

I have, in my mind, this connection that all of those men at that time over 100 years ago, that they were coming together as a community, and they were going off to fight for their country. And for 100 years now, this particular American Legion Post 28 had selflessly, admirably, and honorably served the Grand Haven community with a special focus on veterans and their families.

On June 12, 1919, how this came about was 35 local veterans returning from this Great War gathered at the Grand Haven Armory and signed a petition to become chartered as the Grand Haven American Legion Post 28.

They chose as their namesake, Charles A. Conklin, who was Grand Haven's first fallen soldier of that war to end all wars. Well, shortly after graduating high school, Charles joined the National Guard as a machine gunner and was part of the prestigious 42nd "Rainbow" Division.

After ferocious fighting on the front line, Charles was wounded in combat and died on May 7, 1918. He now rests in peace at Grand Haven's Lake Forest Cemetery, where his courageous spirit continues to inspire local veterans and all of our citizens to carry on his legacy of duty, service, and valor.

After witnessing the positive impacts across west Michigan, more veterans and their families wanted to join Post 28. The Post 28 family first expanded April 9, 1920, when the Women's Auxiliary Unit 28 organized and was chartered; and then, for over a century, as they continued to grow, the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 28 was chartered in 1937 and again in 1990. Finally, the American Legion Squadron 28 was organized in 2007, completing the Post 28 family.

The American Legion Post 28's steadfast commitment to serving veterans, their families, and the Grand Haven community shines in every act of service that they perform. The long list of charitable and educational programs, including the annual Poppy Sale, the Boys State and Girls State programs that they support, the Good Fellows Committee for volunteerism, the food drives, and their famous Salmon Dinner Night at Grand Haven's annual Salmon Festival—not to mention the thousands of diners that they serve at the post's home on Harbor Drive in Grand Haven—really has underscored their commitment to the community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Second District of Michigan, we thank the members of the Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post 28 in Grand Haven for their service to our community over the past century, and I look forward to working with them in the years to come.

FAIR TREATMENT FOR MICHAEL NGUYEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, especially led by Representative KATIE PORTER in support of her constituent Michael Nguyen.

I have stayed involved in this case for just about a year, just slightly less than a year, and I want to thank Representative PORTER for keeping the Members of Congress involved in this by having periodic, almost monthly, calls with the U.S. Consul office in Vietnam.

I want to thank Ambassador Krittenbrink for making this a high priority of the U.S. mission in Vietnam to attend to the case of Michael, to visit Michael Nguyen in jail.

And what am I talking about?

Michael Nguyen, who was a citizen of the city of Orange, was on a trip in July of 2018, as he frequently did during the past, to visit relatives in Vietnam. On his way from the city of Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City, or what was known as Saigon, government security officials removed him from his bus and took him into custody. He was detained; he was imprisoned, repeatedly interrogated; and when the U.S. Consul and Members of Congress asked why he was being charged, they were told, almost a year ago: He is under investigation. When we complete the investigation, we will tell you what the charge is.

Michael's family was not notified about his detention, even for 10 days after he was arrested. This violated the agreement between the United States and Vietnam, which said that the Vietnamese Government must notify the United States and our consul within 96 hours whenever there is an arrest of an American citizen.

When he did not return home, Michael's family began to contact U.S. Representatives, including myself from Orange County, asking for help, but we learned very little in this past year about why Michael was arrested and detained.

Some thought that the Vietnamese Government said that he had posted something on Facebook about a plot to overthrow the government, but they have not provided any evidence or any proof of this posting, just what has been said.

As was pointed out earlier, he was arrested for violating article 109 of the Vietnamese penal code, which accuses people of conspiring to overthrow the government. The penalty for just posting is from 14 years to life imprisonment.

While he has received the indictment—he knows exactly why he is being charged, what the issues are—neither his family, the U.S. mission in Vietnam, or Members of Congress who have talked about this over the past year have been told what are the specifics of the case or what he has done.

He hasn't had contact with his family while he is in jail. He doesn't have an attorney; he is not allowed to have an attorney; and most likely, later this

month, just before the case comes to court, he will be assigned an attorney.

His wife works for UC Irvine Medical Center. They have four young children. They don't know what is going on.

It is just another example of the egregious actions by the Government of Vietnam.

I call upon the Government of Vietnam to close this case; return Michael to his family. No American citizen should be charged because they publicly criticize a government or fear that, when they visit Vietnam, especially because of speaking out in the past, they are going to be arrested, detained, and tried.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Members of Congress to have a serious reevaluation of our economic and diplomatic relationships with Vietnam. Vietnam should know that the U.S. Congress is watching its actions and we expect Michael Nguyen to be freed and returned to his family.

JAYSON STARK AWARDED J.G. TAYLOR SPINK AWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding citizen from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who will be recognized for excellence in his field next month.

Jayson Stark of Newtown was announced as the winner of the Baseball Writers' Association of America's J.G. Taylor Spink Award for his work as a baseball sports writer.

In July, Jayson will travel to Cooperstown, New York, for "meritorious contributions to baseball writing" during the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's induction weekend.

A native of Philadelphia and a graduate of Syracuse University, Jayson began his career with the Providence Journal before joining the Philadelphia Inquirer in 1979. He later joined ESPN and now covers baseball for The Athletic. Jayson credits his love of writing to his mother, June Stark, who was also a writer.

We congratulate him on this major achievement and his contributions to sports writing.

I send my best wishes to Jayson, his wife, Lisa, and their three children as well.

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RECOGNIZING FATIMA COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a project in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that is promoting sustainability for members of our community.

Over the past year, 44 immigrant communities worked tirelessly to create the Fatima Community Garden Project located behind Our Lady of Fatima in Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

The garden serves as a collaborative effort between the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Catholic Social Services.

For many immigrants who arrive in our community, the Fatima Community Garden Project gives newcomers the ability to use horticultural skills cultivated in their homelands while offering them the opportunity to converse with local residents. One neighbor referred to the Fatima Community Garden Project as a sanctuary.

Mr. Speaker, the Fatima Community Garden Project officially opens on Saturday, and I would like to thank several people who have worked over the past year to make this unique collaboration successful: J. Mizael Chavez, a community leader who helped families establish their presence in Bensalem; Matt Rader, president of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; and Estela Bugg of Catholic Social Services for all of their work.

HONORING PDC MACHINES

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a second-generation, family-owned business in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that was recognized last month for the outstanding work that they do to support our local economy.

PDC Machines, Inc., an equipment manufacturer based in Warminster, Pennsylvania, was honored at the 2019 President's E Award ceremony. They were presented with an award by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross for their work supporting the expansion of U.S. exports.

Founded in 1977, PDC has been exporting products since the early 1980s. Today, approximately 50 percent of PDC's revenues come from international business.

PDC Machines takes great pride in the quality of their products and the services they provide to their customers. I am proud to have such a dynamic and innovative company in our community in Bucks County.

We congratulate the Afzal family for this well-deserved recognition.

GIVE MICHAEL NGUYEN FAIR TREATMENT IN VIETNAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Mr. Michael Nguyen, an American citizen and resident of my home district, California's 45th Congressional District.

Mr. Nguyen left Vietnam in 1975, 44 years ago. The Vietnamese Government arrested Michael last summer, almost a year ago, while he was traveling and visiting elderly relatives. Michael has now been detained in Vietnam for over 11 months.

We still don't know what crime he is alleged to have committed or what, if any, evidence the Vietnamese Government has to justify his detention and his upcoming trial.

My office has asked repeatedly for this information, but we have been told that we won't know these basics until Michael is taken to court later this month. His family won't know these basics until then.

To make matters worse, for the vast majority of these past 11 months, Michael was being detained without formal charges at all. We now know that Michael is being charged for allegedly violating article 109 of the Vietnamese Criminal Code, activities against the government. This is a charge that Vietnamese officials have used in the past for arbitrary arrests.

By all accounts, Michael is a good man. He was an active member of his community and church in Orange County. I have met his family numerous times, and his wife, Helen, was my guest for the State of the Union.

He has four beautiful daughters, all school age, who miss their father very much. He is a dad who makes breakfast for his girls in the morning and was their primary caretaker.

He was a small business owner, and he is an American citizen with no criminal record here in the United States.

He hasn't been able to speak to his family during this entire time, nearly 1 year. Instead, the Vietnamese Government permits only monthly visits by the U.S. State Department. I thank our State Department officials for visiting him, enabling him to hear messages from his loved ones, and working to ensure his health during this long detention.

But that isn't enough. His family is suffering. Michael's wife, Helen, has taken on a second job while acting as a single mom to their four young girls. His daughters have trouble sleeping and focusing at school.

This entire situation is unjust. Michael was held without formal charges for over 9 months, and we still have been presented with no evidence. That is not how an American citizen should be treated abroad. We expect our partners to show respect for human rights and the rule of law.

I am grateful that so many of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, continue to join me in calling on the Vietnamese Government to do what is right. This is not a partisan issue.

Respectfully, I demand that the Vietnamese Government provide Michael with a fair resolution to his case and return him safely to the U.S. and to his family as soon as possible.

I will continue to work to secure Michael's release until he is reunited with his family and brought home to his country, the United States of America.

STAND UP FOR SUDANESE PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last year, I had the opportunity to visit Sudan

and hear from the Sudanese people. I saw firsthand the devastating toll that the Sudanese regime has taken on the country of Sudan and its citizens.

Sadly, today, the hardship and violence have escalated after months of peaceful protests by the brave Sudanese people.

Sudan's longtime leader, President Omar al-Bashir, was removed from power. Since then, the Transitional Military Council has attacked protesters who are peacefully calling for a transition to democratic governance.

The news we continue to see from Sudan over the past few weeks has been nothing short of heart-wrenching as peaceful protesters have been attacked, threatened, and killed.

Congress cannot sit idly by while this regime kills its own citizens, blocks communication to the outside world, and continues to commit serious human rights abuses.

Congress must do everything we can to help end this conflict. We are morally obligated to use this platform to call attention to what is happening there and to say with a unified voice that the Sudanese Government's treatment of its people is completely unacceptable.

For these reasons, I have introduced a bipartisan resolution this week calling attention to the situation in Sudan. I am honored that the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ENGEL, joined two other leaders on this issue, Representative MCGOVERN and Representative BILIRAKIS, in supporting this legislation as original cosponsors.

I ask my colleagues to all join as cosponsors for this important resolution, a resolution that affirms that it is Congress' position that the Transitional Military Council must immediately stop all violence against peaceful protesters and begin to immediately transition governance to a democratic and civilian-led body.

The Sudanese people have the right to freedom from oppression and violence and to live in a country where they can choose their own leaders without fear of persecution, without fear of violence, and without fear of being killed for simply asserting their right to self-determination, as all human beings ought to be allowed.

Simply, the ability to peacefully assemble and have one's voice heard is a basic human right. It should be afforded to all people, including all citizens of Sudan.

This resolution also makes it clear that Sudan must improve dramatically if it wants to continue a productive engagement with the United States of America, including political reform and respect for basic human rights.

This resolution affirms the right of Sudanese people to assemble peacefully and condemns the government's use of violence against protesters and journalists. We emphasize that absent political reforms and respect for human rights, it will be impossible for the U.S. to engage Sudan as a partner.