

2013. Kenzo Kamei spent his early years in Japan where he attended elementary and secondary school. He returned to California at the age of 18, and worked with his parents harvesting crops and working on farms. As a young man he met and married Ruth Kisa "Kisako" Nishimoto in Sunnyvale, California, and shortly thereafter the couple was interned at Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

Kenzo Kamei kept many mementos which documented his time at Heart Mountain . . . his daily work release pay stubs recording his earnings of \$18 per month, the highest in the camp, and the receipt that he was given on his final release from the Camp, giving him \$28, or \$5 per day for five days of travel, and \$3 for subsistence enroute. These artifacts are now part of an interpretive center built by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, a nonprofit group that has made it its mission to tell the many stories of internment, about triumph and tragedy, prejudice and friendship. After being released from internment, Kenzo and Ruth returned to Sunnyvale. Kenzo worked as a gardener and warehouseman, and he and Ruth saved enough money to launch Kamei Nursery, Inc., a grower of award-winning flowers, in Mountain View, California. They opened nurseries in Mountain View and Morgan Hill, and they were key in founding the Buddhist Temple in Mountain View.

Kenzo Kamei was a devoted husband who spent several years caring for his beloved wife of 70 years, who passed away on June 8, 2012. Kenzo leaves his son Kenneth; his daughters, Eileen (Robert) Eng, and Judy (Steve) Inamori. He also leaves his adored grandchildren, Ami, Ellen and Jonathan Kamei; Emily Eng Holbrook, Laura Eng Derdenger and Julia Eng; and Bradley, Gregory and Kathryn Inamori. He also leaves his great-grandson Davis Patrick Derdenger, and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Kenzo Kamei was an extraordinary American who will be greatly missed by his family and his community. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to his family and friends who mourn his passing and honor his life which was lived in dignity and accomplishment.

CELEBRATING BILL GRAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the chorus of those honoring the late William Herbert Gray III. Congressman Gray's 21 years in the House saw him rise to the Chairmanship of the Budget Committee as well as being elected Democratic Whip. While many have honored Bill for his contributions to public affairs, I would like to recognize his distinguished service in the corporate world.

Following his career in the House, Gray served on the Board of Dell Inc. for 13 years and was an integral part of Dell's global success. In the corporate setting, Bill took his duties as a Board member very seriously. Not only did he actively participate in Board meetings, but he also brought his vast knowledge and experience to the daily workings of the company.

During his tenure at Dell, he regularly met with Government Affairs and Human Relations teams, among other employee groups, to provide insight, guidance, and counsel. As Dell grew globally, Bill underscored the importance of the company engaging in a dialogue with government leaders in markets from the US to Europe to China. He understood that corporate success globally meant more jobs in the United States.

Bill's passing was sudden and unforeseen, and a great loss to U.S. business and government. Michael Dell, the founder and CEO of Dell, shared that, "Bill was a great friend and trusted advisor to me and our Board members. He brought a unique and distinctive perspective on our business and our industry. I valued his wisdom and insight on public policy matters, and benefitted greatly from his sage counsel for so many years."

I appreciate the opportunity to pause for a moment to remember the many ways Bill Gray served his country. Erika and I extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 316. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE LIFE OF WESTON "BITZIE" CONLEY OF MORATTICO, VA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a proud citizen of Morattico, Virginia, a man whose friendship I have valued for many years. The late Weston "Bitzie" Conley was truly a pillar of his community, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on in Lancaster County and across Virginia's Northern Neck.

During our time working together in both the seafood and the banking industries, Bitzie was a first-class Virginia gentleman, exhibiting the highest qualities of integrity, selflessness, and compassion for his neighbors. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Dorothy Lee, his daughter, Connie, and to his many loved ones in this time of mourning. I would like to submit an article from the Rappahannock Record about Bitzie's life and his many passions.

[From Rappahannock Record, June 13, 2013]

WESTON 'BITZIE' CONLEY, SEAFOOD INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY LEADER, DIES

(By Audrey Thomasson)

MORATTICO.—He was known as "Bitzie" to his friends and family. But Weston Franklin Conley Jr. was a giant when it came to serving the community he loved. On Friday, the 78-year-old businessman and local philanthropist quietly passed away at his

Morattico home with his wife of 56 years, Dorothy Lee Clark, and daughter, Constance Elaine, by his side.

Conley was a force of inspiration in this community and a motivator for others, according to community leaders.

"He was a tremendous asset in how to conduct business and was a great help to me on the YMCA board," said District 4 supervisor William Lee, who succeeded Conley as board chairman. "I gained so much from just listening to him."

Lee, who served on several community boards with Conley, noted he was a man of integrity and generosity in both his business and personal endeavors.

"He was not slanted or biased. He always gave his honest opinion. Once he said to me, 'Bill, I wouldn't have what I have now if it wasn't for the black community.' I think he was referring to all the men and women who worked for his seafood company picking crabs. Anybody that needed something could go to him. He gave of his time and talents beyond his resources," said Lee.

LEGACY

Part of Conley's legacy is evident in the growth and success of the Northern Neck YMCA.

Mark Favazza, branch executive of the YMCA, said Conley's fiscal wisdom, integrity, strategic thinking and coalition building made him an important leader in the development of the Kilmarnock facility, including heading the capital campaign that led to the Wiley Child Development Center.

"He wanted a place where children could be safe, families could find support, and everyone was welcome . . . He was the kind of man who worked privately and led behind the scenes . . . His humble service left an enduring impact on our YMCA, the Wiley Center . . . and me," said Favazza.

MORATTICO'S "MAYOR"

Conley's devotion to his heritage and home town exemplified his all-in style when he purchased Morattico's General Store in 2003 and donated it to the community as the Morattico Waterfront Museum, which he helped establish. No doubt Conley wanted to preserve fond memories of growing up and working in the general store his parents owned and operated for 18 years beginning in 1935, a year after his birth in Baltimore.

Today, the museum also serves as a community center for the families of Morattico. The first floor remains much like the general store of his youth while the second floor pays homage to the town's watermen.

"Everyone here called him Morattico's unofficial mayor," said Liz Failmezger, a village resident and former member of the museum board. "This is the saddest loss. He was one of the first people to welcome those of us who moved here. He was so genuine—and a true gentleman. He was our go-to guy for everything."

MENTOR AND FRIEND

"The county has lost one of its most prominent and charitable citizens," said District 1 supervisor and board chairman Butch Jenkins, a longtime friend.

Jenkins was only five years old when he met the "hard-charging" Conley, a man he always knew as Bitzie.

"He treated me as a little adult," said Jenkins. "I do not know when I became his friend, but he was my friend by the time I was six years old."

Later, when Jenkins decided to run for supervisor, he sought his older friend's counsel. "And good advice his proved to be," he said. "Over my time on the board, I often sought his feelings on pending issues . . . although we sometimes disagreed. 'When I persisted, he told me, 'Butch, you usually do all right,

but sometimes, you can be a little hard-headed.”

Jenkins described Conley as “a gifted friend who cared enough to tell me exactly what he thought and, as my friend, forgave me anyway for doing what he believed to be wrong.”

“My sense of loss, as strong as it is to me, must pale to that experienced by his widow, Dorothy Lee, and daughter, Connie . . . and all the members of the extended family he broadened so freely and gladly. I can only hope . . . that the mercy of our Savior will relieve us in time of the pain of our loss and allow us only to revel in the joy of . . . sharing in the life of this good, caring man,” Jenkins said.

LEADER

Conley attended Lively High School and Richmond Professional Institute. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to the region, working in Richmond and Norfolk before moving back to Lancaster to begin a career in the seafood industry. He became co-owner of RCV (Richardson, Chase and Venable) Seafood Corporation, Smith Point Seafood Inc. in Reedville and Rappahannock Seafood Company in Kilmarnock, processing plants mostly for crabs shipped to national chains like Giant Food and Campbell Soup.

Conley proceeded to become a leading member of many industry and professional organizations, including the Virginia Marine Products Commission, Shellfish Institute of North America and National Blue Crab Industry Association. He was a long-standing member of many boards including 25 years with Bank of Lancaster, Bay Banks of Virginia Inc., chairing the loan committee for 20 years, Northern Neck Planning Commission, Lancaster-Middlesex Community Reinvestment Advisory and chairman of the Lancaster County Economic Development Authority (formerly the Industrial Development Authority).

He had perfect attendance at the Lancaster Ruritan Club for 50 years and was a 25-year member of the Chesapeake District Ruritan National Crab Feast Committee.

As a dedicated, lifelong member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church, he served the church in many leadership roles, including on the board of trustees.

Funeral services were held Tuesday. Memorial gifts may be made to the Norwood Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 85, Morattico, VA 22523, Northern Neck Family YMCA, Morattico Waterfront Museum or Hospice of Virginia.

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as one of four bipartisan co-chairs of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus I have witnessed a deteriorating human rights situation in Vietnam in recent years which has been met with a complete lack of urgency and priority on the part of the Obama administration.

In fairness this posture is not unlike that of the previous administration which also preferred a bilateral relationship defined almost exclusively by trade—unmarred by thorny matters such as human rights and religious freedom abuses.

I was critical then, too. I submit for the RECORD an April 2007 letter I sent to Sec-

retary of State Condoleezza Rice, citing several recent arrests and assaults carried out by the government of Vietnam against the Vietnamese people in which I urged the State Department, a request which fell on deaf ears, to consider cancelling the planned visit to the United States of the Vietnamese president and prime minister if the situation did not improve.

Sadly the situation in Vietnam has only worsened since that time. A July 8 ABC News story reported, “Since the start of this year more than 50 people have been convicted and jailed in political trials.”

The government of Vietnam, which our own State Department describes as an “authoritarian state ruled by a single party,” continues to suppress political dissent and severely limit freedom of expression, association, and public assembly. Religious activists are subject to arbitrary arrest.

On May 5th, police violently broke up peaceful “human rights picnics” in several different cities in Vietnam where young bloggers and activists were disseminating and discussing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights documents. Human Rights Watch reported that, “The police also employed other methods to prevent the human rights picnics from occurring. In Hanoi, youth delegations were sent to intimidate picnickers at Nghia Do Park, chanting slogans such as ‘Long Live the Glorious Communist Party of Vietnam’ and ‘Long Live Ho Chi Minh.’”

On May 16, 2013, Nguyen Phuong Uyen, 21, and Dinh Nguyen Kha, 25, were sentenced to 6 years and 8 years in prison respectively simply for handing out pamphlets that were characterized by the court as “propaganda against the state.” Radio Free Asia reported that the pair were “convicted under Article 88 of the penal code, a provision rights groups say the government has used to muzzle dissent, and both will serve three years of house arrest following their prison terms.”

Police also violently broke up anti-China protests in Hanoi on June 2, 2013 and arrested more than twenty people en masse.

Last year, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, which I co-chair, convened a hearing focused on human rights abuses in Vietnam. During the hearing Members of Congress heard testimony from Mrs. Mai Huong Ngo, the wife of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, a Vietnamese-American democracy activist and U.S. citizen. Upon his arrival in Vietnam on April 17, 2012 he was arbitrarily detained and imprisoned. Then Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Michael Posner testified at the Lantos Commission hearing and revealed that no one from the State Department had been in touch with Dr. Quan’s wife since his detention. Only at my urging did U.S. ambassador to Vietnam David Shear initiate contact with Mrs. Ngo to update her on her husband’s situation.

This is but one of many examples of the U.S. embassy, under the leadership of Ambassador Shear, failing to serve as an island of freedom in a sea of repression. This was all the more troubling given that Dr. Quan is an American citizen. The lack of urgency in securing Dr. Quan’s release was stunning.

I spoke by phone multiple times with Ambassador Shear and expressed my deep concerns about the case broadly and the State Department’s failure to bring about a swift resolution. I further urged the ambassador to host

a July 4th celebration at the embassy and to invite prominent religious freedom and democracy activists in the country—as was frequently done under President Reagan during the dark days of the Cold War—thereby sending a strong message that America stands with those who stand for basic human rights. Ambassador Shear indicated his willingness to do so and the State Department confirmed this intention in subsequent correspondence.

Shockingly, I learned weeks later that many of the most prominent democracy and human rights activists in Vietnam had never received an invitation. When confronted with the seeming inconsistency, Ambassador Shear claimed that he had invited a few civil society activists but that he needed to maintain a “balance.” When I repeatedly requested a copy of the guest list, to ascertain who specifically had been invited and if the members of Vietnamese civil society were mere token representatives the State Department repeatedly refused to provide it.

Ultimately several other Members of Congress, upon learning of Ambassador Shear’s posture and handling of the situation, joined me in calling for his removal and urged that an individual “who will embrace the struggle of the Vietnamese people and advocate on their behalf” fill his spot.

A July 2012 Wall Street Journal editorial headlined, “State Fumbles in Hanoi,” echoed this call. The Journal described the State Department’s posture in Vietnam and throughout the region in this way: “This is a classic State Department maneuver, practiced throughout Asia-Pacific but especially in repressive countries in which the U.S. has economic interests. Diplomats say they care about human rights, but not so much that it creates a political uproar that they’d have to work to resolve. Thus when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton went to Vietnam this week, she made a generic statement about human rights and a ‘Senior State Department Official’ gave journalists a briefing. Vietnam’s Party bosses must be shaking in their boots.”

After languishing for nine months in a Vietnamese prison, Dr. Quan once again breathed the fresh air of freedom. A local CBS affiliate in California interviewed him after his return home and he attributed his release to Congressional pressure. Pressing authoritarian regimes and repressive governments to respect basic human rights can yield positive results, but inexplicably that is almost never the instinct of the State Department or this administration.

Fast-forward to today. This week it had been expected that prominent Vietnamese dissident and lawyer Le Quoc Quan would face trial. A July 8 Wall Street Journal editorial highlighted that, “Mr. Le was arrested after he wrote a column for the BBC’s website in which he argued for a new constitution without a guarantee of a Communist Party monopoly on power . . . The supposed crime for which Mr. Le is being charged is tax evasion, an alibi Hanoi has used in the past to incarcerate dissidents. A tax-law conviction would allow Hanoi to jail this inconvenient man for up to seven years while claiming he is not a political prisoner. Hanoi may be particularly sensitive about preserving that fiction because Mr. Le also has a connection to Washington.”

That connection came in the form of a National Endowment for Democracy fellowship in 2006–07. Mr. Le was arrested just four days