

1786. Future Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were the American signatories. The treaty was subsequently presented to the Senate, which ratified it on July 18, 1787, making it the first treaty ever to receive U.S. Senate ratification.

The treaty provided for the United States' diplomatic representation in Morocco and commerce at any Moroccan port on the basis of "most favored nation status." It also established the principle of non-hostility when either country was engaged in a war with any other nation.

President George Washington wrote to Sultan Mohammed III on December 1, 1789: "It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity of assuring your majesty that I shall not cease to promote every measure that may conduce to the friendship and harmony which so happily subsist between your empire and these United States."

U.S. relations with Morocco have strengthened in the years following this historic treaty. During World War I, Morocco was aligned with the Allied forces, and in 1917 and 1918 Moroccan soldiers fought valiantly alongside U.S. Marines at Chateau Thierry, Mont Blanc and Soissons.

During World War II, Moroccan national defense forces aided American and British troops in the region. In January 1943, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Franklin Roosevelt and Free French Commander Charles de Gaulle met for four days in the Anfa neighborhood of Casablanca to develop ongoing strategies against the Axis powers.

In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower sent a letter to Moroccan King Mohammed V to the effect that "my government renews its wishes for the peace and prosperity of Morocco." The King responded by assuring President Eisenhower that Morocco would be a staunch ally against the proliferation of Communism in the region.

Morocco was one of the first nations to express its solidarity with the United States after the September 11, 2001 attacks. The United States subsequently expressed its sympathies and support for Morocco when terrorists conducted major attacks in Morocco.

The United States and Morocco have a Free Trade Agreement and in September 2012, the U.S. and Morocco launched a Strategic Dialogue—the first such U.S. dialogue with a Maghreb nation—to advance common interests on political, economic, security, and educational and cultural affairs.

A bipartisan majority in both the House and Senate have signed letters in support of Morocco's desire to resolve the ongoing conflict in the Western Sahara through negotiations designed to ensure Moroccan sovereignty, while providing the inhabitants with autonomy. In 2009, 244 Members of the House signed such a letter. The following year, 54 Senators signed a letter expressing their support for such a negotiated process designed to end the conflict.

This rich history of friendship and cooperation sets the stage for the visit to the White House by King Mohammed VI. The visit is a result of President Obama's personal invitation to the North African monarch, who will be meeting the President for the first time.

In announcing the visit, the White House issued a statement declaring: "This visit will highlight the long-standing friendship between

the United States and Morocco and strengthen our strategic partnership. The President looks forward to discussing a range of issues of mutual interest with King Mohammed VI, including support for Morocco's democratic and economic reforms. This visit is also an opportunity to increase our cooperation on addressing regional challenges, including countering violent extremism, supporting democratic transitions, and promoting economic development in the Middle East and Africa."

I join with my colleagues in Congress in welcoming the King to Washington in the firm belief that this visit will reinforce the special relationship between our two nations.

A TRIBUTE TO LOTUS RESTAURANT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hong Nguyen, the owner of Lotus Vietnamese restaurant in Vernon, Connecticut. Hong recently announced that Lotus will be closing on December 1st after nearly thirty years of business. The Zagat-rated restaurant has received rave reviews from locals and esteemed food critics alike who return for dishes like the Bombay beef, peppered shrimp, spicy soup, and my favorite, the Saigonese pancake.

Hong Nguyen served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the South Vietnamese Air Force and commanding officer of the 819th combat squadron during the Vietnam War. After the fall of Saigon in 1975, Nguyen and his family fled to the United States. With the assistance of USAF Lt. Colonel Gib Whitman, the Hongts were sponsored for U.S. citizenship and moved to Guilford, Connecticut as the first Vietnamese refugees in the State.

In 1984, Hong Nguyen and his wife, Canh, opened Lotus at its first location on Route 83. In their first years in business they worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Canh did all the cooking and Hong managed the rest of the chores in the restaurant. The grueling work paid off as a growing clientele prompted the Hongts to move into a larger space on the Hartford Turnpike.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the Hong family for their achievements. Their story is a testament to the American dream, and I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this year's recipients of Leadership Fairfax's Northern Virginia Leadership Awards.

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to finding, training and growing leaders in Northern Virginia. Leadership Fairfax seeks to build leaders who raise the tide

not only in their organization or local community but in the whole Northern Virginia region. Graduates from its programs become part of a fast growing network of civic leaders. I've always said, "When you walk into a crowded room it's easy to spot the graduates of Leadership Fairfax—they just stand out!"

Leadership Fairfax alumni and the general public submitted nominations for the 17th annual Northern Virginia Leadership Award, and a panel of community and business leaders made the final selections. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2013 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Bob Chase, president of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, will receive the Regional Leadership Award, which recognizes an individual for advancing regional collaboration and partnership. For two decades, Bob has worked with the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, a coalition of business and civic leaders, to educate the public and advocate for major improvements in regional roads and transit.

Lynn Tadlock, chairman of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and deputy executive director of the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, will be presented with the Trustee Leadership Award, which honors an individual who has demonstrated visionary leadership by embracing new opportunities and pursuing innovative, collaborative approaches. Ms. Tadlock has been associated for 28 years with the Fairfax County Park Authority, and in philanthropy at the Claude Moore Foundation. She has been instrumental in bringing to reality many projects that exist in the county today, including the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, the Cross County Trail, and two county parks for disabled children: Clemjontri Park in McLean, and the Special Harbor Spray Park at Lee District.

Pam Michell, executive director of New Hope Housing, will receive the Nonprofit Leadership Award for her 22 years of inspirational leadership at New Hope Housing. Michell has grown New Hope from a small, local agency to a regional agency, with shelters, transitional and supportive housing, and outreach and support services.

The JBG Companies, a real estate investment firm, will be presented the Corporate Leadership Award. JBG develops active, sustainable communities, advances affordable housing and promotes public art. JBG Cares, the companies' volunteer arm, matches volunteers from the company in the areas of affordable housing, education, the environment, hunger and the arts.

Joe Thompson, assistant principal at Annandale High School, will be honored with the Educational Leadership Award for his efforts in launching the first Annandale Pyramid Resource Fair this past August. This event provided school supplies, clothing, hearing and sight testing, haircuts and other goods and services to almost 4,000 families in the Annandale High School Pyramid.

Patricia Stevens, executive director of the Office of Public Private Partnerships, Fairfax County, will receive the Chairman's Award for her enthusiastic and distinguished service on the Board of Directors of Leadership Fairfax as Governance Committee chair, and as a member of the Executive and Membership committees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees and thanking them for their service to Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2013 award recipients and in commending the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department for 73 years of service. I thank the brave volunteers whose dedication to public safety is deserving of our highest praise, and to each of these men and women I say: "Stay safe."

SHARING STORIES IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the following are stories of individuals affected by our Nation's broken immigration system:

Story 1: I came to the U.S. from Nicaragua when I was six years old along with my younger brother. When we first got to the U.S. it was really exciting for us—first of all boarding the plane and just trying to, you know, fulfill our curiosity, and putting our fingers wherever we can, touching everything that was shiny. And we were even more amazed when we got out of the airplane and saw the moving escalators that we'd never seen before. And we actually thought that we were at Disney World at that point (laughter)! It turned out that we weren't in Disney World when we got off the plane, but we did go to Disney World the same week we got here.

So everything was real bright and hopeful when we first got to the U.S. We came on a visa which expired after six months. Mom was with her boyfriend whom she had a daughter with, and so we all lived together for quite a while until her boyfriend started drinking and abusing alcohol. My Mom's boyfriend would abuse her and hit her and pretty much victimize her constantly. There came a point when me and my brother were coming home from school, which was right next door to our house, a trailer, and we saw that as we were walking toward the garage, it just looked like a robbery.

My Mom's boyfriend came out in boxers, and he looked out of it. His eyes were red and he was just saying all these crazy things—"Oh, your Mom this," and "your Mom that," but my Mom wasn't there at the time. My Mom pulled up in her car. She went to our rooms and got as much clothes as she could, and then she put us in her car and put our seatbelts on. As she was putting the keys in the ignition to drive off and flee, he got in front of her car and called the police. When my Mom heard the police sirens, her instinct was to protect us and to keep us together. She was trying to hide so the police wouldn't catch us, and so we were running behind other trailers but eventually we had to stop. And that was when police officers came around and put her in handcuffs, and we were watching this.

And my Mom, like, she just collapsed, pretty much, when all of this was happening, and we saw tears in her eyes.

And so I figured, you know, I know who the victim is here. I expected the police officer to do the right thing and protect my Mom, things like that. But because my Mom was

fearful, and because she had no status, she didn't speak up and all. She was she was crying and bawling inside the car. So she was unfairly detained that day. But moving fast forward, after she got out of jail for that, like the next day, my Mom became a strong and independent woman. She started working harder, and we had our own apartment without her boyfriend. It was just so peaceful when we were together. We'd watch movies together—she loved comedies, so we were always watching comedy movies. We would take turns cooking, sometimes. Everything was really good, to us, after that incident.

But that incident followed her until a day that we were around 10th grade. She was pulled over for driving without a license, and because of those charges they arrested her too. We were at home, right, expecting her to come at 11:00 p.m., which was when her shift ended at the gas station that she worked at. We were watching the clock, and we were like "oh, it's 11, she should be home anytime now," and then it became 11:30 and our eyes were still wide open, until 11:45 and 11:50 when we just fell asleep. We woke up late the next day; it was a school day and she, she wasn't there. That was the craziest experience that we ever had. It was like our mother was abducted by aliens to us and we were just like, "Where is she?" Our aunt gave us a call: "Hey your Mom was arrested for driving without a license." That's when my brother and I immediately were trying to figure out what to do. I was fifteen years old, and trying to figure out if we should pay the next month's rent or sell her car to pay an attorney.

During that period, all the charges were dropped against my Mom, but they found out about her status and they transferred her to ICE and then they deported her.

What bothers me the most, and what angered me the most during this whole ordeal, was that I was never given the opportunity to say bye to her, to look at her, to hug her, or to make her a promise that I'll see her again. We didn't have any form of ID that allowed us to go inside the detention center. And that's really what has angered me the most and why I'm at this site, to make that sure no one has to go through this again.

After my Mom was deported, some of my aunts were financially struggling themselves, but they offered to take us in. Unfortunately, due to economic hardships, they couldn't sustain us. And that's how I ended up in the foster system with some strangers—with a family I didn't know. To me it was just truly nerve-wracking. The first night I couldn't sleep because I didn't know what was going to happen to me, or who these people were that were in the room with me. And the reason I felt like I didn't belong there was because I was never abused or neglected by my Mom. My Mom was an outstanding woman. Most kids go through the foster system for that reason—they were either abused, neglected, or abandoned. That was not the case for me. So I ended up there and now I've aged out of the foster care. I'm 18, I live alone, and it's difficult to come home and not have my family to tell them, "Hey, this is how my day went," or "Hey, I had a bad day, let's talk about it." It's really tough.

Story 2: My dream is to be a citizen of this country because I came here when I was three months old. I am now twenty-one, almost twenty-two, so that is almost my whole life. CIR would change my life and my family's because I have seen my parents suffer and work so hard every day of their life in the sun and see the struggle that they're in and provide a better future for them to see

the happiness in their eyes because they haven't seen their families in 15 years and it hurts me because I know that I haven't seen my mom or my dad it would be so hard. I want to see them happy one day and reunited with their families and for them to come back without the worry of being sent home. I have much hope that this will come very soon.

Story 3: I am originally from Cuba. I came in the sixties and for over 10 years I have been involved with immigration issues. For Cubans, you know, it has always been easy to get the papers in order, but I think the system is very unfair for the other immigrants. Other immigrants come here for various reasons, mostly because of the poverty in their homes and the political situations from their home land. And they are always being created by the government of the United States and the corporations of the United States with the help of the government. Especially comparing the Cubans with the Haitian people and the wet foot, dry foot—to us, we call it, white foot, black foot. The Haitian people need—just as much as the Cubans—to be accepted by this country and be allowed to come. The policy of the United States is wrong, you know, saying that the situation with the Cubans is political as they are suppressed by a communist government but Haiti supposedly is being run by democratic governments which is not true, they have a lot of dictators there. And a lot of pressure and interference from the United States. So it is political too, besides the poverty that's been created there, so they should be treated just like Cubans. Other immigrants—they should be treated the same. Stop the restriction they got making it hard for families to reunite. Senator Marco Rubio said he approves of immigration reform if they come here legally and wait in the line, but people have been waiting 15–20 years in the line. That's not fair. Besides we give this wrong sense of reality of what's going on in this country because we export movies and TV shows where everybody lives in fabulous mansions, got great jobs, fancy cars, and when they come here they find that the land of the dream is nothing but the land of the nightmare.

Story 4: I've been in this country for 14 years. My kids were born here, we're a part of this country. I pay taxes, we're part of the country's economy. We haven't committed any crimes. We drive a car without insurance. I think that that's bad for the country's economy. There are 12 million [people] driving without insurance. I think that being able to have a license is a good option and that residency should come with a path to citizenship. Us immigrant believe that we are helping the country. I don't see any reason for not wanting to make a path to citizenship. We have a clean record, we've bought property. I think we'd all be better off financially by contributing to this country, it's healthy for the country. We hope that Senator Marco Rubio understands a little of the problem.

Story 5: My dream is for immigration reform because immigration reform will allow me to attend any college I choose and to have a bigger dream than my parents had.

Story 6: Immigration reform will change my life because it will give me reassurance that my friend will not be deported.

Story 7: I'm an aspiring student. A pathway to citizenship will allow everyone to pursue their dreams.

Story 8: For the past two years I have been trying to renew my driver's license, but I have not been successful. I am required to present additional immigration documents that I am not eligible to have.