

#BRINGBACKOURBOYS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention an incident that happened last week in Israel, a situation being referred to internationally as “#BringBackOurBoys.” On June 12, three teenage Israeli students, Gil-Ad Shaer, Eyal Yifrah and Naftali Fraenkel, disappeared from a hitchhiking point a little south of Jerusalem, Israel. While no group has come forward to take responsibility for this action, the Israeli government has pointed fingers at Hamas. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Hamas, a radical Islamist party, first came to power following the Palestinian legislative elections in 2006, defeating the former ruling party, Fatah. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) has arrested over 200 suspects, most of them Hamas members, over the past week. In addition to these arrests, they have expanded their search in hopes to retrieve these abducted boys.

People all over the world have gathered together, to express their concerns for these boys and their families. Many rallies have taken place outside of various World Cup arenas in hopes of bringing media attention to this important issue. A mass rally has been planned for next Tuesday, June 24th, outside of the Israeli Consulate in New York.

This past week, on Wednesday June 18, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, and The Israel Forever Foundation co-sponsored a vigil outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C. Over 250 members of the community gathered to chant and listen to speakers of many different faiths reiterating the need for these boys to be returned to their families safely. Rabbi Adam Raskin of Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac, Maryland said “They are our kids. This is a kidnapping from our family,” asking “Can you imagine the anguish and the pain of their parents?” This is an issue that we must continue to put pressure on, in order to return these boys to their families.

As another Sabbath passes, my thoughts and prayers are with the families of these young men. We remain hopeful for the immediate safe return of these students. Mr. Speaker, everyone in this country, regardless of their individual faith, needs to be mindful of the words Presbyterian Minister Roy Howard of St. Marks Church in North Bethesda, Maryland spoke at this week’s rally at the Israeli Embassy here in Washington: “We are united with Israel, the Jewish people; they are not my boys, but I stand in solidarity with you.”

HONORING THOMAS AND
CHRISTINA MORZELLO**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the 50th wedding anniversary of Thomas and

Christina Morzello of Valhalla, New York, who were married on June 28, 1964. Tom and Dina were married at St. Anthony’s Church in West Harrison, NY. Tom graduated from White Plains High School in 1959 and was drafted into the Army where he spent two years as motor pool driver. Following his honorable discharge, he began a 35 year career as an electrician. After her graduation from White Plains High School in 1963, Dina attended Berkley Secretarial School and gained employment as a Secretary for General Foods. After having four children, she began a 25 year career as a teacher for the White Plains School District. Tom enjoys riding his motorcycle and is an active member of the Westchester Harley Owner Group (HOG). Dina enjoys gardening, scrapbooking and spending time with her grandchildren.

Tom and Dina must be commended for their loyalty and dedication to their family. Tom and Dina have proven, by their example, to be a model for all married couples.

I proudly ask you to join me, along with Tom and Dina’s four sons and their wives, six grandchildren, and many friends and family, in congratulating them on this significant occasion and wishing them many more years of happiness together.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to highlight an important provision that was included in H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2015, which could help my constituent, Debbie Zelman, along with thousands of others like her with stomach cancer.

Five years ago, Debbie was diagnosed with Stage IV stomach cancer. While the doctor gave her only a 50/50 chance to live after one year, Debbie is still with us, fighting one of the deadliest forms of cancer.

Debbie is not alone in her battle. Every year, 21,000 Americans are diagnosed with stomach cancer, and it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women in this country.

To help Debbie and others affected by this horrible cancer, I, along with 57 of my colleagues, requested from the Appropriations Committee that stomach cancer research become eligible for funding through the Defense Department’s Peer Reviewed Research Program (PRCRP) for 2015.

The PRCRP funds research into eleven cancer types, including blood cancer, colorectal cancer, and pancreatic cancer. Adding stomach cancer to the list of eligible diseases could make an enormous difference in

understanding this under-researched cancer, including its array of risk factors and causes.

I’m proud that the House Defense Appropriations bill includes report language to allow stomach cancer research to be funded through this Research Program. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that the Senate passes this important language as well.

By taking this step, we will be able to better understand this deadly disease, and, hopefully, get closer to finding a much-needed cure.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF JOHN DANIEL RUFFIER**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize John Daniel Ruffier.

John was born May 21, 1971 in Orlando, Florida to Eugene Daniel Ruffier and Joan Dial Ruffier. He is their third child, along with William Eugene (“Bill”) and Margaret Grace. John is a product of Orange County public schools, having attended Lake Silver Elementary, Lee Junior High, and Edgewater High School before going on to Vanderbilt University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of the Arts Degree in English and History in 1992. Ruffier then attended the University of Florida’s Fredric G. Levin College of Law. Upon graduation in 1996, John joined Orlando’s largest and most prestigious law firm, Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., where he remains a shareholder specializing in commercial real estate, with a focus on assisting clients with the acquisition, financing, and sale of senior housing communities and medical office buildings. John also works with governmental and non-profit institutions in forming partnerships for large-scale redevelopment projects. John has earned the highest rating of “AV” from Martindale-Hubbell for his legal skills.

John has an extensive record of public service with community service organizations in Central Florida and has served on the board of directors for many groups, such as the Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, the Orlando Shakespeare Theater, and the Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless. He also served on the City of Orlando Public Art Advisory Board for many years. In 2007, John was appointed by then-governor Charlie Crist to the Florida Real Estate Commission, where he served until 2011. John, along with Jennifer Foster, founded the Central Florida steering committee for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and, after having served on HRC’s national board of governors for many years, joined the board of directors for HRC’s non-profit foundation in 2011.

I am happy to honor John Daniel Ruffier, during LGBT Pride Month, for his professional and civic contributions to the Central Florida community.