

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.