

social service organizations to help tell their stories in meaningful ways. The performances resulting from these partnerships are often the only arts experience a group may have.

Founding Co-Artistic Directors Jane Jones and Myra Platt were named among seven Unsung Heroes and Uncommon Genius by The Seattle Times for their contribution to life in Seattle; The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation awarded them a 20th Anniversary Founder's Grant; in 2010, Book-It was given a Mayor's Arts Award; and in 2012, the Governor's Arts Award.

As we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Book-It Repertory Theatre, I would like to convey my congratulations to Book-It on its steadfast commitment to delivering broad, high-quality live theatre experiences to its constituents in Seattle and throughout all of Washington.

THE SHAME OF IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the administration seems keen to reach a nuclear accord that relies on trust in the Iranian regime and perhaps even a de facto collaboration in the fight against ISIS, it is wise to consider and scrutinize the dismal human rights record of this country with which we are currently conducting negotiations based on good faith. How they treat their own people is illustrative of how they see and will treat outsiders. A hearing I convened yesterday provided a critical examination of human rights in Iran—which is important and necessary in its own right—and also placed it in the context of the administration's efforts to partner with this regime on critical issues.

According to a report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran, between July 2013 and June 2014, at least 852 people were executed in Iran. Shockingly, some of those executed were children under the age of 18. Iranian human rights activists place the number of people executed by the Iranian regime at 1,181.

The current Department of State human rights report states that Iranian human rights violations include disappearances; cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, including judicially sanctioned amputation and flogging; rape, politically motivated violence and repression, harsh and life-threatening conditions in detention and prison facilities, with instances of deaths in custody; arbitrary arrest and lengthy pretrial detention, sometimes incommunicado.

While the Iranian constitution grants equal rights to all ethnic minorities and allows for minority languages to be used in the media and in schools, minorities do not enjoy equal rights, and the regime consistently denies their right to use their languages in school. In addition, a 1985 law, the Gozinesh (selection) law, prohibits non-Shia ethnic minorities from fully participating in civic life. That law and its associated provisions make full access to employment, education, and other areas conditional on devotion to the Islamic Republic and the tenets of Shia Islam.

The regime disproportionately targets minority groups, including Kurds, Arabs, Azeris, and

Baluchis for arbitrary arrest, prolonged detention, and physical abuse. These groups report political and socioeconomic discrimination, particularly in their access to economic aid, business licenses, university admissions, permission to publish books, and housing and land rights.

Because of severe religious freedom abuses, our Government has designated Iran as a Country of Particular Concern since 1999. The frequent arrest and harassment of members of religious minorities has continued, following a significant increase in 2012. The government severely restricts religious freedom, and there have been reports of imprisonment, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination based on religious beliefs. There have been continued reports of the government charging religious and ethnic minorities with "enmity against God," "anti-Islamic propaganda," or vague national security crimes for their religious activities. Those reportedly arrested on religious grounds faced poor prison conditions and treatment, as with most prisoners of conscience.

One of those imprisoned on religious grounds is Pastor Saeed Abedini, a U.S. citizen and father of two—Rebekkah Grace and Jacob Cyrus—and a Christian imprisoned in Iran because of his faith. Pastor Abedini was imprisoned by the Iranian regime nearly 1,000 days ago, when members of the Revolutionary Guard pulled him off of a bus and placed him under house arrest. He was later taken away—in chains—to Evin Prison, where he has endured periods of solitary confinement, beatings, internal bleeding, death threats, and continued psychological torture, all because he would not deny his Christian faith.

What was Pastor Abedini's crime? According to the court, he was a threat to the security of Iran because of his leadership role in Christian churches in 2000–2005. President Obama promised Pastor Abedini's son Jacob that he would do all he can to gain his father's release by the boy's birthday next month. Earlier this week, Secretary of State John Kerry, in answer to my question on this matter, said the administration was working quietly to gain Pastor Abedini's release as soon as possible. Let's hope.

Meanwhile, Iran is repeatedly cited for virtually unrelenting repression of the Baha'i community, which Iran's Shiite Muslim clergy views as a heretical sect. Baha'i number about 300,000–350,000. At least 30 Baha'is remain imprisoned, and 60 were arrested in 2012. A February 2013 UN report said in that 110 Baha'is were in jail, with 133 more expected to start serving jail time. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the regime has executed more than 200 Baha'is. The regime frequently prevents many Baha'is from leaving the country, harasses and persecutes them, and generally disregards their property rights. Iranian regime officials reportedly offer Baha'is relief from mistreatment in exchange for recanting their religious affiliation.

Iranian courts offer no recourse to the monstrous violation of human rights because without an independent judiciary, Iranians (and foreigners tried in those courts) are routinely denied fair public trials, sometimes resulting in executions without due process. This also results in ineffective implementation of civil judicial procedures and remedies and allows arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, and correspondence.

This is the regime the administration trusts to make agreements and honor them. I call on the administration to do more than acknowledge these facts—it must take more seriously the blatant disregard of the rights of people and factor this into any interactions we have with this predatory regime. How can we make any binding agreement with such a dishonorable regime? That question remains to be answered.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ANNA BARRY
AS THE 2016 ESCAMBIA COUNTY,
FLORIDA, TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Anna Barry as the 2016 Escambia County Teacher of the Year. Teachers are amongst our Nation's most valuable public servants. They are responsible for mentoring our students and ensuring that our next generation emerges ready to lead our Nation in the future. Mrs. Barry's assiduous work ethic, unbridled enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to student engagement exemplify the characteristics of an exemplary teacher.

For more than a decade, Mrs. Barry has served the students of Northwest Florida, inspiring them to strive for excellence and empowering all those who pass through her classroom to reach their full potential. Her dedication to her students' success fosters an atmosphere of achievement, and her commitment to a layered curriculum teaching method, where each individual student can take ownership of their education, helps ensure that students remain engaged and conscientious.

Mrs. Barry began her career teaching U.S. History, Science, and Geography at Ernest Ward Middle School. Despite being new to the profession, Mrs. Barry tackled her position head on and immediately began making an impact on her students. She also took on leadership positions at the school and helped to coordinate instruction amongst all grade levels.

Following her successful years at Ernest Ward, Mrs. Barry began teaching at her high school alma mater, Northview High School, where she once again established herself as an exceptional teacher and leader. At Northview, Mrs. Barry has served as a Faculty Leader, History Department Chair, and a member of the Florida Standards Team, which helps ensure that teachers are ready to meet the updated state education standards. While at Northview, she has also taken the lead in several other initiatives, including forming the first-ever Model United Nations (UN) Team for Escambia County and working with the local community to secure the funding necessary to have her students travel to Orlando to participate in Model UN. Mrs. Barry also serves as the coach for the Varsity and Junior Varsity cheerleading teams, produces the Miss Northview High School Pageant, and is a co-sponsor of the Student Government Association.

Thanks in large part to her success within her own school environment, Mrs. Barry has

also served in district-wide positions, including service on the World History Leadership Committee, where she helped to construct the district pacing guide, prepare essential questions to accompany units of study, and lead the district's new content session to help World History teachers integrate new standards into their curriculum. Mrs. Barry has received several previous recognitions for her excellence in the classroom, including being named the Escambia County High School Social Students Teacher of the Year, as well being recognized by the Florida Council for Social Studies.

The importance of teachers is unquantifiable. Mrs. Barry clearly understands the important position that teachers serve as role models for their students. Being a role model demands an incontrovertible commitment to professionalism in all aspects of life. Mrs. Barry treats her students, their parents, faculty, and staff with the utmost respect, and, in turn, this respect inspires her students and helps engender success in future endeavors. Mrs. Barry also understands the importance of working together with other teachers to improve the educational experience of their students, and, by sharing her experience with all of her fellow colleagues, Mrs. Barry improves the quality of her own classroom, as well as the entire school.

Each and every teacher should be commended for their commitment to our Nation's future. To be selected as Teacher of the Year, chosen from a large pool of extremely qualified applicants, is a reflection of Mrs. Barry's tremendous work ethic and steadfast dedication to the students of Northwest Florida. She has proven to be among the many exceptional teachers in our Nation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mrs. Anna Barry for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at Northview High School and in the Escambia County School District. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Barry, and we wish her all the best.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF TIBBET

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Tibbet of the Fairfield, California, Police Department on the occasion of his retirement. Chief Tibbet's career has been impressive. He began as a Police Officer with the Alameda Police Department in 1972. In 1980, he transitioned to the San Jose Police Department and was promoted through the ranks to Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain before returning to the Alameda Police Department in 2006. After serving as Chief of Police for four years in Alameda, he was appointed as Chief of Police for the Fairfield Police Department on July 6, 2010.

Chief Tibbet had an immediate impact on the Police Department and the city. In the midst of staffing shortages due to the Great Recession and the State's release of more than 30,000 felons, he oversaw the Depart-

ment's response to a series of high profile violent incidents. The Department remained extremely high functioning and proactive. Chief Tibbet was also a consummate advocate for the community. He fostered partnerships to expand the Department's outreach with neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and churches. His work with the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District to establish the Public Safety Academy and Sullivan Interagency Youth Services Center stand out in addition to his commitment to growing the P.A.L. program. Chief Tibbet was also a strong supporter for improving efficiencies through the use of new and enhanced technologies. Under his leadership, the Department secured numerous grants to maintain services during difficult financial times and deployed innovative technologies to protect the city.

Chief Tibbet has been a valued colleague and leader, and his commitment to the City and community was evidenced on a daily basis.

HONORING MR. RANDY SWAN

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor longtime Broadcast Journalist and news anchorman, Mr. Randy Swan, of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, upon the occasion of his retirement from WDAM, Channel 7, a television station covering the region known as the Pine Belt.

Ask anyone in the northern half of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District who delivers their nightly news, and they will likely answer, "Randy Swan." For over 50 years, Randy's voice has narrated important events to the people of South Mississippi, first over radio, then television. For the past 38 years, it has been Randy's face in hundreds of thousands of Pine Belt homes as he reported the days' events on the evening news.

Randy was born and raised in broadcasting. At the time of his birth, in 1947, Randy's father, Jimmy Swan, held a contest on WFOR radio station to name his newborn son. Out of more than six thousand entries, the winning name, James Randolph, was chosen to honor the memory of a young local man who had died fighting in World War II.

Randy's broadcast career began at the age of three, talking on the radio while sitting on his father's lap, at WFOR. At the age of fifteen, he was working full-time in radio broadcasting while also attending high school. In the 1950s, Randy took to the television screen, singing on his father's music variety show, McCaffrey's Showtime.

After graduating from Hattiesburg High School in 1965, Randy attended the University of Southern Mississippi, earning a bachelor's degree in broadcasting in 1970. It was 1976, the year of our nation's bicentennial, when Randy began his career at WDAM, as morning anchor and reporter for the station covering a large portion of South Mississippi. Within a short six years, Randy was named News Director and soon became the main anchor for the station—his was the face many area residents turned to for their news.

In the 1990s, Randy served as Station Manager, News Director, and lead anchor at

WABG in Greenville, Mississippi, but he returned to the Pine Belt and WDAM five years later.

The span of his career has given Randy the privilege of sharing some of the best and worst moments in history. He claims that one of the most fulfilling aspects of his career is in helping others through the sharing of information. For example, Randy and his team remained steadfast in their on-air coverage in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Thousands of residents relied on WDAM and the trustworthiness of Randy Swan to assist them with finding needed supplies and assistance in the recovery.

His dedication and professional integrity earned Randy distinction in the Mississippi Associated Press Hall of Fame (2006) and the University of Southern Mississippi School of Mass Communications & Journalism Hall of Fame (2010). Randy has four children and is married to the former Millie Ivey. The family resides in Hattiesburg. I am proud to honor Mr. Randy Swan for an outstanding career in radio and television broadcasting in South Mississippi. We extend our appreciation for a job well done, and wish him all the best in retirement.

HONORING MAE YATES

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mae Yates, a wonderful woman who contributed significantly to the Florida community and enriched the lives of those around her. Mae raised her three children with a strong sense of fairness, compassion, and empathy for others, values that were imbedded in Mae herself and evident in all of her work.

Mae grew up in Brooklyn with a positive attitude and influence on those around her, always making the best of any situation. She excelled in her studies at Brooklyn College, and married the love of her life, Sam Yates. Together, they traveled to South America, Europe, and Asia, spending half a year living in India. They lived in various states on the East Coast of the United States, and Mae truly made a positive impact on Palm Beach County after moving to Florida 36 years ago.

Mae Yates was active in civic life and dedicated to the improvement of her community, both locally and nationally. Her public engagement included organizing volunteers for Delray Hospital when it first opened and personally logging over 13,000 volunteer hours at that same hospital. She served as President of her children's school PTA, her condominium section in Kings Point, and the Atlantic Democratic Club. Mae was Director of the Area Agency on Aging, clerk of her voting precinct in Palm Beach, and worked in the South County Courthouse. Her many important contributions to the community include bringing a hospital to Delray Beach, bringing a fire station closer to the senior community, having traffic lights installed, and working on legislation to support victims of domestic abuse.

Mae believed in me when I first ran for office, and I always turned to Mae for insight and inspiration. It is a privilege to represent a