

For example, a judge might look at the report table filled with zeros in the unresolved cases category, erroneously conclude that a particular country is not of concern, and give permission to an estranged spouse to return to their country with the child for a vacation. The taking parent then abducts the child and the left behind parent then spends her life savings and many years trying to get her child returned to the U.S. All of which could have been avoided with accurate reporting on the danger.

I am very concerned that the first annual report contains major gaps and even misleading information, especially when it comes to countries with which we have the most intractable abduction cases.

For instance, the report indicates that India, which has consistently been in the top five destinations for abducted American children, had 19 new cases in 2014, 22 resolved cases and no unresolved cases. However, we know from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) that India has 53 open abduction cases—and that 51 have been pending for more than 1 year.

The report shows zero new cases in Tunisia for last year, 3 resolved cases, and zero unresolved cases. And yet Ms. Edeanna Barbirou testified to her more than 3-year battle to bring her children home from Tunisia. NCMEC's numbers show 6 ongoing abductions in Tunisia, all of which have been pending for more than a year.

Nowhere is the report's disconnect with reality more clear than in its handling of Japan, a country that has never issued and enforced a return order for a single one of the hundreds of American children abducted there, and was not listed as a country showing failing to cooperate in returns.

In March, nearly two months before the annual report was released, I chaired a hearing in the subcommittee which I chair featuring Ambassador Susan Jacobs in which it was made perfectly clear that, "Congress expects that Japan will be evaluated not just on its handling of new abduction cases after it joined the Hague Convention last year, but on its work to resolve ALL open abduction cases," including the more than 50 cases I and others have been raising with the State Department for the last 5 years.

Among such cases is that of Sgt. Michael Elias, who has not seen his children, Jade and Michael Jr., since 2008. Michael served as a Marine who saw combat in Iraq. His wife, who worked in the Japanese consulate, used documents fraudulently obtained with the apparent complicity of Japanese consulate personnel to kidnap their children, then aged 4 and 2, in defiance of a court order, telling Michael on a phone call that there was nothing that he could do, as "my country will protect me."

Her country, very worried about its designation in the new report, sent a high-level delegation in March to meet with Ambassador Jacobs and explain why Japan should be excused from being listed as "non-compliant," despite the fact that more than one year after signing the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Japan has ordered zero returns to the U.S.

Just before the report was released in May—two weeks late—Takashi Okada, Deputy Director General in the Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told the Japanese Diet that he had been in consultation with the

State Department and "because we strived to make an explanation to the U.S. side, I hope that the report contents will be based on our country's efforts."

In other words, Japan got a pass from the State Department and escaped the list of countries facing action by the U.S. for their failure to resolve abduction cases based on what Mr. Okada euphemistically refers to as "efforts," not results.

Sgt. Michael Elias's country has utterly failed to protect him. He has seen zero progress in his case over the last year—the 7th year of his heart-wrenching ordeal—and yet the State Department cannot even bring itself to hold Japan accountable by naming Japan an offender in the annual report.

It is disappointing, discouraging, and disgraceful. The report whitewashes Japan's egregious record on parental child abduction.

Adding insult to injury, the report table that was to show the unresolved abduction cases in Japan failed to include a single one of the more than 50 cases, 36 of which have been dragging on for more than 5 years, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Instead, the table listed Japan has having a 43% resolution rate.

Japan has never issued and enforced a return order for an American child. These young victims, like their left-behind parents, are American citizens who need the help of their government.

The Goldman Act is clear: All requests for return that the State Department submitted to the foreign ministry and that remained unresolved 12 months later are to be counted against Japan. Nearly 100% of the abduction cases to Japan remain open; and the report's conclusion of 43% resolution is indefensible.

Moreover, not a single left behind parent pursuing access was allowed in-person contact with their child over the last year.

The Goldman Act has given the State Department new and powerful tools to bring Japan, and other countries, to the resolution table. The goal is not to disrupt relations but to heal the painful rifts caused by international child abduction.

The question still remains, will the State Department use the Goldman Act as required by law?

I appreciate the Department's presence at yesterday's hearing to discuss ways that we can improve the report and ensure that it fulfills the purposes for which it was intended—namely, the prevention of abduction and the reunification of the thousands of American families that have been suffering forced separation for too long.

WELCOMING THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE, TECO, TO DENVER

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to welcome the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, TECO, to the city of Denver. The establishment of this important office in Denver is a testament to the strong relationship the people of Colorado have developed over the years with the people of Taiwan. Colorado counts

Taiwan as its 6th largest Asian trading partner and its 13th overall trading partner. Locating this office in Denver not only reflects the depth of our current relationship with Taiwan but will surely contribute to deepening our trade, education, and cultural ties in the coming years.

My district in Colorado has a growing Taiwanese population and their presence greatly enriches the district economically, culturally, and civically. Taiwanese entrepreneurs, business community, civic leaders, and students contribute greatly to our community. Over the past 50 years Taiwan has also proven itself as a significant political, economic, and security partner of the United States and I fully expect that strong relationship to grow even stronger in the years to come.

Having Taiwan as a meaningful partner clearly benefits both of our citizens, and I am proud that Colorado now has a direct relationship with Taiwan through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

I look forward doing whatever I can to further enhance our close and growing relationship.

MIDDLE EAST WARS ARE A HORRIBLE MISTAKE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Sowell is one of this Nation's most-respected economists and syndicated columnists.

His latest column is about the lessons we should learn from our seemingly-endless war in Iraq.

Mr. Sowell wrote: "Going back to square one, what lessons might we learn from the whole experience of the Iraq War?

If nothing else, we should never again imagine that we can engage in "nation-building" in the sweeping sense that term acquired in Iraq—least of all building a democratic Arab nation in a region of the world that has never had such a thing in a history that goes back thousands of years."

Mr. Sowell is right.

It has been a horrible mistake for this Nation to spend trillions of dollars on unnecessary wars in the Middle East.

We should never have gotten involved in all these civil wars between Shi'a and Sunni.

Yet, we keep on pouring mega-billions down these ratholes, voting for even more billions over there as recently as yesterday. When will we ever learn?

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH CHICAGO AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ROTARY HUMANITARIAN PATRIOT AWARD

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding community service of The Rotary Club of North Chicago and to recognize this year's recipients of The Rotary Humanitarian Patriot Award.

The Rotary Humanitarian Patriot Program was established by The Rotary Club of North Chicago in 2013 with three primary objectives: 1) recognizing individuals throughout Northeast Illinois who are the best at providing humanitarian support for our United Armed Forces Veterans and their families; 2) highlighting veteran services provided by local North Chicago institutions including the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center and its integrated relationships with the active duty component at Great Lakes Naval Training Center and Rosalind Franklin University College of Medicine and Science; and 3) supporting research, treatment, and awareness for individuals living with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

Rotary was founded on the principle of service, and The Rotary Humanitarian Patriot Program is an inspiring extension of this mission. The award recipients all demonstrate an extraordinary sense of commitment to the men and women of our armed forces. These individuals understand that veterans have sacrificed greatly for this country and deserve nothing less than our highest gratitude and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate this year's recipients of The Rotary Humanitarian Patriot Award: Bryan Anderson, Joyce Campbell, Mary Carmody, Larry Crone, Jeff Harger, Gander the Service Dog, Lon Hodges, Robert Kauffman, Don Long, Rob Paddor, Judge John Philips, Anthony Sarpe, Craig Steichen, Matt Steichen, Angela Walker, Scott Watkins, Bill Wolff, Michael Woods, and Frank Yurasek.

Even more so, I thank these outstanding individuals and canine for the incredible work they continue to do. Their service strengthens our communities and our country, and I am grateful for the work of The Rotary Club of North Chicago and all of this year's honorees.

CONGRATULATING MR. D. EDWARD SMYTH ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor D. Edward ("Ted") Smyth on his retirement from McGraw Hill Financial, following a distinguished career at the highest levels of government and business.

In 2009, Ted joined the company as its Executive Vice President for Corporate Affairs, overseeing worldwide marketing, communications, government affairs and corporate responsibility. During his tenure, Ted helped lead the company's transformation into a focused provider of credit ratings, benchmarks and analytics to the financial marketplace, with marquee brands that include Standard & Poor's, Platts and J.D. Power. He also lent his expertise in corporate governance to the company's Board of Directors and served as a trusted counselor to two chief executive officers: Harold W. ("Terry") McGraw, III, and more recently, Douglas L. Peterson.

Ted came to McGraw Hill Financial after more than two decades at H.J. Heinz Company, where he held the dual roles of Senior Vice President for Corporate and Government Affairs and Chief Administrative Officer. In his time at Heinz, Ted created world-class com-

munications and government relations functions and chaired both the Heinz Global Communications Committee and the Heinz Crisis and Issues Committee, reporting directly to Bill Johnson, Heinz's former chairman, president and CEO. Ted also built and sustained the company's talent management process, designed to attract and retain the best minds in the food industry.

Prior to joining Heinz in 1988, Ted spent 15 years as a senior diplomat for Ireland, serving in embassies and offices in Geneva, Portugal, Washington, D.C. and London. Among the many highlights of his diplomatic career, Ted served as a delegate to the 36-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Switzerland and was a special advisor to the Irish Prime Minister in seeking a peaceful resolution to the Northern Ireland conflict. Ted also was a member of the Secretariat of the New Ireland Forum and was Press Secretary for the Irish government in the United Kingdom.

A talented writer and sought-after speaker, Ted has authored numerous articles on public policy, has participated in leading conferences worldwide and has contributed thoughtful bylines to several leading newspapers. He lends his considerable leadership skills to a number of organizations, currently serving as a Director of Glucksman Ireland House at New York University, a member of the Global Studies Program of the Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, a trustee of the Clinton Institute in University College, Dublin, and a trustee of Marlboro College, Vermont. He also is a former Director of the Hain Celestial Company, the Africa America Institute and the Ireland Funds. Ted graduated with honors in History and Political Science from Trinity College in Dublin.

Mr. Speaker, apart from his countless accomplishments, Ted Smyth is a true gentleman and a friend to all who know him. I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ted for his many contributions and congratulating him on his remarkable career.

CONGRATULATING THE D.C. CHAPTER OF THE BLACK DATA PROCESSING ASSOCIATES ON ITS 37TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the District of Columbia chapter of the Black Data Processing Associates (BDPA) on its 37th anniversary of service to the residents of the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

Founded in May 1978 by Norman Mays, the D.C. chapter is the second chapter of BDPA formed, preceded only by the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania chapter, 1977. In 1979, BDPA was restructured as a national organization, and has 45 active chapters across the United States.

As the oldest and largest African American information technology (IT) organization, comprised of over 2,000 African-American IT professionals, as well as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) college students,

BDPA's vision is to be a powerful advocate for their interests within the global technology industry. Its mission is to be a global, member-focused technology organization that delivers programs and services for the professional well-being of its members.

BDPA continues to promote professional growth and technical development for young people and those entering into information and communication technology (ICT) in academia and corporate America. We also appreciate BDPA and its 45 chapters for continuing to provide ICT opportunities for STEM students and professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 37th anniversary of the D.C. chapter of the Black Data Processing Associates, in congratulating BDPA for its outstanding accomplishments and commitment to the residents of the District of Columbia and around the country, and in welcoming those attending the BDPA Annual National Technology Conference and Career Fair, titled "Evolution of IT—Embracing the Digital Future," on August 18–22, 2015, at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

HONORING NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY WRESTLER, NICK GWIAZDOWSKI

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nick Gwiazdowski, a member of the North Carolina State University wrestling team, on winning his second straight NCAA Division I Individual Championship.

Mr. Gwiazdowski is the first Wolfpack wrestler to ever win multiple NCAA titles and one of the most successful student-athletes in NC State's history. He finished this season with a perfect 35–0 record and holds a record of 55 straight wins since last year—the nation's longest current winning streak.

North Carolina State has a long history of success in wrestling, with seven national championships. Gwiazdowski's remarkable victory—17 seconds into the championship match—adds yet another chapter to that storied tradition.

Congratulations to Nick Gwiazdowski. Wolfpack fans everywhere are proud of your championship and look forward to your senior season next year and the promise of a threepeat.

OUR SHREDDED FLAG

HON. JOSEPH J. HECK

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, recently, I was contacted by a constituent, Colonel Paul Dudley, United States Air Force, Retired. He wrote to express his patriotic feelings for our country and the treatment of our flag. Attached to his letter was a poem he wrote titled, "Our Shredded Flag." Since this Sunday, June 14th, is Flag Day, I thought it appropriate to submit his poem.