

government might be open to accepting a detainee for resettlement as a way to improve relations with the United States.

In the spring of 2008, Michael and I went to Guantánamo and talked with Oybek about Ireland and about our hope that we could secure his release there. He wanted to go to a free, democratic country and Ireland certainly qualified, but he did not even know where Ireland was and I wound up drawing a free-hand map attempting to locate Ireland in Western Europe. On our return from Guantánamo, Michael made additional visits to Ireland, and single handedly started a human rights campaign on behalf of Oybek. He talked to ministers in the Irish Government, who expressed interest in helping us, but had great concerns of political ramifications of taking a Guantánamo detainee. He had members of the Dail, Ireland's parliament, raise questions to the Government in debate and made Oybek's case a prominent public issue. Past President Ralph Lancaster kindly put me in contact with his friend Former Senator George Mitchell, who the Irish revere because of his work on bringing peace to Northern Ireland. Senator Mitchell hand delivered a letter to the Irish Foreign Minister that Michael had written asking the Irish government to consider accepting Oybek for resettlement. One of our honorary Fellows, the Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, also spoke up in favor of Ireland's accepting Oybek. Senator Kennedy, Senator KERRY, and Congressman BILL DELAHUNT directly contacted the Irish government on Oybek's behalf. Many people from Boston visit Ireland and Michael had established such a presence there, that people returning to Boston called and told me that they had heard Michael on Irish radio discussing Ireland's role in helping to close Guantánamo.

By the end of 2008, with the change of administration in Washington, we had made a lot of progress, but then came the spring of our despair as the Obama Administration came into office and Congress prohibited any Guantánamo detainee from being brought to the U.S., which made it much more difficult to convince a third country to grant asylum to men to whom the U.S. would not accept. In the spring of 2009, with no progress, despair set in at Guantánamo and many of the detainees, including Oybek, began a hunger strike, which caused me great concern that a hunger strike would affect Ireland's interest in Oybek. My son, however pointed out that if anyone understood the despair of confinement leading to a hunger strike, it was the Irish. By late summer of 2009, it was clear that the Irish had not given up on Oybek and were prepared to grant asylum, not only to Oybek, but to one of the other four Uzbeks because they were committed to taking two detainees, not just one. Oybek and the other Uzbek, who we referred to as the "Uzbek to be named later," were eventually put on a U.S. military airplane at Guantánamo and flown into Dublin where they arrived over a year ago.

When the plane with Oybek and Shakhrukh, the other Uzbek, landed in Ireland, they were shackled—hand and foot. When the representative of the Irish government got on the U.S. military plane and was told by the officer in charge that the guards were ready to escort Oybek and Shakhrukh off the plane, the Irishman said: "These men are not going anywhere until you remove the shackles and handcuffs. When they step off this plane onto Irish soil, they will do so as free men."

There was one last item left undone. During the course of our representation, Michael had tried, without success, to locate Oybek's wife and children. But without legal travel documents and afraid to return to Uzbekistan, they had lived as refugees in Central Asia since Oybek's disappearance. One day, Oybek's family was listening to the Uzbek service on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and heard Michael being interviewed about his efforts to get Oybek resettled in Ireland. Eventually, Michael was put in touch with people in Pakistan and Oybek's wife and two children were located in a refugee camp in Pakistan. Michael then worked with the Irish Government to bring his wife and his two children, one of whom he had never seen, to Ireland. This work is not over. Detainees remain at Guantánamo despite the fact that in nearly 70 percent of the cases that have been heard by Federal Judges, the writ of habeas corpus has been granted. We will continue to fight for human justice. Michael and I have filed an Appearance in another detainee's case and look forward to his eventual release.

Why did lawyers, including the Fellows of the College, undertake the representation of these men in a very unpopular cause? They did it because it is part of their DNA. It is the reason many of them went to law school. Who among you has not imagined yourself as Atticus Finch standing in that hot Alabama courtroom defending an innocent man? Every state in this country has a long tradition of lawyers providing pro bono representation in unpopular causes. When Michael and I each passed the bar, we signed a book that has the name of every lawyer who has ever practiced in Massachusetts. That roll contains the names of the lawyers who represented Sacco & Vanzetti. It has the name of Benjamin Curtis, a Massachusetts lawyer and member of the Supreme Court of the United States, who dissented in the Dred Scott case and then resigned as a matter of principle. Curtis returned to Washington in 1868 to represent the very unpopular President, Andrew Johnson, in the impeachment trial before the U.S. Senate. We all know the story of John Adams, who defended the British soldiers in the Boston Massacre, but his son, John Quincy Adams, who, after he had been President, represented the African slaves on the Spanish slave ship, the La Amistad, is also on that roll of attorneys. This is not just a Massachusetts tradition; it is the fabric of what it means to be an American lawyer. All of you have or will have an opportunity at some point in your career to undertake an unpopular representation. I would urge all of you to seize that opportunity because you will never forget it.

John Adams said that of all the things he did, which included not only the presidency, but being the driving force behind the Declaration of Independence, that the representation of the British soldiers was the best service that he had ever done for his country. Each of us standing here today would tell you that this is the best thing that we have ever done. Thank you and God bless the Constitution of the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALBERT CIMPERMAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Albert Cimperman on his induction into the Legion of Honor by the President of the French Republic. The most prestigious award that France bestows, the medal of the Knight of the Legion of Honor is reserved for soldiers and civilians who have demonstrated remarkable talent and character. Mr. Cimperman fought bravely in World War II, displaying courage and discipline in some of the most grueling battles.

Napoleon Bonaparte conferred the first medals of honor on the civil servants of the French Republic. These first medals realized his vision of a merit based award that would spur soldiers and civilians alike to pursue endeavors that would do credit to their country. The Legion of Honor is the only remaining national order remaining in France.

Mr. Cimperman fought bravely in nine campaigns during World War II, including the battles of Normandy and Ardennes. He has received six awards from the United States government for his efforts, including the Bronze Star Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. Today, Albert and his wife of 65 years, Zora, are active Parma residents. They were awarded the Joined Hearts in Giving Award in 2007 for their dedication to community volunteer work, and continue to teach a weekly line-dancing class at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center in Parma.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in thanking Mr. Albert Cimperman for his service. Without the sacrifice and perseverance of soldiers like him, the Allied Forces could not have prevailed and we would live in a much crueler, culturally impoverished, and oppressive world. It is my honor and my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Cimperman on his great accomplishment.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF IRVING GELLERT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Irv Gellert, a dear friend who passed away on November 1, 2010 at his home in Los Angeles, California.

Irv had a great sense of joie de vivre and lived his life to the fullest. He was born in January of 1917 and grew up in the rural coal mining region of Pennsylvania, where his athletic abilities and interest in sports led him to become an all-star high school football player. After attending Temple University in Philadelphia, Irv enlisted in the Army and served his country with honor and pride during World War II. When the war was over and his service ended, he enrolled in New York University Law School and graduated with a law degree in 1949.

Not long after graduating from law school, Irv married his beloved wife Harriet. In 1954,

their only child, a son Jay was born, and Irv took on one of the great roles of his life as a parent. He was a loving role model to Jay, who called him his most admired person. Just three years after Jay was born, Irv was admitted to the California Bar Association and he spent the next 30 years as a respected practicing attorney in both New York and California.

Irv's competitive nature and enduring spirit compelled his interests throughout his life. He had a passion for sports and was a dedicated Los Angeles Lakers fan. He also held a deep-seated interest in politics and closely followed elections and the political process. In the recent midterm election cycle, Irv made use of the latest technology to keep track of races across the country by following the elections on his new Apple iPad device. Each election cycle, Irv lent his support to candidates he felt would best serve his local community as well as the country he was so proud of.

Later in life, Irv's most rewarding experiences came from caring for his ailing wife during her ten-year battle with Alzheimer's. It was during the time he cared for Harriet that Irv's true nature shone through. His love, coupled with his optimism and interminable selflessness, provided comfort to Harriet, to Jay, to their family and to their many friends affected by Harriet's condition.

Irv had a genuine love for life and humor about every aspect of it. He was the most positive person I've ever known, a man who demonstrated very clearly what he believed in by how he lived. He was a man of integrity and intelligence, grace and goodness.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincere condolences to Jay Gellert, the light of Irv's life and the son of sons. In Irv's passing, we've lost a great friend and patriot whose dedication and service made our nation a better place. We mourn his passing, but take comfort in the knowledge that his legacy lives on through the wisdom he shared, through the humor and keen observations he displayed, and through all the people he touched throughout his long and extraordinary life.

RECOGNIZING CHAUNCEY POSTON

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Chauncey Poston to the City of Grass Valley, California.

Council Member Poston has a long history of service to others, beginning with his time with the United States Navy serving in Vietnam and Guam, following which he returned home to California where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from California State University, Humboldt. Since 1978, Chauncey has lived in Nevada County, where he has served as President of the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, as a member of the Grass Valley Planning Commission and the Grass Valley Traffic Safety Review Committee and since 2006, as a member of the Grass Valley City Council. Chauncey is well known for his many accomplishments and contributions to our community, including his work to ensure the

fiscal solvency of the City's infrastructure programs, facilitating the cooperation between local government, businesses and interest groups and working to address each issue the City has faced as it has grown: from traffic congestion to public safety and economic development. It is a remarkable statement of Council Member Poston's service that every part of our community, from businesses to fine and performing arts groups to environmental advocates, felt they were well represented by his efforts.

Grass Valley City Administrator Dan Holler described Chauncey well: "Throughout his years on the City Council he was dedicated to building a better community by listening to residents and businesses, by being involved in civic organizations, by making hard decisions and by focusing on the long-term vision of the City of Grass Valley." Madam Speaker, in a time where localities across our country are struggling to find competent and effective leaders, Council Member Chauncey Poston has served as a fine example of the culture of service that ought to be reflected in all elected officials, and it is my privilege to rise today in recognition of that service.

COMMENDING BRO. STUART TOMS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I rise today to commend Bro. Stuart Toms upon the occasion of his retirement from the Sweetwater Baptist Church. His unwavering dedication and service to Jackson Parish is admirable and deserving of our appreciation.

At a young age, Bro. Stuart began his impressive list of endeavors. In 1959, he was named class valedictorian of Quitman High School. He went on to further his education at Northeast Louisiana University (NLU), which today is known as the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Here, Bro. Stuart excelled as a point guard on the basketball team. In 1961–1962, he helped direct his team to their first league title in the Gulf South Conference (GSC). He was named 1963 All-GSC First Team and was inducted into the NLU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986.

After graduating from NLU, Bro. Stuart continued sharing his love of basketball as a high school coach. In this capacity, he also worked as a math teacher and principal until he retired from the school system in 1984. His talents on the sidelines matched his impressive skills on the court proven by the numerous accolades he earned for his coaching abilities. At his high school alma mater, he coached back-to-back Class B State Championship basketball teams in 1970 and 1971. Among his honors, Bro. Stuart was named Class B Coach of the Year for the State of Louisiana in 1970, inducted into the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1989 and inducted into the Jackson Parish Sports Hall of Fame this year.

Bro. Stuart commenced his career service to the Lord when he was ordained as a Baptist minister in October 1983. Following his or-

mination, he began as the pastor of Sweetwater Baptist Church where he has continued to serve the congregation for the past 27 years. Through the years, he has addressed numerous revivals, presided over many weddings and funerals and has been on two international mission trips.

Beyond his professional career, Bro. Stuart has been married for 39 years to Johnette Pardue Toms. They are the loving parents of Stuart "Stu" Toms, Jr., Dr. Catherine Lucas and Mrs. Julie Nelson, and the proud grandparents of Ty and Kale Toms, Lily Lucas and Andrew Nelson.

I have been fortunate to have attended his worship services for several years. This truly gracious man is a friend to many, and it is his connection and involvement in his community for which we should all strive to model. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bro. Stuart Toms. His commitment, compassion and leadership warrant this laudable recognition.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL L. KERLEY

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, on December 31, 2010, Michael L. Kerley, Esq. will retire from the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors after 41 years of dedicated service.

It is a rarity in our Nation's Capital to find someone who has worked in one place for more than 10 years. For Mike to have been with NAIFA for over four decades is a tremendous achievement and a testament to his devotion and his character.

Many of us in Washington know Mike as a passionate advocate for the life insurance industry and those individual agents who work tirelessly to help Americans take the steps necessary to protect their loves ones and their employees from financial disaster in the wake of life's inevitable risks. Members on both sides of the aisle have had the pleasure of working with Mike and know him to be a man of high integrity and sincerity.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike on an incredibly successful career and wishing him well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 626 on, H.R. 4994, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendments, The Medicare & Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010 Agree to Senate Amendment, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 627 on, H.R. 6412, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass, Access to Criminal History Records for State Sentencing Commissions Act of