

a member of the Southwestern Illinois College Board of Trustees since October 1995.

In recognition of Sam's tireless efforts to expand and improve Southwestern Illinois College, the Granite City Campus is named the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus. This is a fitting tribute for a man who has done so much to provide quality educational opportunities for current and future generations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mr. Sam Wolf for his many contributions to the Southwestern Illinois region and to wish him the very best in the future.

#### CHARCOT-MARIE-TOOTH AWARENESS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 19-25

### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to the first Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) Awareness Week, September 19-25, 2010. This week-long event is coordinated by the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA), and its members have been working towards educating Americans about the disease.

Discovered in the late 1800s by physicians Jean-Martin Charcot, Pierre Marie and Howard Henry Tooth, CMT is a slowly progressive disease which attacks the nerves that control sensory information and muscle function of the feet, legs and arms. Although CMT is not life-threatening, it can cause severe disabilities, and patients may lose feeling in their legs and arms.

CMT is one of the most commonly inherited neurological disorders of our time. It affects nearly 2.6 million people worldwide, without regards to ethnicity or gender. One in every 2,500 Americans has CMT, and in the Tampa, St. Petersburg area alone, more than 300 people have been diagnosed.

To date, there is no cure for CMT, but groups like CMTA are working diligently with scientists from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to find a solution, and they are hopeful that a cure will be found in the coming future. The CMTA was founded in 1983 to generate the resources to find a cure, to create awareness and to improve the quality of life for those living with CMT. CMTA believes that before there can be a world without CMT the world has to be aware of CMT.

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia held activities this week to raise awareness of CMT. In my hometown of Tampa Bay, CMTA members distributed informational pamphlets to students at Eckerd College and to families at local post offices and libraries.

Madam Speaker, raising awareness about CMT through CMT Awareness Week will help to educate communities about this disease and help to find a cure for this disorder.

#### RECORD NUMBER OF AMERICANS DISTRUST THE MEDIA

### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, more Americans than ever distrust the mass media, according to a new Gallup public opinion poll.

Just 12 percent say they have "a great deal" of confidence in the media to report the news "fully, accurately, and fairly."

A majority have little or no confidence in the media.

And by a margin of more than 3 to 1, Americans say the media are too liberal rather than too conservative, tying the highest mark of this decade.

Americans have good reason to be skeptical of the media. They repeatedly promote a liberal agenda and give the Obama Administration and Congressional Democrats a free pass.

If the national media want to restore the public's trust, they should give Americans the facts, not tell them what to think.

#### BEDROS VARTAN YESSAIA: A SURVIVOR'S STORY

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through the Armenian Genocide CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Members of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

This is one of those stories: (translated by the son and daughter of Bedros Vartan Yessaian—Hovhannes Yessaian and Dench Bedros Yessaian, respectively—a survivor of the Armenian Genocide.)

This is the true story in every detail that has been told to me and my sister by my father.—Hovhannes Yessaian.

#### BEDROS VARTAN YESSAIA: A SURVIVOR'S STORY

My name is Bedros Vartan Yessaian. I was born in 1904 in a village called (Kinjilar), which is not far from Izmit and Istanbul, and had about 2,500 inhabitants, most of which were Armenians. My father is Vartan and my mother is Denchali. We were four brothers,

Antranig (born 1889), Ohannes (born 1901) Bedros (born 1904) and Jirair (born 1907). My mother had two brothers, Minas and Hagop.

It was in the summer of 1915 that the Ottoman government gave orders that all Armenian males aged 18-45 go to the military service, while the rest of the family was to be deported. My father went to the military but actually was working as a day laborer cutting stones to pave roads.

So I accompanied my mother and two brothers, Antranig and Jirair, in deportation. My other brother, Ohannes, and two uncles were at that time in Istanbul and escaped deportation. In few days time we gathered what we could carry and took the train to a city called Konya. From there we walked all the way to Derzor, sometimes hiring horse or oxen driven carts, if we could find one.

Later we learned a pregnant woman of our village had childbirth at the departure time and was obliged to throw her newborn child into the nearby Sakaria River. She was the young wife of Janig Belalian.

On our way we came across Armenian soldiers working as stone cutters and paving the road for the Berlin Baghdad railway project. My father was one of them, and was able to escape his group and joined us in the death march.

Somehow we managed our way until Aleppo in Syria. On the way many died of starvation, thirst and hunger besides the cruel treatment of the police and gendarmes. After that the march was horrible in the desert, especially for who live in colder climate.

Although the Euphrates River was nearby, we were forced to march far from it, as some would die of thirst and exhaustion. Sometimes we march in endless circles ending in the afternoon at same place we started in the morning.

We marched on foot from Aleppo to Meskena, Rakka Derzor and Shaddadiya. My younger brother, Jirair, died of starvation and hunger. We continued our march without knowing our final destination. On a rainy day and still under the tents, my father asked my brother, Antranig, to buy a cup of tea from the street vendor. My brother said he has no money. Father pulled the bed sheet over his head and few hours later we found him dead.

Few weeks later my mother died. Neighbors came consoling me and wishing them a peaceful death. In the morning the collector came and took her body. All who had died were stripped of their clothes and their bare bodies were thrown into a large ditch.

The more we marched the more the police and gendarmes grew cruel. They beat, tortured, raped and killed innocent and unarmed people. In a neighboring caravan two young beautiful girls threw themselves into the Euphrates River preferring death to rape. Raping became more regular and even pregnant women were not spared. The gendarmes gambled on the gender of the unborn child by cutting the woman's abdomen by sword letting the woman die in her blood.

The Arab Nomads who live in the Syrian Desert used to come to our tents asking us to live with them instead of sure death. Thousands of Armenians were thus saved. I saw no hope and informed my brother that I was going to live with the Arabs. My brother stayed with the caravan and later I learned that he reached Mosul city in Iraq.

With Arab nomads I stayed for two years and my Arab (parents) treated me as if their own biological son. The Arab Sheikhs (head of a tribe) even refused the invitation of the Turkish authorities to participate in killing the Armenians and keep any looted property.

They treated all the saved children and women with respect and dignity. While with the Arabs, I saw Turks forcing the Armenians to collect dry bushes and thorns and

later pushed them into a cave. then they burned the bushes and all inside the cave died of burns or choked to death.

Later I left my Arab parents and fled to Istanbul where my two uncles and brother Ohannes lived. After the armistice I returned to my village with my brother Ohannes and Uncle Hagop.

However in 1922, Kemal Ataturk forces invaded the western part of Turkey burning villages and killing the Christians. My uncle Hagop and brother Ohannes were killed and the entire village of Kinjilar was burnt to ashes. I fled the massacre to Istanbul and from there to Greece with my uncle Minas who later emigrated to Armenia.

After learning that my brother was in Baghdad I traveled to Baghdad and formed a family. My wife Serpoochi was also a genocide survivor, originally from Bilejik, a nearby village to Kinjilar.

—Bedros Vartan Yessaian

**HONORING NED AND MARY ANN ABRAHAMSEN ON RECEIVING THE ATTORNEY ROBERT W. MUNLEY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM LACKAWANNA PRO BONO**

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Ned and Mary Ann Abrahamson on receiving the Attorney Robert W. Munley Distinguished Service Award from Lackawanna Pro Bono.

Lackawanna Pro Bono is a non-profit organization established in 1997 to increase the availability of free legal representation for low-income individuals and families throughout Lackawanna County.

Over the past thirteen years they have organized local attorneys to volunteer their time to provide representation in over 2,000 cases, and in the process have helped nearly 5,000 residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Lackawanna Pro Bono will host its second annual Fundraising Gala on October 21, 2010 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. For the second year, Lackawanna Pro Bono will honor a select number of individuals and organizations who have demonstrated excellent service to the community with its Attorney Robert W. Munley Distinguished Service Award.

This year's group of deserving recipients includes Mr. and Mrs. Ned and Mary Ann Abrahamson of Scranton.

Edwin "Ned" Abrahamson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1951. He graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in 1973, and received his Juris Doctorate from the Dickinson School of Law in 1976.

Mary Ann Conaboy Abrahamson was born in Scranton in 1951. She graduated from Marywood College in 1973 before also receiving her Juris Doctorate from Dickinson School of Law in 1976.

Together, they are partners at Abrahamson, Conaboy & Abrahamson in Scranton. Mr. Abrahamson specializes in personal injury cases, while Mary Ann specializes in family law, particularly in the areas of real estate, wills trusts and estates, and divorce. Their firm

has received the Equal Access to Justice Award from the Lackawanna Bar Association and Lackawanna Pro Bono, as well as the Pro Bono Award from their Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Throughout their professional careers, Mr. and Mrs. Abrahamson have continuously donated their time and efforts throughout the community.

Mr. Abrahamson has served as Solicitor of the Scranton School District and School Building Authority and the Old Forge School District, and currently serves as Solicitor of Blakely Borough. He is also Chairman of the Financial Committee of St. Joseph's Church in Scranton.

Mrs. Abrahamson has served as President of the Parents Club at Scranton Preparatory School, Chairman of the Board at Scranton Prep, President of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Poor, and as Secretary of the Lackawanna Bar Association.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. and Mrs. Abrahamson. Together they have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to community service in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. FRED HARRSCH**

**HON. STEVE KAGEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Mr. Fred Harrsch for his dedication in upholding the great tradition of the Green Bay Packers fence along Lombardi Avenue in the shadow of Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Mr. Harrsch inherited the Packer tradition 6 years ago when he took ownership of the fence which creates a unique sense of pride and camaraderie among fans. As friends, family, and visitors gather this football season to pay tribute to his hard work and contributions, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this outstanding individual.

Hundreds of thousands of fans pass by the city landmark on their pilgrimage to Lambeau Field, which dons a new coat of paint and a fresh slogan at the start of every season. This season, Mr. Harrsch has chosen the slogan, "In Coach McCarthy We Trust", in honor of the Packers head coach. In addition to more than 100 volunteers who turned out to help Mr. Harrsch paint the fence this year, two special guests came to take part—Packers President and CEO Mark Murphy, and the fence's original owner, Steve Kraft. This marks the 26th year of the fence-painting tradition.

Madam Speaker, as Fred Harrsch celebrates another year of a great Green Bay tradition, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting a truly extraordinary member of our community.

**HONORING PANG GE MOUA**

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Major Pang Ge Moua

for his dedication and service to his country and his community. Major Moua passed away at the age of 81 on August 8th, 2010 in Fresno, California. A service honoring his life will be held on Saturday, August 21, 2010 in Fresno.

Major Moua was born on October 20th, 1928, in Ban Nong Het, Xiengkhouang province, Kingdom of Laos, 1928. In 1948, he completed grade 3 in the Lao elementary school in the same village where he was born. In 1963, Mr. Moua was recruited to train as a walking fighter, also known as an infantry man. After completing the training, he was placed in the 1st Company, 201st Battalion, Special Guerrilla Units where he served in southeast Asia and Laos during the Vietnam Conflict. Mr. Moua served in this unit through May 1975. During his time with the military, Mr. Moua participated in a number of missions for the United States and the Kingdom of Laos. For his outstanding service, Mr. Moua was promoted to the rank of Major. After the United States withdrew its troops and support from Indochina, Mr. Moua fled to Thailand and eventually moved on to the United States, where he settled on June 21, 1989.

Major Moua received a number of citations and awards for his service in southeast Asia including the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Veteran's Medal, the Vietnam Veteran's National Medal and the Lao Veterans of America National Medal.

Upon moving to the United States, Major Moua became active in community affairs. In 1991, he became a member of the Lao Veterans of America, Inc. The Lao Veterans of America, Inc. represents veterans who served the United States honorably during the Vietnam War. It is the largest organization of its kind in the U.S. and includes thousands of Hmong and Lao veterans and their families. Major Moua was elected to serve in a leadership role in the Lao Veterans of America Fresno Sub-Chapter in 2002. He has also attended Lao Veterans of America events in Washington, D.C. many times over the past few years.

Major Moua will be remembered for all that he has sacrificed and for all that he has achieved. He is survived by his wife, Kao Kim Lee, and their 7 children.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Major Pang Ge Moua for his dedication to his family, his country and his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

**CALLING ON JAPAN TO ADDRESS CHILD ABDUCTION CASES**

SPEECH OF

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 28, 2010*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1326, a resolution calling on the Government of Japan to immediately address the growing problem of American children abducted to Japan.

Since 1994, the Office of Children's Issues—commonly referred to as OCI—at the United States State Department had opened