

Clive and Ruth were both born and raised in the United Kingdom. Reverend Clive Knights was educated at Edgware School, followed by North London and Salford Universities. He then received ministerial training from St. Alban's Diocese at Stevenage and Madingly Hall, Cambridge University, commencing his Anglican ministry on St. Matthew's Day, September 21, 1987. Reverend Ruth Knights, the daughter of a reverend, received her higher education at Southlands Teacher Training College and Birmingham University, where she majored in Divinity and Theology. Following graduation, Ruth taught Religious Studies in high school and became head of a religious studies department.

In 2003, the Lord called Reverends Clive and Ruth Knights to come to the United States. The Knights settled in Northwest Florida, where Reverend Clive Knights became Senior Pastor at Chumuckla Community Church. Reverend Ruth Knights also helped serve the community's religious needs when she joined the staff at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church, where she currently serves as an Associate Pastor. After nearly a decade at Chumuckla Community Church, Reverend Clive Knights moved to Bagdad United Methodist Church, where he is the Senior Pastor.

As former President Theodore Roosevelt said, "Free institutions rest upon the character of citizenship." Reverends Clive and Ruth Knights exemplify the high character, leadership, and faith that have been the hallmarks of so many great American citizens. On behalf of the entire United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate Clive and Ruth and welcome them as fellow citizens of this great Nation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that on March 4, 2014, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 488, supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democracy, a reduction in violent crime and calling for an end to recent violence. I am pleased that this resolution expressing support for basic human rights passed the House decisively.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOBBY O'GUREK, RECIPIENT OF THE PANTHER VALLEY IRISH AMERICANS ASSOCIATION SHAMROCK AWARD

#### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bobby O'Gurek, who on March 17, 2014 will receive the Shamrock Award from the Panther Valley Irish Americans Association. Bobby was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1982, to Robert and Patricia O'Gurek. He has lived with cerebral palsy since birth, and become an indispensable part of his community.

He graduated from Panther Valley High School in 1999, where he was named the "Most Persistent Student." Bobby went on to Lehigh County Community College, where he earned his associate's degree as a Computer Specialist with a concentration in Web Development. After college, Bobby began designing websites for S & O Computers, LLC. In 2010, he established his own web design business. To date, Bobby's company has designed and maintained 19 websites for local government offices and small businesses.

Since he was a teenager, Bobby has volunteered his time to keep his community safe as a member of the volunteer Diligence Fire Company No. 1 in Summit Hill, Pennsylvania. After joining in 1994, he is now a senior member, auditor and trustee of the Fire Company, and he contributes his technological expertise to designing and maintaining the Fire Company's web page.

Although cerebral palsy prevents him from walking and speaking on his own, Bobby is involved with many outreach programs to spread awareness about disabilities. In 1998, he started speaking via the assistance of technology at the Pittsburgh Employment conference, hosted for speech pathologists and individuals with all kinds of disabilities who use augmentative communication technologies. Bobby was selected in 2007 to receive the Edwin and Ester Prentke AAC Distinguished Lecture Award in Boston, an award presented annually to a community activist who uses a communication device. He was asked to give a speech at a Massachusetts conference entitled "My Life with Assistive Technology and Community Interactions." Bobby is also a participant of "Through Their Eyes" conference at East Stroudsburg University, where he has addressed students majoring Speech Pathology. He is also an ambassador for Prentke Romich Company, increasing knowledge across Pennsylvania about the assistive technology that helps him communicate.

Bobby O'Gurek's work throughout his life has made his community a safer and brighter place. His perseverance in overcoming cerebral palsy to get his education and start his own business, his willingness to devote his time and technological skills to serve the Panther Valley, and his refusal to let his disability prevent him from achieving his goals are nothing short of inspirational. I congratulate Bobby O'Gurek on his years of service to his community and wish him many more.

#### DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR GAO ZHISHENG

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a piece published in the Wall Street Journal on February 27 highlighting the latest disappearance into the Chinese security system of the prominent human rights defender Gao Zhisheng. It is deeply alarming that Mr. Gao has been in and out of the Chinese prisons, disappeared, and tortured for almost a decade now. As the op-ed piece by Jared Genser, Gao's pro bono legal counsel, notes, "... no one has seen or heard from him since January 2013." Following his most recent disappearance, Gao's

courageous wife, who has testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, filed a complaint to the United Nations, urging it to conduct an investigation into his whereabouts.

I have "adopted" Gao through the Defending Freedoms Project, an initiative of the Lantos Commission, launched in conjunction with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and Amnesty International. I am committed to continuing work towards the day when he can breathe the fresh air of freedom. I echo the sentiments of Mr. Genser, who concluded in the Journal piece, "It is time to reunite Gao Zhisheng with his family. He and his loved ones have suffered long enough."

#### DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR GAO ZHISHENG

(By Jared Genser)

Gao Zhisheng, one of China's most prominent and courageous human-rights lawyers and prisoners of conscience, has again disappeared into the bowels of the Chinese state's security system. For more than a year, his family has desperately tried to access him in Shaya prison in Xinjiang, a remote province in western China. But all these efforts have been rebuffed and no one has seen or heard from him since January 2013. In response to Mr. Gao's most recent disappearance, his wife on Thursday in Geneva filed a complaint to the United Nations, urging it to conduct an investigation into his whereabouts.

A self-taught advocate and legal rights defender, Mr. Gao was once recognized among the country's top 10 lawyers by China's Ministry of Justice. Yet his advocacy for the country's most vulnerable, including factory workers, coal miners, victims of land seizures, and persecuted Christians and Falun Gong practitioners, led the authorities to target Mr. Gao and his family with threats and intimidation starting in 2005. He has been in and out of prisons and subject to disappearances and torture for nearly a decade.

Officials closed his law firm, disbarred him and placed his wife, Geng He, and their young children under 24-hour surveillance. Police stationed inside the family's home repeatedly harassed them. In school, the children were taunted and put under constant watch by the police—even when using the restroom. Because of this unbearable treatment, Geng He and her children fled China and have since been granted asylum in the United States.

Mr. Gao's family is safe now, but he remains in danger. In 2006, he made a coerced confession to "inciting subversion" and was given a suspended three-year prison term. In 2007, Chinese officials tortured him by shocking him with electric batons, holding lit cigarettes up to his eyes, and piercing his genitals with toothpicks. On other occasions, they put him in restraints and beat him repeatedly with handguns. In 2009 and 2010, police disappeared Mr. Gao and tortured him further.

In December 2011, just before the expiration of his suspended sentence and after 20 months of having been held in unknown locations, the Xinhua news agency announced that Mr. Gao would be imprisoned for the remainder of his original sentence. Since then, family members have been allowed to visit him only twice for half an hour on each occasion. Although scheduled for release on Aug. 22, he has now disappeared once again, leaving his family with renewed and urgent questions about his health and safety.

Mr. Gao's imprisonment, torture and disappearances have brought tremendous suffering to him and his family. In testifying recently before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gao's daughter Grace

reflected on her family's insurmountable pain and loneliness. "I believe that when we speak out for my father . . . we protect our own freedom and values," she said.

Despite Mr. Gao's latest disappearance, it is hoped he is managing to endure. But hope must be accompanied by action and it is more urgent than ever that China not be allowed to disappear Gao Zhisheng again with impunity.

On Thursday, his wife lodged a complaint with the U.N. Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, a body of the Human Rights Council. The submission notes that Mr. Gao's family is "distracted because they have no idea whether he is even alive." It goes on to emphasize the Chinese government is violating its own laws allowing for regular family visits, written correspondence, and access to counsel.

Ms. Geng hopes the Working Group will urge the Chinese government to conduct an investigation into Mr. Gao's disappearance. Although the process itself can take many months, the Working Group has a good history of receiving specific replies from the Chinese government to its concerns. In addition, merely by highlighting Mr. Gao's disappearance publicly and triggering a U.N. inquiry, his family has put intense pressure on the Chinese government to respond. While this alone is a helpful step forward, much more needs to be done.

The international community, including the United States and United Nations, must demand proof from the Chinese government that Mr. Gao is alive and insist that his family be granted monthly access to him as is required by Chinese law. The world must urge Mr. Gao's immediate and unconditional release.

At a minimum, foreign leaders should press Beijing to release Mr. Gao on time instead of finding renewed excuses to extend his detention, as it has done in other cases. Washington must also exert pressure on the Chinese government to confirm that Mr. Gao will be provided a Chinese passport and the ability to travel to America upon his release.

It is time to reunite Gao Zhisheng with his family. He and his loved ones have suffered long enough.

**A TRIBUTE TO ALICE STEERE COULOMBE—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Alice Coulombe of Pasadena.

Born and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Ms. Coulombe received her Bachelor's degree in Humanities and her Master's degree in Education from Stanford University. At Stanford, she met Joe Coulombe, and they got married when both were still students at the university.

In 1958, the Coulombes founded Pronto Markets, a chain of grocery stores in Southern California. In 1967, Joe, the original Trader Joe, added a South Seas motif to the stores and changed the name to Trader Joe's. Dur-

ing this time, the Coulombes moved to San Marino, where they raised their three children, Joe, Charlotte and Madeleine, and eventually moved to Pasadena in 1983.

A community volunteer for over forty years, Ms. Coulombe is a passionate advocate for the arts and arts education. She was a founding member and former Chair of the Pasadena Arts Commission, a member of the City of Pasadena's Centennial Committee, and a docent at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens for thirty-five years, where she helped design its school tours of the Japanese Garden. As a volunteer at the Music Center of Los Angeles for three decades, Ms. Coulombe served as Chair of Music Center Presentations and Coordinator of Volunteer Activities.

Ms. Coulombe's special love is opera, and to that end, she was founding president of the Music Center Opera League, as well as one of the founders of the Los Angeles Opera Company, where she currently serves on its board. For the past nine years, she has served on the Colburn School Board of Directors as a member of their Governance Committee and as Chair of the Board Relations Committee. Additionally, she is President of Metropolitan Associates, a local non-profit that raises funds to support the arts for children. For her selfless service to supporting the arts, Ms. Coulombe received the YWCA Pasadena-Foothill Valley's Woman of Distinction Award and has been honored by the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Alice Steere Coulombe.

SABRINA HILL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sabrina Hill for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sabrina Hill is an 8th grader at Everitt Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sabrina Hill is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sabrina Hill for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARKET STREET MISSION**

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Market Street Mission located in Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

The Market Street Mission ministers to those who suffer in the battle against alcoholism, drug abuse, and homelessness in the northern New Jersey area. The Mission provides its ministries through physical, emotional, and spiritual support that will guide those who suffer toward responsible and productive lives.

Established in 1889 by the Reverend Dr. F.W. Owen and his wife, Mrs. Louisa Graves Owen, the Market Street Mission began as a residential program for alcoholic husbands in the Morristown area. With support from the South Street Presbyterian Church, the Mission provided meals, lodging, clothing, and temporary employment for homeless men. Throughout its first decade, the Mission started support meetings and programs for the homeless and drug addicted.

In 1926, a series of explosions at the Picatinny Arsenal left many families homeless and without food or clothes. The Mission was able to help these displaced families by providing them with shelter and other basic necessities.

During the Great Depression, the Market Street Mission ended its affiliation with the Presbyterian Church and added the "Industrial Department," a self-supporting thrift store that provided jobs during difficult economic times.

Today, residents of the Mission continue to work at the Industrial Department as part of the successful "New Reality of Recovery" program, as well as attend chapel and classes. The Market Street Mission has added an Emergency Assistance program that provides meals and lodging for disadvantaged men, women, and children. In addition to its growing development throughout the years, the Mission continues to focus on alcohol and drug treatment programs, incorporating new treatments each year.

The Market Street Mission is proud to celebrate its history and looks forward to its continuous growth in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Market Street Mission and their dedicated employees as they celebrate 125 years of serving the northern New Jersey community.

**THE NEED FOR REFOCUSING AMERICAN HUMANITARIAN AID IN SYRIA**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the third anniversary of the ongoing conflict in Syria. As the war stretches into its fourth year and the regional humanitarian crisis shows little signs of improvement,