

privileged to live to witness her three children's professional accomplishments in communications, medicine, and photography. She also leaves behind six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

On a personal note, I had the honor of spending private time with Ms. Stewart thanks to her loving son Dwight who has been a dear friend for decades. I loved being with her. She brought me joy and made me laugh. Her colorful descriptions and deep insights were remarkable. I attended mass with her on several occasions and she demonstrated in words and deeds her belief in God, who she knew was all merciful and loving. I will deeply miss Ms. Stewart, but her indomitable spirit will endure forever.

Today, I join Ms. Stewart's family in celebrating her life and enduring legacy. May she rest in power and in peace.

#### HONORING AMERICAN CLERGY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE NATIONAL PARENTS' DAY AWARDS LUNCHEON

##### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize and honor this year's National Parents' Day Award Luncheon hosted by the American Clergy Leadership Conference in my district, New York 16.

In 1994, Congress unanimously passed "The Parents' Day Resolution"—which I co-sponsored—establishing the fourth Sunday of July as an annual holiday, like Mother's Day and Father's Day. National Parents' Day this year will actually be on Sunday, July 28.

The American Clergy Leadership conference is an interfaith and interracial coalition of faith leaders working together beyond denomination to strengthen marriages and families, renew communities and our nation. ACLC ministers share the vision that America should be an example to the world showing how all people can live together as one family.

To mark National Parents' Day, the ACLC is promoting family as a way to support the community by upholding and awarding people who have been role models in parenting their children and serving the broader community.

As Representative and a proud parent of three wonderful children, I applaud the work the ACLC is doing to recognize and celebrate all of the wonderful parents we have in this amazing district. I want to congratulate this year's ACLC Awards Luncheon honorees and thank them, along with our dear friends in ACLC, for all they do every day to better our community and create a strong foundation on which our children can learn and grow.

#### RECOGNIZING LUX BLOX FOR WINNING INNOVATION OF THE YEAR THROUGH THE TURNER CENTER SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

##### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lux Blox for winning the Innova-

tion of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

Lux Blox was founded by Michael and Heather Acerra of Galesburg, Illinois, who created a construction system designed to build things the same way nature builds itself. The blocks curve, bend and move without the limits of traditional building blocks. With the help of Daniel Wollin, a 15 year-old down the street from their home, and a 3-D printer, they developed these innovative building blocks. Their product aims to inspire future creativity and exploration. The blocks are manufactured near Galesburg, Illinois, and are packaged by the skilled hands of those with disabilities living their community.

It is because of community pioneers like Lux Blox that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Lux Blox for winning the Innovation of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

#### CONGRATULATING BREENEN YINGLING

##### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Breenen Yingling, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

This past summer, Breenen and his brother were diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia. This disease affects balance, coordination, mobility, and the heart. There is no treatment or cure, but that has not deterred the boys. Following their diagnosis, they started selling blue "Fight Ataxia" bracelets and donated all proceeds to research.

Since coming to Encompass Health, Breenen and his brother have always showed up with a fighting spirit and a positive attitude each session as they participate in aqua and land therapy to maintain muscle strength and mobility.

It is thrilling to hear that Breenen was also able to help others in his program to push a little harder once they saw his work ethic.

Congratulations once again to Breenen on the recognition.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARISOL CHALAS

##### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Marisol Chalas for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow in my office and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Lieutenant Colonel Chalas is transitioning from her current assignment to serve as the Legislative Assistant to the Vice Chief of Staff, Army.

Born in Bani, Dominican Republic, Lieutenant Colonel Chalas moved with her family to the United States at the age of nine. She began her military career as an enlisted Soldier in July 1990, and in 2001 she received her commission as Second Lieutenant in the Aviation branch from the Georgia Military Institute Officer Candidate School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering from Massachusetts Maritime Academy, a Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University and a Master of Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Lieutenant Colonel Chalas has served in a broad range of assignments during her extensive military career. These include two rotations as Company Commander, operational experience at multiple echelons with Army units and Joint Task forces, international duties with Dominican Republic Canadian Forces, and completion of the Army Congressional Fellowship program.

In 2017, as an Army Congressional Fellow, I had the privilege of working with Lieutenant Colonel Chalas in my office for a year and during her subsequent assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. She worked tirelessly as Defense Fellow, assisted my office on a range of legislative issues, and coordinated with Members of Congress and their staffs to accurately articulate the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees. Her professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and her work both as a fellow and as a liaison very effectively represented the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense to the United States Congress.

Throughout her career, Lieutenant Colonel Chalas has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited from her extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion for the Army profession. I join my colleagues today in honoring her dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Madam Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Lieutenant Colonel Chalas since the first session of the 115th Congress. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Marisol for her service to our country and wish her all the best as she continues her service in the United States Army.

#### 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF HOPE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

##### HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 250th anniversary of Hope Township, New Jersey. Hope Township is a community with rich history, located in my District, the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey.

Hope Township is one of the earliest planned communities in our nation. In 1769, German Moravians settled in what is now Hope Township. Prior to 1769, several families farmed on Jenny Jump Mountain and on John

Samuel Green, Jr.'s farm in the center of what is now the Village in Hope Township.

The first industrial building in Hope was the Grist Mill and its Mill Race which diverted a channel of water to the Mill to grind flour. This was built in one year and began immediate production, which continued into the 1950s. A tragic fire in 1918 destroyed several blocks in the town, but Hope bounced back, even stronger than before. Major development often bypassed Hope, which has allowed the Township to maintain the original town structure for so many decades.

In 1973, Hope Township was named a Historic Place in both the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places, and the Township has maintained its commitment to preserving history.

Under the leadership of Mayor Tim McDonough and the Township Committee, Hope Township has continued to flourish. I encourage my colleagues to come enjoy the natural beauty of Hope Township and visit great attractions including the Land of Make Believe, the Hope Historical Museum, and the Inn at Millrace Pond.

As the Representative for the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey, I am proud to recognize Hope Township on their 250th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hope Township for reaching this amazing milestone and look forward to many great years ahead.

#### U.S. TREASURY SETTLES WITH DR. VALENTIN GAPONTSEV

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the settlement concluded between the Department of Treasury and my constituent, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev, acknowledging that Dr. Gapontsev is not a Russian oligarch for purposes of the CAATSA listing that appears on Treasury's website. Dr. Gapontsev is the founder and CEO of IPG Photonics, headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts, a global leader in fiber laser technology. I have followed his dispute with Treasury for over 18 months, and I am glad to see it resolved favorably on behalf of my constituent.

Therefore, I include in the RECORD the following: September 11, 2019 Letter from Department of the Treasury to Dr. Gapontsev; September 11, 2019 Press Release by IPG Photonics; and September 11, 2019 Washington Post article, "Treasury admits Russian-born physicist shouldn't be on oligarch list that it cribbed from Forbes."

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,  
Washington, DC, September 11, 2019.

DR. VALENTIN P. GAPONTSEV,  
c/o IPG Photonics Corporation,  
Oxford, MA.

IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION,  
Oxford, MA.

DEAR DR. GAPONTSEV AND IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION: The following concerns the Secretary of the Treasury's unclassified report to Congress on January 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 241 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act

("CAATSA"), Pub. L. No. 115-44, 131 Stat. 886 (2017) ("the Section 241 Report"). The United States Department of the Treasury is of the opinion that, if it had to create the unclassified report today, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev would not be listed among oligarchs in the Russian Federation referred to in Section 241 of CAATSA. Consequently, Dr. Gapontsev is not an oligarch in the Russian Federation for purposes of Section 241 of CAATSA. The Department's view is based on information we did not have at the time the report was submitted to Congress. Among other things, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev is a U.S. citizen and chairman and CEO of IPG Photonics Corporation, a publicly-traded corporation headquartered in the United States.

Any reference to Dr. Valentin Gapontsev in the unclassified Section 241 Report does not reflect any judgment of the Treasury Department regarding compliance with U.S. law, including those relating to sanctions against Russia or its oligarchs.

Sincerely,

PAUL AHERN,  
Acting Principal Deputy  
Assistant Secretary,  
Office of Terrorist Financing and  
Financial Crimes.

[From IPG Photonics, September 11, 2019]  
US TREASURY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT VALENTIN  
GAPONTSEV IS NOT AN OLIGARCH

DR. VALENTIN GAPONTSEV AND IPG SETTLE LITIGATION WITH US TREASURY OVER CONGRESSIONAL REPORT

OXFORD, MA.—IPG Photonics Corporation (NASDAQ: IPGP) today announced that the U.S. Treasury publicly acknowledged Dr. Valentin P. Gapontsev is not an oligarch in the Russian Federation for purposes of Section 241 of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). Litigation over his inclusion in the so-called oligarch report was resolved in consideration for the Treasury Department's official and public finding that Dr. Gapontsev is not an oligarch in the Russian Federation, and he would not be included in the report to Congress if it were compiled today.

Dr. Valentin P. Gapontsev, founder and CEO of IPG Photonics, a U.S.-based global leader in fiber laser technology, sued the U.S. Treasury in December 2018 over its report to Congress listing him as an oligarch of the Russian Federation under CAATSA. Dr. Gapontsev asserted that the U.S. Treasury had no basis in law or fact for including him in the report.

The letter, signed by Paul Ahern, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, says "Treasury is of the opinion that, if it had to create the unclassified report today, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev would not be listed among oligarchs in the Russian Federation referred to in Section 241 of CAATSA based upon information it did not have when the report was submitted to Congress." The letter also states "[a]ny reference to Dr. Valentin Gapontsev in the unclassified 2018 report does not reflect any judgment of the Treasury Department regarding compliance with U.S. law." The Treasury published the letter on its website at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Letter-09-11-2019.pdf>.

"Ever since the Treasury Department issued the 2018 CAATSA report to Congress, we have asserted that it was wrong in declaring Dr. Gapontsev to be a Russian oligarch. We are pleased that the Treasury has finally admitted this much in its letter," said Angelo Lopresti, IPG Photonics' General Counsel. He continued, "During a court hearing, the U.S. Government conceded that the U.S. Treasury based its unclassified CAATSA oli-

garch report entirely on a list taken from a 2017 Forbes Magazine article. Dr. Gapontsev, a U.S. citizen, is a world-renowned scientist and entrepreneur who created thousands of U.S. jobs as he commercialized fiber laser technology."

On January 29, 2018, the U.S. Treasury Secretary designated 96 individuals as "oligarchs in the Russian Federation" pursuant to Section 241 of the CAATSA, including Dr. Valentin Gapontsev. IPG Photonics, headquartered in Massachusetts, is the world leader in fiber laser technology, with more than 4,000 customers, 25 facilities and 6,000 employees worldwide.

Dr. Gapontsev asserted in the litigation that his wealth stems entirely from successfully growing IPG Photonics and his fiber laser innovations over the last three decades, not from any connections with the Russian government.

#### ABOUT IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION

IPG Photonics Corporation is the leader in high-power fiber lasers and amplifiers used primarily in materials processing and other diverse applications. The company's mission is to make its fiber laser technology the tool of choice in mass production. IPG accomplishes this mission by delivering superior performance, reliability and usability at a lower total cost of ownership compared with other types of lasers and non-laser tools, allowing end users to increase productivity and decrease costs. A member of the S&P 500® Index, IPG is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts and has more than 25 facilities worldwide. For more information, visit [www.ipgphotonics.com](http://www.ipgphotonics.com).

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 11, 2019]  
TREASURY ADMITS RUSSIAN-BORN PHYSICIST  
SHOULDN'T BE ON OLIGARCH LIST THAT IT  
CRIBBED FROM FORBES

(By Steven Mufson)

The U.S. Treasury Department issued a letter Wednesday stating that Valentin P. Gapontsev, an 80-year-old laser physicist who became a U.S. citizen a decade ago, does not belong on a list of Russian oligarchs that Treasury admitted in court to having cribbed entirely from a 2017 Forbes Magazine article.

Gapontsev, who has built a \$6.8 billion company called IPG Photonics based in Oxford, Mass., was No. 27 on the list of 96 Russians that Treasury gave Congress when lawmakers were eager to retaliate for Russian interference in U.S. elections.

In the letter Treasury issued Wednesday, it said it was revising its view "based on information we did not have at the time the report was submitted to Congress."

Gapontsev has said that he never belonged on the list and that he had feared that Congress might use the list as a tool for applying pressure on the Kremlin. He said that unlike the Russian oligarchs, he built his company over three decades based on its advanced laser technology, not Kremlin connections.

Under sanctions law, targets could be banned from entering the United States, and their assets could be frozen. Some lawmakers in 2018 quickly launched a letter-writing initiative aimed at getting financial institutions to identify the assets of people on the list as a way to make banks skittish about doing business with them.

Treasury wouldn't budge on the listing, however, and Gapontsev filed suit in federal court Dec. 3, 2018.

The Treasury said in a settlement Wednesday that Gapontsev did not belong on the list under Section 241 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. It said that it was "of the opinion that, if it