

HONORING TED BEATTIE

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2015*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the President of Shedd Aquarium, Ted A. Beattie.

After more than two decades of leadership at a world renowned aquarium, Mr. Beattie is retiring with a career record dedicated to advancing conservation and education of animals and ecosystems. Mr. Beattie came to Shedd Aquarium in January 1994 as the third President/CEO. During his tenure, his leadership and vision for the aquarium have led to the development and opening of six permanent exhibits, including the addition of Wild Reef and the re-imagining of Shedd's Abbott Oceanarium marine mammal pavilion.

Beyond that, Mr. Beattie oversaw the establishment of the Daniel P. Haerther Center for Conservation and Research, which now includes a portfolio of eighteen global field research programs that span the world. He also added Shedd's onsite animal hospital and lab facilities within the A. Watson Armour III Center for Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare, introduced a Master Energy Road Map designed to cut the aquarium's energy consumption in half by 2020, opened the Shedd's Teen Learning Lab, and helped the aquarium earn a position in Chicago's top-attended paid cultural attraction for 17 of the last 21 years.

It is clear that Mr. Beattie's contributions to the aquarium have been extensive, but more broadly, he has contributed to the positive transformation of Museum Campus. This 57 acre addition to Grant Park is the heart of exploration and discovery for millions of visitors along Chicago's lakefront.

The impact of Mr. Beattie's leadership will be greatly missed by Shedd Aquarium and the City of Chicago. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating his work and accomplishments.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2015*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 15, I missed votes due to being unavoidably detained as a result of weather-related flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of roll call vote Number 694.

## TRIBUTE TO REV. OLLIE AND ALTHA ODLE

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rev. Ollie and Altha Odle on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on November 24, 1945 in Kansas City, Kansas.

Rev. Ollie and Altha's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Terry, Ollie Jr. and Kathie, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Odles that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

## THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN: ENSURING ADMINISTRATION ACTION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month, I chaired the fourth oversight hearing this year on implementation of the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act.

The Goldman Act empowers the executive branch with powerful new tools and a myriad of ways to successfully resolve parental child abduction cases. Like any law, however, it is only as good as its implementation.

Historically, 750–1,000 American children are unlawfully removed from their homes each year by one of their parents and taken across international borders.

International parental child abduction rips children from their homes and takes them away to a foreign land, alienating them from the love and care of the parent and family left behind.

Child abduction is child abuse. Its negative impact on the children and left behind families can last for years—even a lifetime.

Two of our witnesses at the hearing—like many who were there and are around the country—know first-hand the trauma, the tears, the excruciating pain, and the longing and heartbreak of parental child abduction.

David Goldman's son Sean was abducted to Brazil and unlawfully retained for approximately 5½ years. Mr. Goldman tenaciously pursued every legal means of return including expert counsel in his quest to bring Sean home. Today father and son are thriving.

Captain Paul Toland continues his heroic 12 year quest to bring his 13 year old daughter, Erica, home from Japan. Captain Toland refuses to quit or be deterred despite years of frustration and setbacks—such is this father's incredible love for his precious daughter.

Our first hope is to prevent, or at least mitigate the number of, abductions and the State Department is to be commended for implementing a provision of the Goldman Act that adds children that a judge has determined to be at risk of abduction to a "no fly" list. In 2014, we saw a decrease in the number of new abductions—150 fewer new cases than the previous year.

But I am concerned that the State Department has chosen not to impose any sanctions on any of those nations found to have engaged in a "pattern of noncompliance."

The Goldman Act, however, requires State Department action on individual cases that

have been pending for more than a year if the foreign government has not been taking adequate steps to resolve the case.

The Goldman Act also requires action when, collectively, a country has high numbers of cases—30 percent or more—that have been unresolved for over a year; or if the government is failing in their duties under the Hague Convention or other bilateral agreement; or if their law enforcement fails to enforce return or access orders.

The Goldman Act not only shines a light on a country's record through the annual designation of countries showing a "pattern of non-compliance", it holds countries accountable and incentivizes systemic reform. Actions escalate in severity, and range from official protests through diplomatic channels, to public condemnation, to extradition, to the suspension of development, security, or other foreign assistance.

The Goldman Act was designed to raise the stakes on the foreign country's inaction or obstruction, and move the country to end the nightmare of abduction.

In July we reviewed the State Department's first annual report on abduction and access resolution rates around the world. The annual report had some major gaps and misleading information, some of which were corrected by the Supplemental Data posted by the State Department in August.

Tragically, in contravention of both the spirit and letter of the Goldman Act, the State Department failed to list Japan—with more than 50 abduction cases—among the 22 countries showing a "pattern of noncompliance" and therefore eligible for Goldman Act sanctions. This glaring omission sent the unfortunate signal that pre-Hague Japan cases were no longer a top priority—cases like that of Sgt. Michael Elias who has been denied any contact with his two young children, Jade and Michael, after they were abducted to Japan in 2008.

In September the State Department sent to Congress its first 90 day report on actions it took to bring the 22 most difficult countries to the resolution table.

Those actions included demarches, judicial rulings, and meetings—all of which are necessary and of value—but noticeably absent was the imposition of any number of meaningful sanctions prescribed by the Goldman Act.

I respectfully submit that this was a missed opportunity to convey to "pattern of non-compliance" nations that the United States is absolutely serious about resolving parental abduction. The imposition of sanctions says we mean business. (Sanctions are imposed on an entity to enforce civil rights laws and other policies of paramount importance)

Notwithstanding section 103 of the Goldman Act, the Report makes no mention of MOUs or bilateral agreements to resolve cases—including and especially cases that existed prior to Japan's ratification of the Hague.

I—and others—have raised this concern for several years, especially for victims of Japan's policies. Perhaps Assistant Secretary Bond can tell us if any bilateral agreements or MOUs are in the works.

The report details the State Department's efforts to persuade India to ratify the Hague Convention—a step that if not combined with an MOU to resolve current abduction cases, which number about 75, we risk replicating the extraordinary misery endured by left behind