CHINA MUST END PERSECUTION OF THE FALUN GONG

HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 2018 marks the 19th year since the Communist government in Beijing banned the practice of Falun Gong. We must remember how the Chinese government has purposefully denied the human rights of so many over the last 20 years.

The Falun Gong movement stands for some of mankind’s most respected virtues: truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. The Chinese government saw this peaceful movement growing, and rather than embrace it, they have taken every possible step to destroy it. So the Communists took away Falun Gong’s most basic human right: the right to live and worship freely. The Chinese government’s top priority is not its citizens, but staying in power at all costs.

Beijing’s evil knows no limits. We know they murder many Falun Gong practitioners and harvested their organs for profit. We know this shameful practice is going on, because brave men and women have come forward, including family members, practitioners, and even victims themselves. The evidence is undeniable. This practice is a billion dollar business for the Chinese government. Organ harvesting is the number one source of revenue for Chinese medical centers. The Chinese government makes a profit while silencing a group it sees as threatening. They think they cannot lose. But they can’t silence us. We know what is going on behind closed doors. And we will not remain silent.

Recent reports suggest that tens of thousands of transplants annually are funding the construction of new hospital wings devoted solely to these illicit procedures. The Chinese government recognizes only a fraction of these transplants, they claim most of their transplant organs come from prisoners on death row. The report verified that 712 medical institutions perform transplants in China, but estimates from the Executive Chairman of the China Organ Transplant Alliance are well over 1,000, many of which are undocumented. According to their own staff, some of these hospitals perform thousands of transplants every year.

Obviously, the Chinese Communist Party is lying. Dishonesty is standard practice for the CCP. And yet, we will keep fighting back. This fight has not been easy. Many have loved ones in jail right now. Others have been tortured. Others have simply disappeared.

I applaud all who continue to stand up for what is right. Their presence is a testament that no matter how hard Beijing tries to eliminate the Falun Gong, they will fail. I am proud to stand with those who have endured.

As a former judge from Texas, justice is of the utmost importance to me. I feel a duty to speak out against the most egregious wrongs committed against innocent people. The world must recognize China as an enemy of human rights. The Falun Gong practice peace. We must protect the rights given to all of us by our Creator. And that’s just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM WUNDRAM ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 74 YEARS OF HONORABLE SERVICE TO THE QUAD-CITY TIMES NEWSPAPER

HON. CHERI BUSTOS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize columnist William “Bill” Wundram for 74 years of honorable service to the Quad-City Times newspaper. Mr. Wundram is a pillar in the Quad Cities community, and his knowledge and ability to generate creative ideas will be missed.

Bill Wundram has made a longstanding career of writing stories that are substantive, interesting, and newsworthy for the Quad-City Times. Of his 39 years as a columnist, 36 were spent writing 7 days a week. This has been recognized by many friends for American journalists. Bill has achieved countless accolades: a green space named William Wundram Parkway, becoming the “Honorary Mayor for Life” in Davenport, Iowa, and a bronze statue in Bix Plaza in front of the Quad-City Times will forever stand in his honor. As a former journalist, Bill’s legacy and contributions have a special place in my heart.

He understands what it takes to create a good story, and presents it in a way that is engaging to his audience. His career reached beyond writing, as he connected to the hearts of the people in our community. The skillset and historical knowledge that Bill possesses is something that can never be replaced. Yet at the age of 93, Bill Wundram has decided to rest his pen and enjoy retirement alongside his wife Helen and dog Molly.

It is because of dedicated citizens like Bill that I proudly serve the people of the 17th District of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally congratulate William Wundram on a tremendous career. I join the rest of the community in thanking him for the contributions he has made to journalism, and for setting an example of how to live a life of excellence.

TRIBUTE TO SANDY HILDING OF IOWA

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sandy Hilding of Shenandoah, Iowa, on her retirement as principal of Shenandoah High School in Shenandoah, Iowa. Sandy has served as principal there since 2008.

Sandy is a native of Fort Madison, Iowa. After graduating high school, she started working at the HyVee Food Store and transferred to Shenandoah, Iowa in the 1980s. She also worked at the Eaton Corporation in Shenandoah, Iowa when she realized her passion was in education and working with children. Sandy received her education degree from Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska. She began teaching mathematics in 1991 at Shenandoah High School and in 2000, she accepted a position as principal/athletic director at Farragut Community Schools in Farragut, Iowa. Six years later, she returned to Shenandoah High School as principal. Sandy has a reputation for working hard and being dedicated to her students and high school.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Sandy Hilding on her career and retirement. Sandy has made a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in acknowledging her accomplishments in education. I thank her for her service to the Shenandoah community and wish her all the best in the future.