

want thank our distinguished witness who testified at that hearing, Mr. Sean Penn, for taking time out of his very busy schedule to testify before the subcommittee.

The human rights subcommittee that I chair held two hearings in the 112th Congress on Mr. Ostreicher's case, one in June and the second in August 2012. The witnesses included Mr. Ostreicher's wife, Miriam Ungar, his daughter, Chaya Weinberger, Steve Moore, a retired FBI agent who investigated Mr. Ostreicher's case on a pro bono basis, and Mr. Ostreicher's two Bolivian attorneys, Mr. Yimy Montañño and Mr. Jerjes Justiniano—who are not only extraordinarily effective and competent defense lawyers, but brave as well.

The record—including their testimonies—established that Mr. Ostreicher is innocent, and is the victim of an elaborate, high-level government extortion ring that has fleeced approximately \$27 million worth of assets from the rice operation that he had been managing.

It's time Jacob came home to his wife and family and friends. Basic justice and humanitarianism—Jacob is very ill—adds to the urgency that he be freed.

In one sense, a lot has happened since the hearing last August. Tragically, Mr. Ostreicher has developed the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, likely due to the sustained, severe stress to which he has been subjected.

Immediately following meetings that I had with Bolivian officials in La Paz last June, including Carlos Romero, Minister of Government, Bolivia started to investigate whether Mr. Ostreicher was the victim of extortion. A total of 27 prosecutors, judges, and officials responsible for confiscated goods who were involved in Mr. Ostreicher's case have now had charges made against them. Currently, 13 of them are in the Palmasola prison, 9 are under house arrest, and 5 are fugitives.

One of those in prison, Fernando Rivera, is a Ministry of Government adviser who I personally witnessed threaten the judge presiding at one of Mr. Ostreicher's hearings in a Santa Cruz court room. Mr. Rivera recently apologized to Mr. Ostreicher during a bail hearing, claiming that he was only following orders from then-Minister of Government Sacha Llorenti. In one of the many bizarre twists to this story, Mr. Llorenti is now the Bolivian representative to the United Nations, living in New York, just a few miles from Mr. Ostreicher's home.

I traveled for a second time to Bolivia in early December, this time with Representative NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, to visit Mr. Ostreicher and again to press Bolivian officials to either produce the evidence that he has committed a crime or free him. High level officials assured us that Mr. Ostreicher's case would proceed fairly and expeditiously now that the extortion network was being exposed. Some officials even admitted to us privately that they believed Mr. Ostreicher is innocent.

Mr. Penn became involved in the case in October, and was instrumental in obtaining medical care for Mr. Ostreicher and for helping to secure his release from the Palmasola prison to house arrest on December 18th. With Mr. Penn's personal intervention with President Morales and with Mr. Penn in the court room, all of us hoped that Jacob would be at long last released and vindicated at a hearing in December. Inexplicably, that didn't happen.

The State Department references Mr. Ostreicher's case in its 2012 Country Reports

on Human Rights Practices for Bolivia, and notes the arrest of government officials and the stolen assets as part of its section on "arbitrary arrest or detention."

However, in another sense, the most important aspects of the case have not changed. Mr. Jacob Ostreicher is still in the custody of the Government of Bolivia. On June 4th, it will be two years since he was imprisoned. Bolivian officials are employing delay tactics and giving excuses for his continued detention that we have heard before. No evidence whatsoever has been presented to indicate that Mr. Ostreicher is guilty of any crime. And there is no sign of the \$27 million in assets from his rice operation that were confiscated. Perhaps this last fact is the real reason why Mr. Ostreicher still is not home with his family in the United States.

Recently, there have been reports from credible sources that there is another "security threat" to Mr. Ostreicher's safety. These followed the sudden removal of Bolivian security officers from the parameter of Mr. Ostreicher's residence, the day after Mr. Rivera implicated the current Bolivian representative to the U.N. in the extortion case. As long as Mr. Ostreicher is forced to remain in Bolivia, the government is responsible for and must take all necessary measures to ensure his safety.

As a result of the continued injustice in Mr. Ostreicher's case, and also in response to the growing number of cases of Americans being detained abroad in violation of their human and due process rights, I together with Rep. VELÁZQUEZ have reintroduced the Justice for Imprisoned Americans Overseas Act, or "Jacob's Law." H.R. 1778 would deny visas to foreign government officials responsible for violating the human or due process rights of an American in their custody. The travel ban would also apply to the officials' immediate family members.

It is wrong for our government to give foreign officials and their families the privilege—and it is a privilege, not a right—to visit and study in the U.S. while those same officials are wrongfully detaining an American abroad.

While this bill works its way through the legislative process, my committee will continue to pursue every means possible to secure Mr. Ostreicher's safe return to his wife, children and grandchildren. And that is why we are holding this hearing.

President Morales is flying to Atlanta today for a meeting with former-President Jimmy Carter to ask for his assistance in negotiating land access through Chile to the Pacific Ocean.

While the Bolivian media is reporting on these events, I hope that they will also note that I am sending the former president the transcripts of the hearings that this subcommittee has held on the case of Jacob Ostreicher. I contacted the Carter Center earlier today to ask the former President Carter to intervene personally in Mr. Ostreicher's case. I was advised that Jacob's case is on the agenda today and would be raised.

It was very much a privilege to have Mr. Penn with us this week, not only because of the fame that he has rightly garnered through his Academy Award-winning acting, and not only because of the highly commendable assistance he is bringing to the suffering people in Haiti through the relief organization that he founded, but also because of the extraordinary assistance that he has provided to Mr.

Ostreicher, who he had never met and to whom he owed no obligation prior to being asked to assist with the case last fall. That assistance now includes joining us today to highlight Mr. Ostreicher's continued plight and to advocate for his freedom.

#### IN HONOR OF SHERRY POST

#### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Sherry Post of the 8th Congressional District of Pennsylvania is an outstanding and enterprising businesswoman who created a successful company that manufactures nutritional supplements in the Borough of Hatfield. The company, Simple Brandz, was recently certified as a veteran-owned business through the United States Veterans Administration, which will assist in its further growth by expanding business opportunities. She is an 8-year Army veteran, who is recognized as a dynamic entrepreneur and recently received the 2013 Women of Influence Community Achievement Award in the Greater Lehigh Valley. We commend her for outstanding achievement and also her goal of providing manufacturing jobs for other veterans in the region. We congratulate Sherry Post for setting an example of professional excellence and advocacy of women in business, as well as her commitment to the greater community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND O.C. STIGGERS

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the House's attention today to recognize Reverend O.C. Stiggers, who is retiring at the age of 85.

Pastor Stiggers was born in Chambers County, Alabama to the late John and Historia Williams Stiggers. Pastor Stiggers graduated from the Lanett School System. Afterwards, he attended the Columbus, Georgia branch of American Baptist Theological Seminary of Nashville, Tennessee. He also attended Moody's Bible College. He received his Doctorate of Divinity and his Doctorate of Laws.

Pastor Stiggers has served as the Executive Chair of the Western Union Missionary Baptist Association, as a member of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Calvary Baptist Association and a Dean of the Bryant Theological Seminary School in Hamilton, Georgia. Pastor Stiggers is also a former member of the Board of Trustees at Selma University in Selma, Alabama, and he is a former president of the Parent/Teachers Association.

Currently, Pastor Stiggers is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Lanett, Alabama. He also serves as Pastor of Ozias Ministry Baptist Church and Eastside Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join Reverend Stiggers' friends, family, and congregation in wishing him the best after his retirement.

## RETIREMENT OF DEPUTY SERGEANT AT ARMS KERRI HANLEY

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Kerri Hanley, Deputy Sergeant at Arms, on the occasion of her retirement on June 30, 2013. Kerri Hanley has served the people's House with distinction since 1988, and her sound leadership, extensive institutional knowledge, and trusted guidance have been heavily relied upon by two Sergeants at Arms, House Leadership and Officers, and Members of Congress alike.

Kerri Hanley—a native of America's heartland, Mitchell, South Dakota—began her 25 years of service to the House of Representatives in 1988 with the Republican Leader of the House, Robert H. Michel of Illinois. She left the House briefly in 1989, to serve as Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, United States General Services Administration. However, she soon returned to the Office of the Republican Leader in August 1989, to serve as Deputy Press Secretary. In 1994, Leader Michel promoted her to Press Secretary and she remained in that position until he retired from the House of Representatives in January 1995. Hanley then joined the staff of incoming Sergeant at Arms Wilson Livingood as Executive Assistant. In January 2001, she was appointed Deputy Sergeant at Arms of the United States House of Representatives. As Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Hanley serves as chief of staff and together with the Sergeant at Arms she is responsible for the overall planning, organization, and implementation of all of the office's activities.

Kerri's commitment to this institution is second to none, clearly demonstrated by the variety of highly trusted positions she has held while serving the House of Representatives. Her keen insight and a practical, hands-on approach to problem solving, are the hallmarks of a consummate professional. Her natural sense of calm and whenever needed, a dose of good humor in stressful situations, have helped her to provide effective leadership and guidance during some of the most challenging times in this institution's history—in particular, 9/11 and the anthrax incident. Her tireless work over the years has helped shape the Office of the Sergeant at Arms into one of the most respected support organizations in Congress. She has much to be proud of as she reflects on her long and distinguished career, during which she has earned the respect and admiration of her peers.

I know her husband Jon—a long-time Capitol Guide Service employee who recently retired—and their two children, Christopher and Keli, are very proud of all of her accomplishments. While we are certainly sorry to see Kerri go, I am hopeful she will now be able to devote far more time to all of them in the months and years to come.

Please join me in commending the outstanding service of Kerri Hanley to the Congress of the United States and congratulating her on her retirement. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives we wish you well in all your future endeavors.

## TAIWAN-PHILIPPINES FISHERY DISPUTE

**HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, May 9, 2013, a Taiwanese fishing vessel, the Guang Da Xing No. 28, was fired upon by a Philippine government vessel in waters 164 nautical miles southeast of Eluanbi, the southernmost part of Taiwan in waters considered by both Taiwan and the Philippines to be within Taiwan's 200 nautical-mile-from-shore Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Taiwanese fishing boat was severely damaged and suffered engine failure, causing it to float adrift. Crew member Hong Shicheng, a Taiwanese national, was shot and killed. The Philippine government vessel sailed away without offering any assistance.

A government vessel's shooting of an unarmed fishing boat is an act of violence, and is in violation of international law. Therefore, we call upon the Philippines to promptly and sincerely respond to the requests of the Taiwan government to apologize, punish the perpetrators, and provide proper compensation to the victim's family based on humanitarian grounds.

It is imperative that these two close and longstanding allies of the United States work together for an immediate and peaceful resolution of this incident. The circumstances that have given rise to such an incident must be addressed so as to guarantee as much as possible that such an incident will never happen again. Ultimately, this means the negotiation of an agreement or treaty on marine fishing between Manila and Taipei.

During this difficult time, we express our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Hong.

## REMEMBERING COMMANDER ROBERT EDWARD MAY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Commander Robert Edward May. Commander May passed away late last year at the age of 88. He served in the United States Navy for over 25 years and worked for another 25 years as an engineer in process control in Honeywell, part of Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. May had various interests from a young age. At 15, he was Rochester's 1939 Soap Box Derby Champ and flew his first solo airplane at the age of 16. At 20, he graduated from the US Naval Academy in three years, and his first orders were to be stationed on the Flagship USSN Nashville in the Pacific, surviving the largest naval battle in history. He witnessed a Kamikaze strike killing hundreds and injuring many more on Nashville's command center.

After returning to the US for repairs on the Nashville, Mr. May married his sweetheart Ruth Schlitzer. Together, they had 10 children. During that time, he sailed as Lieutenant and Lieutenant Commander aboard vessels in

Key West. He then attended the Naval Postgraduate School before earning a Master's in Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, writing a then classified dissertation on fire control for torpedoes in conjunction with the latest sonar.

After finishing his post-doctorate work, Mr. May was assigned to one of the largest and most successful projects ever completed, the Polaris Project. The Polaris nuclear missile placed on submarines was the first submerged launch missile to use thrust vectoring and on-board telemetry to guide the missile, changing the course of warfare. Mr. May also aided in the development of the TALOS missile system, and worked in the submarine Anti-Submarine Warfare.

After retiring from the Navy, Mr. May continued to do work for SAC and NELC through data control at Honeywell. While raising his 10 children, he was active in his community, as an organizer and volunteer at church, scouts, little league, and blood drives.

Mr. May's successes in the United States Navy and local communities across the country have strengthened our nation's Defense program. His dedication and passion to serve our country well will certainly be missed. I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to Commander May's family and friends as he will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on April 23, 2013.

Family members include: Bill & Marsha May, John Fredrick May, Joanne Mell, Ruth & Schuyler Hoffman IV, Martin Hoffman, Schuyler Hoffman V, Eileen May, Cynthia & Karl Ponath, Quentin Ponath, Jim & Sugene (McClain) May, James May, Collin May, Ashton May, Don & Connie May, Harrison May, Kenny May, John & Chris Ann (Hardin) May, Caroline May, Daniel May, Ray & Delores Schlitzer, Pete Schlitzer, Marta Schlitzer, Tom Schlitzer, Mary Ann (Schlitzer) & Tom Maszerowski, Walter May, Christopher and Cynthia May, Bill and Gail Schults.

## PASTOR VANDY S. POPE—50 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Vandy S. Pope, on the 50th anniversary of his calling to serve his community through the word of God.

While he currently serves as pastor of New Life Apostolic Church in Cartersville, Georgia, Pastor Pope's vocation has taken him across the globe. Since he graduated Bible College in 1966, his sermons have been heard in 17 different countries, and the 3 States where he served as Pastor. In Georgia alone, Pastor Pope has served three separate communities, and touched countless lives.

1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

All too often, we forget that our religious leaders take on roles that extend so much farther than that of a pastor. These chosen few work long hours, undertaking duties of educators, social workers, charity organizers, and counselors. Moreover, they are often by the