

many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch him grow.

I welcome young Brady into the world and wish Brad and Jessica all the best as they raise him.

SUPPORT FOR DR. HALEH
ESFANDIERI

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on December 30, 2006, Dr. Haleh Esfandieri, a prominent Iranian-American scholar, was in Iran to visit her sick 93-year-old mother when she was stopped by the Iranian authorities.

What followed was nearly 5 months of a series of intense interrogations and pressure tactics where she was harassed, threatened, and forced to make false statements against her employer, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. On May 8, she was again detained and imprisoned.

Her arrest and detention has angered analysts, human rights groups and lawmakers throughout the world. Yet still, the Iranian regime refuses to release her, claiming she is a spy who was plotting to overthrow the Iranian government.

I would like to submit a statement issued from the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars on May 21, 2007 for the record.

Madam Speaker, these charges are a farce. Professor Esfandieri is an accomplished scholar of Persian literature, language and history who taught at Princeton University before becoming the Director of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars Middle East Program. Her husband, Mr. Shaul Bakhash, is a professor at George Mason University of Fairfax, VA. The Woodrow Wilson Center is a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose work is to research and foster dialogue within the scholarly world on current and future public policy issues.

Dr. Esfandieri's tireless dedication to teaching and advocating on behalf of Iran is clear. She has focused on building bridges and opening doors for peace in the Middle East. She has sought to facilitate and strengthen Iranian-American relations through numerous seminars, lectures and workshops with educators, policymakers and groups from both countries and has pressed wider freedoms to communicate about our common bonds and negotiate over our disagreements.

Like thousands of other Iranians living abroad, Professor Esfandieri is an academic who took a personal trip to see her family. If she as one individual scholar threatens this regime so much that they have to interrogate her for almost five months and detain her in a notorious prison cell known for human rights abuses, then one has to assume this regime is desperate to retain whatever control it can.

Today, the Iranian leadership's lack of courage and conscience is as clear as it is disappointing.

It is evident that this regime is criminalizing scholarly work of any kind, despite the fact that Iran's very own history is filled with centuries of scholarly research and discovery. This regime's egregious decision to imprison

Dr. Esfandieri reflects a deepening departure from the values and ideals the Iranian people have historically prided themselves on.

Iran's renowned nationalist Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh once said "There is no better way to govern Iran than democracy and social justice!"

Professor Esfandieri should be released immediately. Every day she is so unjustly detained, Iran proves the case of its detractors and makes it all the more difficult for institutions like Dr. Esfandieri's Wilson Center to treat the Iranian people with the respect that should be afforded to an historic civilization and citizenship of 70 million people.

STATEMENT ON THE ARREST IN TEHRAN OF
HALEH ESFANDIARI, DIRECTOR OF THE WOODROW
WILSON CENTER'S MIDDLE EAST PROGRAM

Haleh Esfandieri, director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and a dual Iranian-American national, was arrested in Tehran on May 8 and incarcerated in the Evin Prison.

The background to this entirely unjustified arrest is as follows:

TIME LINE OF EVENTS

December 21, 2006, Haleh Esfandieri, director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and a dual Iranian-American national, traveled from Washington D.C. to Tehran, Iran to visit her 93-year-old mother for one week.

On December 30, 2006, on her way to the airport to catch a flight back to Washington, the taxi in which Dr. Esfandieri was riding was stopped by three masked, knife-wielding men. They threatened to kill her, and they took away all of her belongings, including her Iranian and American passports.

On January 3, when applying for replacement Iranian travel documents at the passport office, Dr. Esfandieri was invited to an "interview" by a man from Iran's Ministry of Intelligence.

Beginning on January 4, she was subjected to a series of interrogations that stretched out over the next six weeks, sometimes continuing for as many as four days a week, and sometimes stretching across seven and eight hours in a single day. Dr. Esfandieri went home every evening, but the interrogations were unpleasant and not free from intimidation and threat.

The questioning focused almost entirely on the activities and programs of the Middle East Program at the Wilson Center. Dr. Esfandieri answered all questions fully; when she could not remember details of programs stretching back five and even eight years, the staff at the Wilson Center provided her all the information requested. As a public organization, all Wilson Center activities are on the public record. Repeatedly during the interrogation, she was pressured to make a false confession or to falsely implicate the Wilson Center in activities in which it had no part, but she refused.

On Friday, January 15, in the third week of interrogations, Dr. Esfandieri was told (misleadingly as it turned out) the questioning was over. On January 18, the interrogator and three other men showed up at Dr. Esfandieri's mother's apartment. Dr. Esfandieri was taking a nap and was startled to wake up and see the door to her bedroom open, her privacy violated, and three strange men, one of them wielding a video-camera, staring into her bedroom.

On February 14, the lengthy interrogations stopped.

On February 17, Haleh received one threatening phone call, and then she did not hear

anything from her interrogators for ten weeks.

On February 20, Lee Hamilton, president and director of the Wilson Center, wrote to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad asking that Dr. Esfandieri be allowed to travel. However, President Ahmadinejad did not reply to the letter.

At the end of April or early May, she was telephoned once again and invited to "co-operate." In effect, she was being asked to make a confession. She refused to make the false statements.

On Monday, May 7 she was summoned to the Ministry of Intelligence once again. When she arrived for her appointment on Tuesday morning, May 8th, she was put into a car and taken to Evin prison. She was incarcerated and was allowed only one phone call to her mother.

On May 9 she called her mother asking her to bring her clean clothes and her medicine. Her mother delivered the small package at Evin Prison on May 10, but was not allowed to see her.

On May 12, the hard-line daily "Kayhan" in an article accused Dr. Esfandieri of working with the U.S. and Israeli governments and with involvement in efforts to topple Iran's Islamic regime.

On May 15, Iranian judiciary spokesman Ali Reza Jamshidi said that Dr. Esfandieri was being investigated for crimes against national security and that her case was being handled by the Intelligence Ministry.

On May 15, Haleh made a brief telephone call to her mother.

On May 16, Haleh's family retained the legal services of Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi to represent her.

On May 17, in an interview with Washington Post Staff Writer Robin Wright, Shirin Ebadi indicated that the Iranian government has rejected her request to represent Dr. Esfandieri. She also noted the court refused information on the legal charges against Dr. Esfandieri, and denied her legal team the ability to see Haleh.

On May 21 state-run television broadcasts in Iran indicated that Haleh is being charged with seeking to topple the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Our efforts to obtain Haleh's release will continue and will be redoubled. She will be in our thoughts and prayers every day.

TRIBUTE HONORING LIEUTENANT
MARTIN CUELLAR, JR., ON HIS
RETIREMENT

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Martin Cuellar, Jr., on his retirement from the Texas State Department of Public Safety, where he served in law enforcement for the past 25 years.

Lieutenant Cuellar has an extensive background in criminal justice and has trained with the Webb County Basic Peace Officer Training Academy, and the Department of Public Safety Trooper Academy. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and earned an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice from Laredo Community College. His criminal justice background helped him serve as a lieutenant with the Department of Public Safety in the narcotics service as a part of the Directed Intelligence Group, and as deputy sheriff with the Webb County Sheriff's Department.

Lieutenant Cuellar has worked in open and covert investigations resulting in seizures of thousands of pounds of narcotics throughout the State of Texas. He also has worked in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies in cases involving murder, kidnappings, and extortion, and in international investigations regarding shipment of narcotics with Federal and State law enforcement agencies in the United States and Mexico. He has also been recognized by the Department of Defense and the United States Army for his assistance in the return of a wounded U.S. soldier to the United States.

While working in law enforcement, he met his wife, Veronica Cuellar, who is employed with the United States Probation Office. They have two beautiful children, Zachary and Casey, both of whom currently attend St. Augustine School in Laredo, Texas. I wish him and his family the best in his well-deserved retirement from an accomplished and highly regarded law enforcement career.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication and commitment of Lieutenant Martin Cuellar, Jr., to the law enforcement community in south Texas.

HONORING MICHAEL OAKLEY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the bravery of Mr. Michael Oakley of Savannah, Tennessee. On the night of April 13, 2005, Mr. Oakley showed the highest form of human compassion when he risked his own life to save an unknown motorist trapped in a vehicle that was engulfed in flames following a traffic accident. Despite the extreme heat of the fire and suffering from severe burns, Mr. Oakley returned to the wrecked sport utility vehicle multiple times, determined to save another man's life. Thankfully, Mr. Oakley was successful.

In honor of this astounding act of selflessness, Mr. Michael Oakley was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Extraordinary Civilian Heroism. This award is given by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission and Mr. Oakley was one of only 19 to receive this recognition. He was chosen for this award due to his outstanding courage which should stand as an inspiration to all men and women across Tennessee and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in both thanking and congratulating Mr. Michael Oakley for his heroism; he is indeed, a worthy recipient of this outstanding honor. And may God bless all of the Michael Oakleys of America.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY CHIEF
WARRANT OFFICER CHARLIE
RAY PARKER, JR.

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an ex-

ceptional officer in the United States Army, CWO5 Charlie Ray Parker, Jr., upon his retirement after 40 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, first as an enlisted Army private, then as a non-commissioned officer, and finally as a commissioned warrant officer, Warrant Officer Parker personified the seven Army values, particularly those of duty, integrity, respect, and selfless service across the many missions the Army asked him to execute. It is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

Beginning his career in March 1967, Warrant Officer Parker entered into active duty from the State of Virginia as an enlisted soldier. He achieved the rank of staff sergeant while serving as a motor sergeant in the First Battalion (Airborne), 325th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Staff Sergeant Parker served in the 82nd Airborne Division from March 1970 until receiving his appointment as a warrant officer in March 1977. His formula for success was simple, "work hard to accomplish your mission and take care of your soldiers," a formula he still follows today.

In June 1987, then Chief Warrant Officer 3 Parker served as the staff maintenance technician for the Logistic Readiness Division, 200th Theater Army Materiel Management Center in Zweibruecken, Germany. He was the principal automotive maintenance technical advisor to the Commander. As such, Warrant Officer Parker was singularly responsible for the increased readiness status in the 600 units of United States Army, Europe. His total dedication to this vital mission was a key to maintaining theater war fighting capability and allowed for the smooth deployment of U.S. V and VII Corps units to Operation Desert Storm in Southwest Asia.

By December 2000, Warrant Officer Parker was the Plans and Training Development Branch Chief, managing the development, implementation, and evaluation of training for the Warrant Officer Candidate Course, Staff Course, and Senior Staff Course for active and reserve component Warrant Officers. He also laid the groundwork for the Warrant Officer Mentorship Program, which is now implemented throughout the United States Army. As the most senior warrant officer in the Army Ordnance Corps, he used his position to ensure African-American soldiers were provided the same opportunities due every soldier who attended Army Warrant Officer Career Courses. His genuine concern for the welfare and development of warrant officers and candidates proves an enduring inspiration to all.

Most recently, as the senior evaluator for the \$1.6 billion combat logistics support system—Global Combat Support System—Army (Field and Tactical), Warrant Officer Parker developed an operational test and evaluation strategy for the Enterprise Planning Solution designed to ensure enterprise elements such as supply, maintenance, property, finance, and task organization processes are adequately evaluated in accordance with public law. This new system will transform Army logistics by ensuring direct support of Joint Force and Army military operations ranging from garrison duty to expeditionary deployments, ultimately reducing the need for forward deployed logisticians.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Chief Warrant Offi-

cer 5 Parker for his commitment, sacrifice, and contribution throughout these 40 years. I congratulate him on completing an exceptional and extremely successful career.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR JOHN
REDDING, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Mayor John Redding, Jr., of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. John Redding passed away on Monday, May 21, from complications from heart surgery. It is with sadness, but with fond memories and the promise of his ascension to a better place that I honor John Redding's life and memory today.

As a resident of Chambersburg for 51 years, Redding was the very definition of public service. For almost all his life, John was an active member of his community, serving on the Chambersburg Board of Directors, as chairman of the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority, as a council representative, and later as mayor of Chambersburg Borough, his hometown and the community to which he dedicated his life.

As a man of deep faith, brave courage and impassioned loyalty, Redding made his community a better place to work and live. The outpouring of support from his friends and neighbors upon his passing is a testament to the way he lived his life and a sign that the legacy he left on Chambersburg and the whole of Franklin County will not be forgotten.

More than this, it is my privilege to have known John personally and to have called him my friend. He and my family worked closely over 30 years to make Franklin County a better place to live and work and his effort was not in vain. Franklin County continues to be a showcase for economic investment, growth and opportunity in central Pennsylvania. Its success bears the mark of John's tireless efforts.

John was a pillar of dedication, commitment and leadership. He will be missed, but never forgotten.

EMERGENCY CHILD CARE
SERVICES ACT OF 2007

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Child Care Services Act of 2007 which reaffirms the Federal Government's commitment to helping children and families as they recover from acts of terrorism, major disasters or other emergencies.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, more than 3,000 licensed child care facilities along the Gulf Coast were damaged or destroyed. Parents needed a safe place to leave their children while working, looking for employment, cleaning debris from their homes, filing