

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO IMMEDIATELY ADDRESS THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ABDUCTION TO AND RETENTION OF UNITED STATES CITIZEN MINOR CHILDREN IN JAPAN, TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO RETURN THESE CHILDREN TO THEIR CUSTODIAL PARENT OR TO THE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION FOR A CUSTODY DETERMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES, TO PROVIDE LEFT-BEHIND PARENTS IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO THEIR CHILDREN, AND TO ADOPT WITHOUT DELAY THE 1980 HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the United States and Japan have a strong and critical alliance that is vitally important to both of our countries, to the Asia-Pacific region, and to the world. It is based on shared interests and values and our common support for political and economic freedoms, human rights, and international law. Japan now participates in our Pacific Partnership Initiative bringing humanitarian civic assistance to countries in Southeast Asia. Japan is second to none in supporting President Barack Obama's vision of a "world without nuclear weapons" and advocating for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Japan also supports our mission in Afghanistan and has recently doubled its civilian aid to the country providing much needed funds for job training, agriculture support, infrastructure and security training.

But as a friend of Japan and the Japanese people, I am compelled to bring to their attention by resolution a concern involving 269 American children who have been abducted to and/or wrongfully retained in Japan since 1994. These American children are in Japan as a result of kidnapping by a parent with Japanese citizenship following the dissolution of their relationship to the American citizen parent. Research shows that abducted children are at risk of serious emotional and psychological problems and have been found to experience anxiety, eating problems, nightmares, mood swings, sleep disturbances, aggressive behavior, resentment, guilt and fearfulness, and as adults may struggle with identity issues, their own personal relationships and parenting.

Despite a shared concern within the international community, the Japanese government has yet to accede to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or create any other mechanism to resolve international child abductions. Japan's existing family law system neither recognizes joint custody nor actively enforces parental access agreements for either its own citizens or foreigners. Most troubling, the existing legal system relies exclusively on the voluntary cooperation of the parent or guardian who has abducted the child. American parents must

beg to see their abducted children and have no legal recourse if the taking parent denies them access.

Consequently, American parents are calling on the U.S. Government to urgently intervene and quickly find a diplomatic solution.

I ask for my colleague's support on a bipartisan resolution supported by Rep. CHRISTOPHER SMITH, Rep. MAURICE HINCHEY, Rep. GARY MILLER, and Rep. MARSHA BLACKBURN, calling on the Japanese government to address the growing problem of abduction and retention of American children in Japan. The resolution calls for Japanese officials to work closely with the United States to return these children to their custodial parent or to the original jurisdiction for a custody determination in the United States, and to provide left-behind parents immediate access to their children. Finally, the resolution calls for Japan to adopt without delay the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The well-being of these children should be an issue where agreement can be reached and distraught parents are reunited with their children. I call on the Government of Japan to work closely with the U.S. Government to resolve current cases and establish an efficient mechanism to resolve future potential cases of abduction.

Cosponsors of this legislation introduced by the Rep. JAMES P. MORAN:

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH.

The Honorable MAURICE D. HINCHEY.

The Honorable GARY G. MILLER.

The Honorable MARSHA BLACKBURN.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT VISA SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Visa Security Improvement Act, legislation that will strengthen the screening of those seeking student visas and enhance the monitoring of foreign students in the United States.

I fully support allowing foreign students and exchange visitors to enter our country for legitimate academic and cultural purposes. However, recent media reports have disclosed schools that have helped individuals fraudulently obtain student visas or failed to report students that did not attend class. Several 9/11 terrorists overstayed their student visas and details are emerging that the suspected Times Square bomber, Faisal Shahzad, first entered the United States on a student visa.

I am concerned that there are insufficient controls to ensure that those receiving student and exchange visas are properly vetted before being granted admission to the United States. Once they are here, we must ensure they are appropriately monitored. That is why I have introduced the Student Visa Security Improvement Act.

This bill will require Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel stationed at high-risk visa issuing posts overseas to review student and exchange visa applications and conduct interviews with applicants before they are granted a visa. These ICE agents

bring enhanced security and law enforcement experience that will better ensure that prospective foreign students are not security risks.

This bill also will require that foreign students are active participants in the programs in which they are enrolled and are observed at least once every 30 days during an academic term or every 60 days outside an academic term. In addition, the bill requires that changes impacting a student's nonimmigrant status, such as switching to a more sensitive academic major or transferring to another institution, will be reported to the Department of Homeland Security in a more timely manner. These improvements will reduce the opportunity for potential terrorists to use student visas as a back door into the country for the purpose of carrying out terrorist attacks, as happened on 9/11.

Madam Speaker, I greatly value the contributions that foreign students and exchange visitors make to our nation and its cultural diversity. I believe that these bright young people are critically-important public diplomacy tools for our country. But we must ensure they are coming here for the right reasons. The Student Visa Security Improvement Act will enhance homeland security and ensure the integrity of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program. I urge our colleagues to support it.

RECOGNIZING MOUNT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, the National High School Mock Trial Competition is the premier national law related academic tournament for high school students. Mock trial programs are designed to give students an inside perspective on the legal system, providing them with an understanding of the mechanism through which society chooses to resolve many of its disputes.

Participation in a performance-based, hands-on program of this nature provides students with a practical knowledge about how our legal system operates and who the major players are in that system. Mock trial programs help develop young citizens who can sustain and build our nation by making a reasoned and informed commitment to democracy.

Students of Mount Carmel High School have earned the right to represent the Northern Mariana Islands in this year's national competition in Philadelphia. They will compete with teams from around the country.

Mount Carmel students have a tradition of excellence in oratory. The school represented the Northern Mariana Islands in the National We the People program two years in a row. Mr. Ryan Ortizo, one of the members of this year's competition in Philadelphia just won first place in the CNMI Attorney General's Cup competition.

One has to admire and be proud of the dedication of the students and the commitment of the teaching staff at Mount Carmel School for instilling the passion for debate and public speaking year after year.

Proudly representing the Northern Mariana Islands in this year's National Mock Trial Competitions, are: Geza Baka III, Maria Balajadia, Kevin Bautista, Hazel Doctor, Ryan Ortizo, Keno San Pablo, Janela Revilla, Anastasia Schweiger, and the team's advisor Lourdes T. Mendiola, their attorney coaches Edward Buckingham and Joseph Tajjeron, and their teacher coaches, Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero and Rosiky F. Camacho.

BRIGADIER GENERAL FRANCISCO
PATIÑO FONSECA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, before I was elected to the U.S. Congress, I served as a criminal court judge for over two decades in Houston, Texas. I've seen up close and personally how drugs destroy lives, drive up crime rates and tear families apart. So when I heard about the good progress in the fight against drugs in Colombia, I decided to come down and see it for myself.

When I hiked in the jungles and flew over the coca fields about a month ago, I was accompanied by Brigadier General Francisco Patiño Fonseca. I discovered one of the main reasons for Colombia's recent success battling the scourge of drugs is his strong, relentless zeal to capture the bad guys.

A native of Bogota and a 1981 police school graduate, Gen. Patiño has dedicated his life to law enforcement. He has done everything from working for the Tisquesusa Police Department to serving as the Police Attaché at the Embassy of Colombia in Spain.

Gen. Patiño has been decorated some 58 times in his extensive service. With that kind of dedication and experience, he serves the Colombian people well in his role as the Director of Counternarcotics for the Colombian National Police (DIRAN).

And as Director, Gen. Patiño has placed a new focus on human intelligence—bringing in more intelligence officers and tripling the intelligence budget. He is also committed to making sure his courageous team of officers have the best training in the world. The DIRAN training regimen is so well-respected around the world that in recent years over 80 students from twelve countries have attended its International Jungla course. The DIRAN mobile training teams have responded to training requests from Afghanistan, Mexico, and Ecuador.

Their training is paying off. Working hand in hand with American support, the Colombian Public Forces seized more cocaine, heroin, and chemicals used to make cocaine in 2009 than ever before. DIRAN accounts for less than five percent of the Colombian National Police force but has been responsible for the seizures of 66 percent of the cocaine, 90 percent of the heroin, 86 percent of the cocaine precursor chemicals and 63 percent of the drug labs by the entire police force.

The war on drugs in the United States is inextricably linked to the war on drugs in Colombia. It is no secret that it is mostly American dollars that buy Colombian-grown drugs. As a Member of the U.S. Congress, I want to thank Gen. Patiño, his officers and the good people

of Colombia for their tremendous dedication to fighting the drug cartels and working with the people of the United States. After observing the distinguished leadership of Gen. Patiño and his officers, I am more confident than ever that this is a war we can win together.

ORANGE GROVE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS
OF SERVING CHILDREN IN SEMI-
NOLE, FLORIDA

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Orange Grove Elementary School, in Seminole, Florida, which I have the privilege to represent, tomorrow will celebrate 50 years of serving Pinellas County students.

The school opened in 1960 in nearby Madeira Beach where classes were held until the school building was erected at its present site in 1961. That six-room school house expanded to 12 rooms 10 years later and became one of Pinellas County's first air conditioned schools.

The school was named Orange Grove because at the time, Seminole was surrounded by orange groves. Although the groves are gone now, the staff motto remains, "Orange Grove Elementary—Where We Have the Pick of the Crop!"

From the school's first principal, Margaret Abbott, to its current principal, Nanette Grasso, Orange Grove has remained a student-focused school whose mission statement is "to establish a safe learning environment which supports a love of learning, respect, responsibility, honesty and motivation in our students, so that we can reach their personal and academic potential."

In this day and age when the focus of a school goes well beyond academics, Orange Grove Elementary also stands as a model for encouraging students to develop early habits for a healthy lifestyle.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of this milestone 50th anniversary celebration, I took the liberty of having a flag flown over the Capitol today for presentation to Ms. Grasso, the students, the teachers and the staff at Orange Grove Elementary in honor of the school's enduring commitment to providing the best possible education for its students and the most nurturing environment for learning.

For half a century, Orange Grove has turned out generation after generation of our community's, our state's, and our Nation's leaders and I know that its proud and rich tradition will continue to turn out our Nation's future leaders for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETE
McCLOSKEY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Pete McCloskey, a distinguished and charismatic former member of this house for

16 years, and a true American maverick who has been guided by a shining moral compass throughout his life. Former Congressman McCloskey pursues the truth no matter where it leads him.

In his over eight decades, Pete has accomplished more than will fit on this page. In one of his most recent endeavors, he ran against a fellow Republican, Richard Pombo, in the primary election—at age 78. While most members of his age group are retired, McCloskey continues to practice as a trial lawyer, works on his farm raising citrus and olive trees and creates mischief with his group, "Revolt of the Elders." He was a war hero in Korea and received a Navy Cross, a Silver Star and two Purple Heart for his service to this country.

In Congress he served the people of the San Francisco Peninsula and Silicon Valley from 1967–1983. He was vehemently opposed to the Vietnam War and ran for President against Richard Nixon in 1972. The following year, he was the first member of Congress to ask for President Nixon's impeachment. Mr. McCloskey is a principal at Cotchett, Pitre and McCarthy and has an extensive civil rights and environmental record. He received his B.A. from Stanford University and his J. D. from Stanford Law School.

Pete's environmental activism was ignited when Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught fire twice in 1969. Together with Gaylord Nelson, he co-chaired the first Earth Day in 1970. Three years later he coauthored the Endangered Species Act.

Madam Speaker, Pete McCloskey fights for justice with the same passion today as he did forty years ago. He is a personal hero of mine and an icon to all of us who thirst for courageous leaders in our country. It is fitting that the Peninsula Coalition is presenting him with its Lifetime Achievement award on May 6 in Burlingame.

SUPPORTING THE IDEALS OF
NATIONAL LAB DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1213, which recognizes the need to improve the performance of American students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

In 2006, 4.5 percent of students in the United States graduated from college with a STEM-related diploma. By comparison, 33 percent of students in China graduated in the STEM field. The United States has been a global leader in technology and innovation for decades—but we will quickly fall behind unless our country encourages more young people to pursue STEM careers.

We must take an all hands on deck approach to improve our national STEM outlook. National Lab Day helps drive young students' curiosity for science and technology by encouraging hands-on projects in the classroom that prove the sciences are fun. We must work to ensure that high schoolers, particularly young women and at-risk students, take college prep courses in science and math that prepare them for future careers as scientists.