

From a national perspective, the Coast Guard is responsible for protecting our coastal borders and keeping those in our waterways safe through port, waterway and coastal security, drug and migrant interdiction, maintaining maritime aids to navigation, search and rescue missions, living marine resources and marine safety, ensuring defense readiness, marine environmental protection, ice operations, and other law enforcement operations. Through these important missions, the Service saves thousands of American lives every year.

I was glad to speak with Coast Guard leadership recently about the great work performed already this year, even during the political divide in Washington, D.C. Every man and woman in the service is a testament to the spirit and drive that makes America so great and I want to assure all of our Coast Guard men and women that I am working to support and represent their interests in Congress just as I have done my whole career. I would like to thank everyone in the Coast Guard for the outstanding work they do, day in and day out to protect Alaska and our country. America is truly better off thanks to the Coast Guard.

RECOGNIZING THE VANDALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Vandalia Historical Society for being awarded the Historic Preservation Award. This is a rare and prestigious award made possible through the hard work and dedication of the members of the Vandalia Historical Society.

This society sponsors a variety of fundraisers to help maintain the historic Vandalia Old National Capitol, the second capitol for the state of Illinois. The major project underway is the raising of funds for the replacement of all windows in the building. All upgrades and construction are historically accurate. Due to the efforts of this group, the building has been maintained for the public to enjoy, for school and tour groups to learn the history of this grand old building and to learn its importance to our state and national history.

Madam Speaker, due to their efforts, the Old State Capitol will be standing open to welcome future generations. It is my pleasure and honor to recognize the Vandalia Historical Society upon receiving the prestigious Historic Preservation Recognition Award, and I wish the society the best in all of its future endeavors.

BAHRAIN MUST CHANGE DIRECTION

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today marks the 8th anniversary of the beginning of the Pearl Uprising in Bahrain.

On this day eight years ago, thousands of Bahrainis gathered in peaceful protests to de-

mand greater political freedom, and political and constitutional reform.

Their demands were not new—the roots went back to the 1970s.

They were not radical: Bahrainis wanted greater popular participation in governance, equal access to socio-economic opportunities and development, action against corruption and an end to the practice of political naturalization.

And they were not sectarian—even though Bahrain is a majority Shi'a country ruled by a minority Sunni monarchy.

But by the end of March 2011, what started as a moment of hope had been met with massive repression by the Bahraini government and security forces sent by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. As protests grew and spread, at least 35 people died, some 3,000 people were injured, thousands were detained or lost their jobs, and many were brutally tortured, including medical doctors.

King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa of Bahrain did take some steps to address the people's demands. His appointment of the 5-member Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) to examine the government's response to the protests was an important gesture. And the 26 recommendations contained in the BICI report, which the monarch promised to implement, did inspire some new hope that change was possible.

Many of us in Congress urged the government to fully implement the BICI recommendations and to cease the repression of human rights defenders and peaceful opposition leaders.

But in the years since, hope has been completely dashed. Some initial important reforms have been rolled back, opposition political societies are banned, peaceful human rights defenders and popular opposition leaders are spending their lives in jail, sectarian divisions have hardened, hundreds have been stripped of their citizenship, no independent press remains, the most recent elections were a sham—and to top it all off, the Bahraini government has supported the Saudis in the brutal war in Yemen and the senseless embargo of Qatar.

Madam Speaker, some observers turn a blind eye to Bahrain's increasingly authoritarian rule because they accept Bahrain's argument that Iran is to blame for encouraging the Shi'a population to rebel.

These days, any mention of Iran is often enough to silence legitimate criticism.

But what I see is a Bahraini government whose own policies deepen sectarian divisions and create the conditions for unrest.

In spite of their majority status, Bahraini Shites are less likely to hold jobs in the all-important public sector. They are almost entirely disqualified from serving in the police or military. They live in highly segregated neighborhoods with inferior public services compared to Sunni areas. They are systematically underrepresented in the lower house of parliament.

No one should be surprised that this stark political and economic inequality causes grievance. Add to that Bahrain's crushing of political expression and channels of participation, and you have a recipe for fostering extremism.

No government that does this can be considered a true United States ally in the war against terrorism. You cannot claim to be fighting extremism when your own policies foster it.

On this anniversary, I renew my call to the government of Bahrain to free Nabeel Rajab, Sheikh Ali Salman, Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, Abduljalil Al-Singace, Ahmed Humaidan, Naji Fateel and all other prisoners of conscience jailed for exercising their most fundamental human rights.

And I call on the government to end the prohibition on political societies, decriminalize all speech, allow national and international press to operate without state intervention, stop rendering its citizens stateless, strip the National Security Agency of its power to arrest, bring its anti-terrorism legislation into line with international human rights standards, integrate its security forces and end discrimination against the Shi'a population everywhere it exists.

Only if these steps are taken will the rights of all the Bahraini people, the country's long-term stability and America's national interests be assured.

HONORING VICTOR GONELLA

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative JACKIE SPEIER and Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor Victor Gonella for his enduring commitment to the protection and restoration of California's salmon fisheries, and his exemplary service as the founder and president of the Golden Gate Salmon Association.

Born in San Francisco, Victor developed a childhood passion for fishing that has greatly informed his public service throughout his life. His focus on salmon began after his family moved to Mill Valley: he fished off the waters of Sausalito on his first boat when he was still in high school.

Following high school, Victor began to race motorcycles and started his own repair and custom engine fabrication facility. He rented a workspace from a local auto dealership, and eventually ran the dealership's parts and service center. Victor would go on to buy the dealership and move it to Petaluma, adding a second dealership soon thereafter.

As Victor built up his dealership and custom racing business, he never lost sight of his passion for salmon fishing. In 2008, when California experienced the first closure of ocean salmon fishing, Victor took action and founded the Golden Gate Salmon Association to restore California's largest salmon runs. In doing so, Victor would make California history by bringing together disparate stakeholders, including leaders from the commercial and sport fishing industries, conservation groups, and businesses connected to fishing, for a common cause. Over the next few years, Victor developed the financial and logistical backbone of the organization, coordinated fundraisers throughout Northern California, and assembled community leaders to support the organization's mission.

After establishing Golden Gate Salmon Association, Victor spearheaded its development of a plan to restore Central Valley salmon runs, utilizing available science and research funded by the organization. This process would be the beginning of a number of critical