

a group of human rights advocates about her recent visit with her imprisoned father, the heroic Chinese democracy activist Wang Bingzhang. Dr. Wang is a founding father of the post-Mao Chinese democracy movement; he personally founded or co-founded a magazine, a movement, and a political party dedicated to promoting democracy.

Dr. Wang is an incredibly brave man who is serving a life sentence in China for "espionage" and "terrorism"—these are the Chinese Government's words for promoting democracy. In fact "espionage" and "terrorism" come close to describing the Chinese Government's own behavior in pursuing Dr. Wang, a permanent U.S. resident whom Chinese Government agents abducted from Vietnam in June 2002, smuggled back into China, and secretly held incommunicado for 6 months, before subjecting him to a "star chamber" trial in January 2003. The U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has ruled that Dr. Wang's detention is arbitrary.

Madam Speaker, any father would consider himself extremely blessed to have a daughter like Ti-Anna. When I first met with her, a few months ago, I was deeply moved by how determinedly she has been working for his release. I'm sure the love she is showing for her father is bearing fruit in his life, comforting him while he is in prison.

Today, Madam Speaker, is the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—an inspiring document, much of which remains a promissory note, unredeemed by so many governments of the world. It is our duty to continue pressing the governments of the world, including our own, to live up to this declaration. Let's keep working, and keep praying, in solidarity with Dr. Wang and Ti-Anna and all those denied the rights that the Universal Declaration promotes.

Madam Speaker, I would like to introduce into the record Ti-Anna's report on her recent visit with her father and his condition.

I would like to start by thanking everyone here, on behalf of my family, for taking the time to come to this event. Since I started my work in DC, I've been lucky enough to be surrounded by supportive, generous and kind people who are genuinely concerned about my father's case. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in his fight for freedom. More specifically, I would like to thank Dr. Yang, Congressman Wolf, Congressman Smith, Congressman Ros-Lehtinen, and Senator Feinstein for their recent work on my father's case. It is the compassion of every one here that gives my family hope and reason to believe that the unlikely is possible.

I'm here today to tell you about my recent visit with my father just two weeks ago. To give a little background, my father's sentence allows for only one visit a month. Each of these visits last about 30 minutes.

The standard procedure is that my family receives a visitation notice in the mail that lets us know the date of the visit.

As my whole family lives in North America, we usually have a very short amount of time to make the necessary travel arrangements for a long trip to China. Once there, we have to go through a lengthy authorization process before we are allowed to see him. For my latest visit, I had some difficulties getting my visa as scheduled, and didn't have the proper paperwork, which added a lot of additional stress to this already difficult process.

The visit takes place in a bare concrete building that borders the gate of his remote

prison, several miles away from the closest city. It is so secluded that we have to be driven there by the prison officials, as some of the terrain in that area has yet to be paved.

Right before we can meet, the prison authorities remind us of the rules and regulations, which include only speaking in Chinese, and staying away from topics that will cause my father anxiety. These visits are conducted in visitation booths and are monitored by four prison officials, two standing behind the each of us.

Separated by metal bars and two layers of Plexiglas, my father and I can only communicate using a telephone.

I was very nervous about seeing my father this time. It had been over a year since my last visit, and my family had lost contact with him for two months without any clear explanations from the prison, so I was worried about the state that my father was in. I was so relieved when I was finally able to see him, cheerful enough to smile.

My first concern was his health. My father said that while he is stable, his chronic allergies and severe phlebitis continues to plague him. We talked mostly about my family, my educational future and the work that we are doing on his behalf. As we spoke, it was clear to me that my father's untreated depression and psychological health continues to worsen.

He had difficulty making steady eye contact and sometimes repeated the same sentences several times. The prison officials monitoring our conversation were kind enough to allot us an extra 10 minutes.

My father wanted me to let everyone know that he is eternally grateful for all the work that has been done on his behalf and that he remains hopeful that justice will prevail.

As our conversation came to an end, my father began to cry. He said the thought of never seeing his ailing 87-year-old mother again often brings him to tears and that his only wish is that they will be reunited before it's too late.

It has now been over 6 years that my father, now almost 62 years old, lingers alone in prison. I come here today in hopes of conveying the message that my father's situation has become ever more critical and his time is running out. This is the third time I've visited my father, and it is obvious that both his physical and mental health are deteriorating. He has aged so much in the last few years, and his depression is becoming dangerously severe. The prison authorities have told my family that my father's only chance of receiving medical parole is if he admits guilt to the charges of "terrorism" and "espionage" . . . but I know that my father would never, nor does my family want him to confess to claims that are not only false, but that will comprise his dignity and values.

As we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I just want to remind everyone that it is because of my father's unwavering commitment to this cause that he is being so unjustly punished today.

As the founder of the Chinese overseas democracy movement, there was nothing harder that my father fought for than the values of human rights, freedom and democracy for the people of his homeland.

His contribution to his beliefs has now cost him 6 years of solitary confinement, and possibly his life if we do not continue to fight for his freedom.

So I would like to close today by asking the present and new administration to call for my father's immediate release on medical and humanitarian grounds.

I also invite everyone here, along with your friends and family to visit

www.initiativesforchina.org to sign an online petition addressed to President Hu Jintao, also calling for my father's release.

Lastly, I would like to work with congressional leaders toward the goal of obtaining honorary U.S. citizenship for my father as recognition of his lifelong service to democracy and as a statement of America's commitment to making human rights a priority in its agenda.

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone here for coming and for your sincere concern for my father.

IN HONOR OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR THEODORE N. TANCZUK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Theodore N. Tanczuk, as he retires after 26 years of service in the U.S. Army, and in recognition of his outstanding dedication to our country.

CSM Theodore Tanczuk was born in Cleveland on December 6, 1948, a few years after the end of World War II. In 1971, while in his early twenties, he enlisted in the Army. Commander Sergeant Major Tanczuk quickly moved through the ranks and graduated from nursing school, becoming a licensed practical nurse (LPN). In 1982, his vision and dedication to developing the medical department in the U.S. Military led him to set up a nursing school program through the U.S. Army and local nursing schools in Northeast Ohio. The program was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Army, and students who completed the program graduated in one year. 65 of the 68 people who completed this program went on the graduate from nursing schools and work as LPNs in Ohio. Commander Sergeant Major Tanczuk served as a guide and mentor to each of the students throughout the entire process, until they too went on to serve our country in local hospitals all over northeast Ohio.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of CSM Theodore N. Tanczuk, and in recognition of his outstanding service to our country. May his work as an LPN and mentor to other military servicemen serve as an example for all of us to follow.

HONORING JAMES FRANK POLLARD

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a larger-than-life Texan, James Frank Pollard. This afternoon in San Angelo, TX, Frank will be laid to rest. I ask my colleagues and all those present in the chamber to join me in offering their thoughts and prayers to his beloved family, daughter Lisa, son Jim, daughter-in-law Wendy, and his grandchildren, Charles and Sophia.

Born to Charlie and Grace Pollard in Coleman, TX in 1931, Frank's ingrained Texan values, can-do spirit, and a healthy dose of pragmatism drove him to make his mark in many

arenas. A graduate of the University of Mines in El Paso and a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Korean War, Frank jumped into the family business just in time to play an integral role in some of the most storied oil discoveries in Texas. A lifelong student, he always had a book handy to feed his quest for knowledge.

It was during his wildcatting days that Frank embarked on the biggest adventure of his life—his 35-year marriage to Martha. They settled into the life of a west Texas ranching family moving to Fort Stockton and then Alpine to raise their three children. The tragic death of their oldest child, Mark, only served to strengthen the Pollard family's bond by encouraging them all to live every day to the absolute fullest.

A man who could play devil's advocate on any issue, "Daddy Frank" was one of a kind. No matter the topic or the audience he could offer opinions and hold court. With a larger-than-life personality, he could enjoy himself in a roomful full of oilmen or children. He knew when to lead, when to inspire, and when to let someone learn their own lessons.

If Hollywood had ever wanted to put a real Texas wildcatter and rancher on the silver screen, a casting director could have struck Texas gold with Frank Pollard. Always armed with a story, a joke, a way to draw people in, Daddy Frank was the epitome of the proud Texas wildcatter from the tips of his boots to the top of his cowboy hat, and we can all learn from his example of what it means to have Texas integrity.

On December 6, Frank was reunited with his beloved Martha and their oldest son, Mark. He leaves behind for his family and friends a lifetime of Daddy Frank stories to tell and a legacy of the Texas spirit. Once again, I thank those in the chamber and all Americans for allowing me to share Frank's story of the importance of family, friends, and living life each and every day to the fullest.

TRIBUTE TO JUDIE BOLAM

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Judie Bolam, Judie recently celebrated 10 years of service in my Omaha Congressional Office. She is a dedicated servant to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. She works hard and deserves accolades.

Judie serves as staff assistant for my Omaha Congressional Office. Judie has the unofficial title of "director of first impressions." She starts every day taking the time to speak to each staff member face to face. She is a dedicated worker who always has a smile and her face and knows everyone by first name.

Judie, thank you for your positive attitude. It has made a difference in every project you worked on over the past 10 years. I am lucky to have found you, and I know the staff believes the office is lucky you found us. Hard work and patience pays off, and we could not have done it without you, Judie. Thank you.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF KRISTALLNACHT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congregation Shaarey Tikvah in Beachwood, Ohio as they commemorate the seventieth anniversary of Kristallnacht—The Night of Shattered Glass.

Kristallnacht was a series of events that began on the night of November 9, 1938 in which the Nazi Third Reich in Germany and Austria destroyed over 200 synagogues, thousands of stores, hundreds of homes and a number of Jewish community centers in what is widely considered to be the beginning of the Holocaust. I stand with the members of Congregation Shaarey Tikvah and all members of the Greater Cleveland Community in marking November 9, 2008 as the official 70-Year Remembrance Day of Kristallnacht. I also rise in recognition of the organizers of this important interfaith program as all members of our community join in remembering the lives of those lost during the Holocaust and in commemorating this historical night. Their contributions exemplify the diversity and culture that our community is so fortunate to possess.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Kristallnacht and in honor of Congregation Shaarey Tikvah as they join with members of our community in commemorating this historic event.

HONORING DENNIS RAINIER'S RETIREMENT FROM MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Rainier on his retirement after over 37 years of service.

Dennis grew up in Maryland and came to Murfreesboro to play baseball for my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University. Like many MTSU alums, he never left Murfreesboro.

In 1971, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Director Ray Duffy noticed a young man working with children in a gym at Hobgood Elementary School. Dennis Rainier was holding a basketball camp, and Mr. Duffy must have liked what he saw because he offered Dennis the position of Assistant Director that day. Nine years later, Mr. Duffy retired, and Dennis was appointed to lead the fledgling Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department that would become one of the best programs in Tennessee.

Under Dennis' direction, the Old Fort Golf Course was constructed, as was SportsCom, StarPlex, Barfield-Crescent Park, and Patterson Park Community Center, each offering a variety of fitness opportunities for everyone in Murfreesboro.

Dennis and I worked together on making the Stones River Greenway and the Discovery

Center and Nature Trail at Murfree Spring a reality. Tens of thousands of people use the Greenway, and an estimated 100,000 children and families explore the Discovery Center's exhibits each year.

In addition to fitness complexes, golf courses and greenways, Murfreesboro also hosts a variety of State high school sports championships. These events bring millions of tourist dollars into the city, and Dennis always worked hard to make them a success.

Dennis, I've enjoyed working with you and have always appreciated your "can-do" attitude. I hope you enjoy a long and happy retirement with your wife, children and grandchild.

TRIBUTE TO CROOK COUNTY JUDGE SCOTT COOPER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, It is with great pride and gratitude that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding public servant and community leader from Oregon's Second Congressional District, Crook County Judge Scott Cooper. Scott has chosen to conclude his service as county judge at the end of this month, and I would like to share with our colleagues some background on this special leader.

Judge Cooper was elected to his post in November 2000, and has served two terms in office. Before taking office as county judge, Scott was a member of the Prineville City Council, serving from 1997–2000.

The position of county judge triggers memories of Oregon's great frontier history, but the role is not one of living in the past. Judge Cooper's colleagues will all tell you one thing definite about him: he gets things done. Shortly after coming to office and learning that the historic county courthouse had been without hot water for years, Judge Cooper decided he was going to get that fixed. Naysayers told him that it had been tried before, but it would cost too much and couldn't be done. A call to a local plumber and a mere \$20 later, folks realized the Judge wasn't one to take no for an answer. This isn't the only example. Technologically speaking, he brought Crook County into the 21st Century. When Judge Cooper came into office, many recall that the Crook County system of government had many moving parts. Thirty different departments worked separately of each other with little formal interaction. Without this formality among the departments and residents, county administration and budgeting tended to be a little chaotic. Judge Cooper's vision led to a computer network being created so departments could interact and set up a county Web site where residents could keep track of county services and business. Reflecting Scott's core beliefs that public service is about fiscal responsibility and making customer service a priority, Crook County now works as one body for the betterment of the whole.

Judge Cooper has served not only Crook County well, but has looked out for the interests of central Oregon and the State as a whole in a wide variety of positions during his