

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DEAN MATHISEN

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dean Mathisen for 10 years of service to Nebraska's Second District. Dean is a tireless and devoted public servant to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska and specifically to the veterans in the metro area.

Dean Mathisen serves as a Senior Constituent Liaison in my Omaha Congressional Office and handles military and veteran's affairs. As a former US Army officer and combat veteran of the Cold and First Gulf Wars, his personal experiences aid him in understanding and helping those now serving and returning from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dean is equally committed to assisting the other "Band of Brothers" from our Nation's other wars. Over these past 10 years, his efforts found solutions and answers to complex requests for help with "government bureaucracy" by service members, veterans and family members. His counsel has been instrumental in helping me identify the need for and communicate with the Department of Veterans Affairs about bringing a National Veterans Cemetery to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. Thanks to Dean's efforts, this project is now a reality and will soon break ground providing a final resting place for the 112,000 underserved veterans in the Omaha area that is worthy of the sacrifices they made.

Dean and I first met as members of the Omaha Young Republicans. He also served on the Douglas County Republican Central Committee as a tireless advocate for the Republican Party's message of lower taxes and a strong national defense. In his free time, he has stayed engaged within the veterans' community by being an active member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also assists the metro area Boy Scouts with review of rank advancements and other scouting activities.

I offer Dean my sincere appreciation for his dedication and years of service to both our country and to Nebraska's Second Congressional District. I am extremely proud of his accomplishments and am thankful for his years of counsel. Omaha's veterans are better off because of Dean's service.

PHILIPPINES GENEROSITY TO JEWISH REFUGEES

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a remarkable story, previously lost to history. Namely, how the Philippines generously opened its doors to Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution, when all other nations barred their entry.

I would like to posthumously commend Manuel Quezon, President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines (1935-1944) for his resolve to lobby for immigration rights for Jew-

ish refugees even at great political risk. He saved the lives of 1,305 Jews by allowing them entry into the Philippines and would have saved thousands more had the US State Department had allowed its commonwealth to do so.

An extraordinary tale, President Quezon collaborated with his high-profile associates, US High Commissioner Paul McNutt, Colonel (and future president) Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the Frieders, four Jewish businessmen from Ohio who had a cigar business in Manila, to overcome the huge bureaucratic and logistical challenges of saving people from the Holocaust.

I would like also to recognize the US Philippines Society for giving this story a resurgent voice and hosting a round table on June 10, 2013 titled "Holocaust Haven in the Philippines" which focused on an upcoming film documenting this story, *An Open Door*. The US Philippines Society, which recently opened its offices in Washington, D.C. on May 1, 2012, is a non-profit, non-partisan, and independent organization whose mission it is to build on the rich and longstanding historical ties between the United States of America and the Philippines.

An Open Door was produced and directed by award-winning filmmaker Noel M. Izon. This is the third film in his World War II trilogy *Forgotten Stories*. The film was co-produced by author and professor at St. John Fisher College, Sharon Delmendo.

The Filipino people extended a warm welcome to those who undoubtedly would have faced horrible atrocity if stranded in Europe. I hope that this story of human generosity and duty to help those in peril may find an audience among the U.S. public so we can appreciate the ingenuity and heroic risks taken by Manuel Quezon to protect victims of the Holocaust.

HONORING RICK SHIOMI'S 20 YEARS AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF MU PERFORMING ARTS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the inspiring career of Mr. Rick Shiomi, a leader for Asian-American actors and artists, as he retires as Artistic Director from Mu Performing Arts in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Rick Shiomi co-founded Mu Performing Arts in 1992 and served as Artistic Director for the next 20 years. Finding that Asian-American theater did not exist in the Twin Cities at the time, Rick worked to bring community voices to the stage. He helped form Mu Daiko, a taiko drumming ensemble, which later became Mu Performing Arts to reflect the broad artistic base of theater, taiko and artistic development. Today, because of Rick's extraordinary leadership and energy, Mu is increasing the size of Asian-American audiences and the number of Asian-American performers who flourish in the Twin Cities.

Thanks to Rick's vision, Mu Performing Arts has become one of the largest pan Asian-American performing arts companies in the United States. He has been recognized nu-

merous times for his outstanding work. His many awards include a 2012 Ivey Award for Lifetime Achievement in Twin Cities theater and a 2007 Sally Award for Vision from the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. Mu is also a leader in the local and national development of Asian-American theater and taiko. Rick and Mu Performing Arts have helped develop and support the work of local and national playwrights, actors, directors, and musicians by premiering many new works, fostering a new generation of Asian-American artists. Through educational, community and corporate outreach programs the company has provided access to Asian-American culture and arts to communities who otherwise may not have the opportunity to experience it.

Rick's influence has brought Asian-American actors into nontraditional roles in other theaters and helped elevate the recognition of the Asian-American community. Mu Performing Arts is a Minnesota treasure and the legacy of Rick will live on in Mu Performing Arts' work bringing Asian-American voices to the stage in the Twin Cities.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Mr. Rick Shiomi, a visionary for Asian-American performing art and artists, I am pleased to submit this statement to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of his retirement as Artistic Director from Mu Performing Arts.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF AMBASSADOR ALLAN KATZ

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleagues, Representatives DAVID VALADAO, JIM COSTA, and DAVID CICILLINE, to commemorate the retirement of U.S. Ambassador to Portugal Allan Katz.

A lawyer by training, Ambassador Katz worked on the staffs of Congressmen Bill Gunter and David Obey before serving as General Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives Commission on Administrative Review. He then moved to Florida, where he served as Assistant Insurance Commissioner and General Counsel for the State of Florida Insurance Department. Afterward he went into private practice.

In March 2010, Allan Katz was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as U.S. Ambassador to Portugal. A capable and gifted representative of our Nation, Ambassador Katz served with distinction, upholding the United States' long friendship with the Portuguese people. We recognize and commend his fine service on the occasion of his retirement.

ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER'S FAILURE TO PROTECT AMERICA'S CHILDREN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a letter I sent earlier this week to Attorney

General Eric Holder once again urging that the Department of Justice prioritize the issue of human trafficking and specifically go after Web sites like Backpage.com which serve as a conduit for the buying and selling of human beings.

In multiple letters to the Department over the last year I've implored the Attorney General to tell Congress if federal law enforcement does not have the necessary tools to take legal action against such web sites—sites which time and again feature prominently in horrific stories of abuse and exploitation of the most vulnerable among us.

These requests have gone unanswered. The exploitation persists. Attorney General Holder is failing.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, JR.,
Attorney General, Department of Justice,
Washington DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: Many Americans were undoubtedly heartened to learn yesterday that authorities rescued 105 children from 76 different cities across this nation who had been forced into prostitution, and arrested 150 pimps who were intimately involved in the exploitation of these minors—children ranging in age from 13 to 17. But I suspect that just as many Americans were shocked to learn of the scope and reach of human trafficking in our own back yard. For under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act any minor used in a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking.

I applaud the impressive work of the FBI; its local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, including the Fairfax County Police Department and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). As you know, I have long supported efforts locally and in the annual Commerce-Justice-Science

(CJS) appropriations bill to elevate this issue as a law enforcement priority. In fact in the CJS bill which recently passed the House Appropriations Committee included language instructing U.S. Attorneys to maintain their human trafficking task forces and undertake proactive investigations of persons or entities facilitating trafficking in persons through the use of classified advertising on the Internet. The bill also directs the U.S. Attorney General to submit a comprehensive report on all DOJ anti-trafficking activities, including legislative proposals that may advance any efforts, no later than 60 days after the bill is signed into law.

While the details of this campaign, Operation Cross Country, are still emerging, not unsurprisingly, Backpage.com featured prominently in the announcement of the crack-down. In fact, a CNN story this morning cited the assistant director of the FBI's criminal investigative division, as saying, "This seventh iteration of Operation Cross Country also was the most successful, with a 30% to 40% increase in 'identifying both victims and pimps' compared with previous operations." The story continued, "He credited the success in part to an expansion of the probe to websites such as www.backpage.com, which he called a forum 'where pimps and exploiters gather.'"

An NBC news story following the raid reported, "Search for 'Backpage.com' on the FBI's main website and up pops eight whole pages of press releases and public announcements naming the classified advertising site as a tool for sex criminals, particularly those selling children, sex and prostitution." Case after case shows that as long as web sites like Backpage.com operate with impunity, impervious to public shame, law enforcement will simply be playing catch up.

In that vein, just last week, an overwhelming majority of state and territorial attorneys general sent a letter to the chair and ranking members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The letter indicated that "Federal enforcement alone has proven insufficient to stem the growth of internet-facilitated child sex trafficking," and pleaded that, "Those on the front lines of the battle against the sexual exploitation of children—state and local law enforcement—must be granted the authority to investigate and prosecute those who facilitate these horrible crimes."

I couldn't agree more, which is why in April 2012, well over a year ago, I wrote you a letter making clear that classified Internet advertising was the latest front in the battle against sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors. Specifically I wrote, "...if DOJ is of the mind that there are insufficient laws on the books to prosecute this activity, I respectfully request a broader legal analysis and recommendations to Congress of legislative initiatives that may be undertaken to fully equip law enforcement to tackle this problem." This was the first of several letters I've written on the topic.

On June 8 2012, I wrote, "...I continue to believe that unless there is the very real prospect of criminal liability that Backpage.com will fail to change...I recognize that these are complex legal questions but surely we can agree that this is not a complex issue. Children ought not to be bought and sold online. Those who facilitate and enable this practice should have to face consequences. I welcome the best legal analysis the Department can provide in how to ensure that this happens."

And again, on March 27, 2013 I wrote you, this time including a series of recommendations provided by NCMEC that Backpage.com and similar Web sites used for trafficking could voluntarily adopt to reduce the sexual exploitation of children online. I urged you, as the nation's chief law enforcement officer, to press Backpage.com to immediately adopt these practices and said that if they fail to do so you should "...take legal action against Backpage.com."

These last two letters have gone unanswered. The legal analysis has never been provided and the exploitation of innocents continues.

Human trafficking has rightly been deemed the slavery issue of our time. It isn't simply an international tragedy, it's a national and local outrage. For years, the back of my office door featured a giant picture of William Wilberforce—the remarkable abolitionist, and man of faith, who labored tirelessly for decades to ban the slave trade in the British Empire. Wilberforce was part of a broader transatlantic abolition movement dating back to the 1700s. He served as an inspiration for the abolitionist cause on our own shores, laying the foundation for the likes of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe and even Abraham Lincoln, who 150 years ago this year issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Wilberforce, famously said, "Having heard all this, you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you do not know." We know that our nation's children are at risk of horrific exploitation that almost defies imagination. We know how pimps and johns use specific Web sites to profit from and prey on their vulnerability. Will you continue to look the other way?

Best wishes.

Think of all the women and children that could be helped. You could make a difference if you act.

IN RECOGNITION OF BAYAUD ENTERPRISES

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bayaud Enterprises, a non-profit organization dedicated to instilling hope, opportunity, and choice into Colorado's disabled community by providing unparalleled job training and placement services.

Founded in 1969, Bayaud Enterprises has been an invaluable resource to the community. This year alone, they have placed over 600 Colorado citizens into competitive positions. Bayaud uses an integrated approach to help find suitable employment for individuals with disabilities who have struggled to find work on their own. They conduct a comprehensive vocational evaluation to assess an individual's knowledge, skills, and abilities, and then, if needed, provide additional workplace training.

Bayaud continues their commitment to our citizens in need by providing job placement and coaching to our community's disabled population. I applaud Bayaud's commitment to working with Colorado's business community and our government agencies to locate suitable employment for those that previously were unable to do this on their own.

Bayaud's services lessen the impact on Colorado community's social systems and provide positive economic results. Most importantly, employment leads to a sense of accomplishment and the satisfaction that one is contributing to their community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that individuals with disabilities and the economy alike have benefited greatly from the excellent work Bayaud Enterprises has done over the last 44 years.

CONGRATULATING BERWYN SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT 100 FOR ITS EXCELLENCE IN PROMOTING HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and personally congratulate Stan Fields, District 100 Superintendent, Jim Swicionis, School Board President, as well as the administrators, teachers and students of Berwyn South School District 100 for their amazing commitment to and success in implementing healthy school environments for their students through the promotion of nutrition and physical activity.

I applaud Berwyn South School District 100 for taking bold and robust steps to change the way students approach exercise and nutrition. A clear testament to its extraordinary work is the fact that each of its eight schools in District 100—six elementary schools and two middle schools—received awards from the Healthier U.S. School Challenge operated by the United States Department of Agriculture. The Healthier U.S. School Challenge is a voluntary certification initiative by the federal government that recognizes schools that provide