

government might be open to accepting a detainee for resettlement as a way to improve relations with the United States.

In the spring of 2008, Michael and I went to Guantánamo and talked with Oybek about Ireland and about our hope that we could secure his release there. He wanted to go to a free, democratic country and Ireland certainly qualified, but he did not even know where Ireland was and I wound up drawing a free-hand map attempting to locate Ireland in Western Europe. On our return from Guantánamo, Michael made additional visits to Ireland, and single handedly started a human rights campaign on behalf of Oybek. He talked to ministers in the Irish Government, who expressed interest in helping us, but had great concerns of political ramifications of taking a Guantánamo detainee. He had members of the Dail, Ireland's parliament, raise questions to the Government in debate and made Oybek's case a prominent public issue. Past President Ralph Lancaster kindly put me in contact with his friend Former Senator George Mitchell, who the Irish revere because of his work on bringing peace to Northern Ireland. Senator Mitchell hand delivered a letter to the Irish Foreign Minister that Michael had written asking the Irish government to consider accepting Oybek for resettlement. One of our honorary Fellows, the Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, also spoke up in favor of Ireland's accepting Oybek. Senator Kennedy, Senator KERRY, and Congressman BILL DELAHUNT directly contacted the Irish government on Oybek's behalf. Many people from Boston visit Ireland and Michael had established such a presence there, that people returning to Boston called and told me that they had heard Michael on Irish radio discussing Ireland's role in helping to close Guantánamo.

By the end of 2008, with the change of administration in Washington, we had made a lot of progress, but then came the spring of our despair as the Obama Administration came into office and Congress prohibited any Guantánamo detainee from being brought to the U.S., which made it much more difficult to convince a third country to grant asylum to men to whom the U.S. would not accept. In the spring of 2009, with no progress, despair set in at Guantánamo and many of the detainees, including Oybek, began a hunger strike, which caused me great concern that a hunger strike would affect Ireland's interest in Oybek. My son, however pointed out that if anyone understood the despair of confinement leading to a hunger strike, it was the Irish. By late summer of 2009, it was clear that the Irish had not given up on Oybek and were prepared to grant asylum, not only to Oybek, but to one of the other four Uzbeks because they were committed to taking two detainees, not just one. Oybek and the other Uzbek, who we referred to as the "Uzbek to be named later," were eventually put on a U.S. military airplane at Guantánamo and flown into Dublin where they arrived over a year ago.

When the plane with Oybek and Shakhrukh, the other Uzbek, landed in Ireland, they were shackled—hand and foot. When the representative of the Irish government got on the U.S. military plane and was told by the officer in charge that the guards were ready to escort Oybek and Shakhrukh off the plane, the Irishman said: "These men are not going anywhere until you remove the shackles and handcuffs. When they step off this plane onto Irish soil, they will do so as free men."

There was one last item left undone. During the course of our representation, Michael had tried, without success, to locate Oybek's wife and children. But without legal travel documents and afraid to return to Uzbekistan, they had lived as refugees in Central Asia since Oybek's disappearance. One day, Oybek's family was listening to the Uzbek service on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and heard Michael being interviewed about his efforts to get Oybek resettled in Ireland. Eventually, Michael was put in touch with people in Pakistan and Oybek's wife and two children were located in a refugee camp in Pakistan. Michael then worked with the Irish Government to bring his wife and his two children, one of whom he had never seen, to Ireland. This work is not over. Detainees remain at Guantánamo despite the fact that in nearly 70 percent of the cases that have been heard by Federal Judges, the writ of habeas corpus has been granted. We will continue to fight for human justice. Michael and I have filed an Appearance in another detainee's case and look forward to his eventual release.

Why did lawyers, including the Fellows of the College, undertake the representation of these men in a very unpopular cause? They did it because it is part of their DNA. It is the reason many of them went to law school. Who among you has not imagined yourself as Atticus Finch standing in that hot Alabama courtroom defending an innocent man? Every state in this country has a long tradition of lawyers providing pro bono representation in unpopular causes. When Michael and I each passed the bar, we signed a book that has the name of every lawyer who has ever practiced in Massachusetts. That roll contains the names of the lawyers who represented Sacco & Vanzetti. It has the name of Benjamin Curtis, a Massachusetts lawyer and member of the Supreme Court of the United States, who dissented in the Dred Scott case and then resigned as a matter of principle. Curtis returned to Washington in 1868 to represent the very unpopular President, Andrew Johnson, in the impeachment trial before the U.S. Senate. We all know the story of John Adams, who defended the British soldiers in the Boston Massacre, but his son, John Quincy Adams, who, after he had been President, represented the African slaves on the Spanish slave ship, the *La Amistad*, is also on that roll of attorneys. This is not just a Massachusetts tradition; it is the fabric of what it means to be an American lawyer. All of you have or will have an opportunity at some point in your career to undertake an unpopular representation. I would urge all of you to seize that opportunity because you will never forget it.

John Adams said that of all the things he did, which included not only the presidency, but being the driving force behind the Declaration of Independence, that the representation of the British soldiers was the best service that he had ever done for his country. Each of us standing here today would tell you that this is the best thing that we have ever done. Thank you and God bless the Constitution of the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALBERT  
CIMPERMAN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Albert Cimperman on his induction into the Legion of Honor by the President of the French Republic. The most prestigious award that France bestows, the medal of the Knight of the Legion of Honor is reserved for soldiers and civilians who have demonstrated remarkable talent and character. Mr. Cimperman fought bravely in World War II, displaying courage and discipline in some of the most grueling battles.

Napoleon Bonaparte conferred the first medals of honor on the civil servants of the French Republic. These first medals realized his vision of a merit based award that would spur soldiers and civilians alike to pursue endeavors that would do credit to their country. The Legion of Honor is the only remaining national order remaining in France.

Mr. Cimperman fought bravely in nine campaigns during World War II, including the battles of Normandy and Ardennes. He has received six awards from the United States government for his efforts, including the Bronze Star Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. Today, Albert and his wife of 65 years, Zora, are active Parma residents. They were awarded the Joined Hearts in Giving Award in 2007 for their dedication to community volunteer work, and continue to teach a weekly line-dancing class at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center in Parma.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in thanking Mr. Albert Cimperman for his service. Without the sacrifice and perseverance of soldiers like him, the Allied Forces could not have prevailed and we would live in a much crueler, culturally impoverished, and oppressive world. It is my honor and my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Cimperman on his great accomplishment.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE  
LIFE OF IRVING GELLERT

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Irv Gellert, a dear friend who passed away on November 1, 2010 at his home in Los Angeles, California.

Irv had a great sense of joie de vivre and lived his life to the fullest. He was born in January of 1917 and grew up in the rural coal mining region of Pennsylvania, where his athletic abilities and interest in sports led him to become an all-star high school football player. After attending Temple University in Philadelphia, Irv enlisted in the Army and served his country with honor and pride during World War II. When the war was over and his service ended, he enrolled in New York University Law School and graduated with a law degree in 1949.

Not long after graduating from law school, Irv married his beloved wife Harriet. In 1954,