

and to the sixth district of Indiana. His impact will be felt for years to come, and I wish him the best in his continued service and ministry.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF KHEN NGO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to celebrate the 100th birthday of Khen Ngo, a prominent member of the Vietnamese Catholic community in San Bernardino. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone with the Ngo family and the San Bernardino community.

Born on July 4, 1911 in the Hue Province in Central Vietnam, Khen Ngo completed elementary school by age thirteen. Tragically, he fell ill to an infectious disease and did not recover until age seventeen. Shortly thereafter his family enrolled him in tailoring school. Khen completed his secondary education within one year.

The skills he learned in school allowed him to become part of the family business. In Vietnam he opened and operated his own tailoring shop. Soon he was able to manage and maintain his parent's shop as well. Outside of work he served in the Parish council of Kim-Long Church as a finance officer for fifteen years. Life was about to drastically change for the Ngo family.

In 1975, the Vietnamese Communist Regime invaded Vietnam. The Ngo family was a prominent family; the last name was well-known across the country. Their heritage can be traced back to the first President of Vietnam, Ngo Dinh Diem. Sadly, the communist regime also knew the Ngos well. They sought out and imprisoned many of the family members, leaving Khen no choice but to escape. Khen came to the United States as a Vietnamese refugee.

He settled in Redlands, California and joined the Sacred Heart Church. The Ngos are a deeply religious and pious family. Together with his brother, Father Joseph Trong Ngo, the Ngos helped build and foster a Vietnamese Catholic community in San Bernardino. Khen lived a simple life and held steadfast to his values. He lives by two guiding principles: the Catholic teaching to honor your parents, and to live his life as a deeply religious and spiritual person.

His life continues to be filled with spirit and love. He surrounds himself with the people he loves and leads a simple life. He fathered seven children and bestowed upon them the virtues he embodies. Khen now spends his days fishing and watching soccer games with any of his twenty nieces and nephews or nine grandchildren. I want to extend my best wishes to Khen Ngo on his 100th birthday along with the wishes of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Baca Junior, Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sharing this special day with Khen Ngo.

ALGER COUNTY ROAD H-58

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several long time residents of Alger County Michigan, who were instrumental in resolving a long standing controversy about road access within Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

When Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1966 as America's first national lakeshore, the enabling legislation called for the construction of a "scenic shoreline drive" as part of the park's development. However, the legislation did not specify exactly where that road should be located. Due to other national priorities, including the Vietnam War effort, funds were never appropriated to actually design and build the road.

This delay led to tremendous frustration on the part of local individuals and units of government, many of whom felt misled into supporting the establishment of the park. However, as local pressure increased to fund the project, opposition to building a road through undeveloped portions of the park also increased, leading to many years of controversy.

Over the years, several alternative locations were considered for the road. But, in 1998, to protect the most pristine portions of the park, Congress amended the park's enabling legislation to actually prohibit the National Park Service from constructing a road through the main portion of the park, forcing a compromise solution.

That compromise, ultimately endorsed by the National Park Service and the Alger County Road Commission, called for the reconstruction and paving of an existing sand and gravel road; Alger County H-58. Using a combination of federal and state funds between 1990 and 2010, H-58 was re-designed and paved to provide improved access to and through Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and connect the two gateway communities of Munising and Grand Marais.

In the end, the Alger County Road Commission and the National Park Service worked very closely to design and build a roadway that would provide an outstanding scenic experience worthy of a national park. It is also noteworthy that in 2009, as the road project was coming to an end, Congress also provided permanent legal protection to the central portion of the park by establishing the Beaver Basin Wilderness. It took over 40 years, but with these two actions, the controversy about how best to balance road access and protection of nationally significant resources at Pictured Rocks had finally come to an end.

Over the years, many Alger County residents continued to strongly advocate for a road that would provide better access to the National Lakeshore. These included Connie Berube Binsfeld, who later served as Lt. Governor of Michigan and a member of the National Park Advisory Board; Doug Miron and Paul Heyrman, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Alger County Road Commission; the late Dennis "Fuzzy" Boyak, President and CEO of Peoples State Bank of Munising; Rochelle Cotey, Director of ALTRAN, the local transpor-

tation authority, and Richard and Chuck Nebel, a Munising banker and attorney-at-law. Munising native Mike Pond, a professional civil engineer, was involved in the design of virtually every detail of the road. Now that the road is complete, these local residents, along with others, have left a lasting legacy for Alger County and the visitors to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF
BRIAN LENA AND CAPTAIN WILLIAM
BAHR

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Assistant Chief Brian Lena and Captain William Bahr of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department; for their heroic actions and longstanding commitment to their fire department and community.

In October of 2010 these two men, along with their fellow firefighters, responded to an evolved structure fire which blocked the only exit the occupants had. At the scene, Assistant Chief Lena and Captain Bahr bravely rescued the occupants through a second story bedroom window. During this time, the hose crew also attacked an advancing fire in the kitchen and hallway.

In response to these heroic actions, Assistant Chief Lena and Captain Bahr have both been awarded the distinct honor of Firefighter of the Year. They have received this award with several agencies, including the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department, Putnam County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, and the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Assistant Chief Lena, Captain Bahr, and all of the other first responders who came out that day. We are fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers protecting us in the Hudson Valley.

IN HONOR OF WORLD REFUGEE
DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World Refugee Day and the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. While we are commemorating World Refugee Day all week, the plight of refugees continues day in and day out. As I speak, there are some 15.4 million refugees around the world. But, there's another dimension to this humanitarian crisis that I want to highlight. Worldwide, there are an estimated 27.5 million internally displaced people who have fled their homes, but remain within their country's borders. So, as we mark World Refugee Day, we cannot forget internally displaced people who are refugees within their own countries.

In total, there are 43 million refugees and displaced people globally which is roughly the

entire population of Colombia. In fact, in Colombia, our hemispheric neighbor, there are an estimated 4 million internally displaced people, equivalent to the entire population of Los Angeles. Pakistan has nearly 2 million refugees, and Somalia, Sudan, and Iraq all have over a million displaced people each.

Displaced persons are a national security issue as much as a humanitarian crisis that violates basic human rights. This spring, I hosted Congressional briefings with Antonio Guterres, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Alexander Aleinikoff, the Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees. I commend the work of the U.N. High Commissioner and the many organizations—large and small—that are on the frontlines providing basic relief and security to displaced communities. And I will do everything I can to inform my colleagues about this important work.

But, while immediate relief is essential, we also must tackle the root causes of conflict and poverty that continue to drive up the number of displaced people. We cannot be a just and peaceful world with so many living without basic human rights and protections. So, this week, and every week, I will continue to use my voice and vote to end this humanitarian crisis and bring justice, security, and enduring peace to the millions of displaced people around the world.

FREE GILAD SHALIT

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the fifth anniversary of the abduction of Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, to demand that Hamas release him immediately and unconditionally.

On June 25, 2006, Hamas brutally attacked an Israeli military post, killing two soldiers and wounding four others. Shalit was taken captive and seemingly wounded in the process. Since that time, there has been no information about his whereabouts or the conditions of his captivity. He has not been granted visitation rights by any humanitarian organization, including the International Red Cross, as is required by international law. Additionally, he has been denied contact with his family and access to medical treatment. These conditions are inhumane and deplorable.

I urge Hamas to release Gilad Shalit immediately, and to cease all violence and hostilities against the Jewish State.

HONORING WORTH COUNTY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Worth County of Missouri's Sixth District. Worth County is celebrating its Sesquicentennial.

Worth County has the distinction of being Missouri's youngest and smallest county in both population and physical size. That distinction, however, is not reflected in the char-

acter, substance and heart of the people who live there. Its name comes from General William J. Worth who served with Zachary Taylor in the Mexican-American War and was the first American to make an amphibious military landing. On display at the county courthouse are the names of all in Worth County that have gone to defend this nation since the Civil War and who continue to defend America today. One of the first riders of the Pony Express, Robert Stricklen came from and is buried in Worth County. It is the place that Glenn Miller first picked up the trombone and was taught to play his timeless music.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Worth County, Missouri. It is an amazing place with even more amazing people who make a daily impact on Northern Missouri and the whole of the Sixth District. I am honored to represent Worth County, Missouri in the United States Congress.

PUBLIC TRUST AND THE SUPREME COURT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over ethically questionable conduct of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas that threatens to undermine public trust in our judicial system.

Justice Thomas has repeatedly engaged in questionable actions and hidden them from public view. Just this weekend, the New York Times revealed troubling details about favors Justice Thomas has received from a millionaire real estate magnate named Harlan Crow.

Despite the revelations, Justice Thomas refuses to provide details about his relationship with Mr. Crow. The report from the New York Times is the latest in a long line of troubling actions taken by Justice Thomas, yet he refuses to share the necessary information to ensure that his service on the bench is fair and free from conflict of interest.

No one should be above the law, especially those chosen to uphold it.

[From the New York Times, June 18, 2011]

FRIENDSHIP OF JUSTICE AND MAGNATE PUTS
FOCUS ON ETHICS

PIN POINT, GA.—Clarence Thomas was here promoting his memoir a few years ago when he bumped into Algernon Varn, whose grandfather once ran a seafood cannery that employed Justice Thomas's mother as a crab picker.

Mr. Varn lived at the old cannery site, a collection of crumbling buildings on a salt marsh just down the road from a sign heralding this remote coastal community outside Savannah as Justice Thomas's birthplace. The justice asked about plans for the property, and Mr. Varn said he hoped it could be preserved.

"And Clarence said, 'Well, I've got a friend I'm going to put you in touch with,'" Mr. Varn recalled, adding that he was later told by others not to identify the friend.

The publicity-shy friend turned out to be Harlan Crow, a Dallas real estate magnate and a major contributor to conservative causes. Mr. Crow stepped in to finance the multimillion-dollar purchase and restoration of the cannery, featuring a museum about the culture and history of Pin Point that has become a pet project of Justice Thomas's.

The project throws a spotlight on an unusual, and ethically sensitive, friendship that appears to be markedly different from those of other justices on the nation's highest court.

The two men met in the mid-1990s, a few years after Justice Thomas joined the court. Since then, Mr. Crow has done many favors for the justice and his wife, Virginia, helping finance a Savannah library project dedicated to Justice Thomas, presenting him with a Bible that belonged to Frederick Douglass and reportedly providing \$500,000 for Ms. Thomas to start a Tea Party-related group. They have also spent time together at gatherings of prominent Republicans and businesspeople at Mr. Crow's Adirondacks estate and his camp in East Texas.

In several instances, news reports of Mr. Crow's largess provoked controversy and questions, adding fuel to a rising debate about Supreme Court ethics. But Mr. Crow's financing of the museum, his largest such act of generosity, previously unreported, raises the sharpest questions yet—both about Justice Thomas's extrajudicial activities and about the extent to which the justices should remain exempt from the code of conduct for federal judges.

Although the Supreme Court is not bound by the code, justices have said they adhere to it. Legal ethicists differed on whether Justice Thomas's dealings with Mr. Crow pose a problem under the code. But they agreed that one facet of the relationship was both unusual and important in weighing any ethical implications: Justice Thomas's role in Mr. Crow's donation for the museum.

The code says judges "should not personally participate" in raising money for charitable endeavors, out of concern that donors might feel pressured to give or entitled to favorable treatment from the judge. In addition, judges are not even supposed to know who donates to projects honoring them.

While the nonprofit Pin Point museum is not intended to honor Justice Thomas, people involved in the project said his role in the community's history would inevitably be part of it, and he participated in a documentary film that is to accompany the exhibits.

Deborah L. Rhode, a Stanford University law professor who has called for stricter ethics rules for Supreme Court justices, said Justice Thomas "should not be directly involved in fund-raising activities, no matter how worthy they are or whether he's being centrally honored by the museum."

On the other hand, the restriction on fund-raising is primarily meant to deter judges from using their position to pressure donors, as opposed to relying on "a rich friend" like Mr. Crow, said Ronald D. Rotunda, who teaches legal ethics at Chapman University in California.

"I don't think I could say it's unethical," he said. "It's just a very peculiar situation."

Justice Thomas, through a Supreme Court spokeswoman, declined to respond to a detailed set of questions submitted by The New York Times. Mr. Crow also would not comment.

Supreme Court ethics have been under increasing scrutiny, largely because of the activities of Justice Thomas and Ms. Thomas, whose group, Liberty Central, opposed President Obama's health care overhaul—an issue likely to wind up before the court. Mr. Crow's donation to Liberty Central was reported by Politico.

In January, the liberal advocacy organization Common Cause asked the Justice Department to investigate whether Justices Thomas and Antonin Scalia should have recused themselves from last year's Citizens United campaign finance case because they had attended a political retreat organized by the billionaire Koch brothers, who support