplished a great deal during his impressive span of service, winning several medals, including three

bronze stars. I am very glad for having done this interview, for it has given me a much more indepth understanding of what our soldiers go through in order to protect the rest of us. Before this, I mostly knew general things, but now what I know is much more specific.—Jordan Schmittou

HONORING ARTHUR TREVETHAN
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Art Trevethan on his long and illustrious career with Nationwide Insurance and to celebrate his accomplishments with him as he embarks upon a new chapter in life.

Art's legendary leadership and service have contributed to central Ohio's business community and its growing fame as one of the most vibrant areas in America. No matter what he has involved himself in, he has always found success. His outstanding record of achievement speaks volumes about his quality as a topflight businessman and civic-minded leader. His commitment to free enterprise and interest in fostering good government have had a tremendous impact across our state and nation.

I appreciate the countless hours and tremendous amount of personal energy he has expended working to bridge the business and public policy worlds. Art understands the decisions made in the halls of our government impact businesses and the lives of employees. Rather than stand on the sidelines and wring his hands over public policy in Columbus or Washington, he has worked to inform policymakers about how their proposals affect companies and encouraged working people and executives to become involved in the process.

Art Trevethan has been a tremendous asset not only to Nationwide, but to the community as well. As he closes the book on one career and begins another as founder of (Re) Insurance Recovery Solutions, I am confident he will continue his good works and find happiness and success in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF VICTIMS'
RIGHTS WEEK RESOLUTION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus, I rise today to introduce the 2006 Victims Rights Week Resolution on behalf of myself, and Caucus Co-chairs Congressman TED POE of Texas and Congresswoman KATHERINE HARRIS of Florida. This concurrent resolution expresses Congress' support of the goals and ideals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and the efforts to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of crime victims and survivors in the United States. This observance will take place the week of April 23 through April 29.

In 1980, President Reagan first called for a national observance to recognize and honor the millions of victims of crimes in our country, their families, and survivors. National Crime Victims' Rights Week also pays tribute to the thousands of community-based and system-based victim services providers and to the criminal justice and allied professionals who provide critical support and assistance to victims every week of the year. National Crime Victims' Rights Week has since been proclaimed annually with ceremonies and observances in Washington D.C. and in hundreds of communities throughout our nation.

President Reagan's commitment to the rights of victims lead to the passage of the Victims of Crime Act, which in 1984 created the Crime Victims Fund. Since then, the Crime Victims Fund has dedicated more than \$7.4 billion collected from criminal fines—not taxpayers dollars—that annually supports more than 4,400 victim assistance programs serving some 3.8 million victims and compensation to more than 165,000 victims for their unreimbursed medical expenses, lost wages and funeral costs.

The 2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme is "Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity." It is indeed appropriate because today an unprecedented coalition of victims and survivors, victim advocacy organizations, justice professional and service providers are once together joining together to protect the Crime

Victims Fund, a legacy of the Reagan Administration.

Before the emergence of the victims' rights movement, you would hear plenty about criminals, but nothing about victims. You could go to college and take courses to learn how to help and manage abusers, but little was said about those they abused. Crime was the main issue; victims, if at all, were an afterthought. Meanwhile, society treated victims in the same manner. Victims had no voice. They had few rights. They were largely left in the shadows.

This has changed thanks to our Nation's victims' rights movement. Today, victims of crime and those who serve them have not only a voice, but a vision for what justice should look like in America. Today, there are over 32,000 laws that define and protect victim's rights. In 2006, we not only listen to victims; we learn from them. We are beginning to view them not only as an obligation mandated by law, but also as an opportunity—as people with vital information to help us better manage violent offenders; and as people who have helped us understand the devastating impact of crime.

I am proud to be one of the three co-founders, along with Representatives POE and HARRIS of the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus. The goals of the Victim's Rights Caucus are to (1) represent crime victims in the United States through the bipartisan legislation that reflects their interests, rights and needs; (2) provide an ongoing forum for proactive interactions between the U.S. Congress and national victim assistance organizations to enhance mutual education, legislative advocacy and initiatives that promote justice for all—including victims of crime; and (3) seek opportunities for public education initiatives to help people in America to understand the impact of crime on victims, and to encourage their involvement in crime prevention, victim assistance, and community safety.

Crime does not know any geographic, demographic or political boundaries; it touches all of our constituents in every community. And so, as Congress expresses its support for National Crime Victims Rights Week and its efforts to increase public awareness of the impact of crime on victims, survivors and on our communities, we encourage all members to join the Caucus, as a critical voice of victims, in the Congress.