

We will keep you and your staff updated on developments regarding Dr. Richard Nguyen. Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of further assistance.

DAVID S. ADAMS,
*Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 13, 2012.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
*Secretary of State,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY CLINTON: I write to follow-up on my letter of July 9 regarding Ambassador David Shear's deeply disappointing pattern of sidelining of human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam. In fact I was so troubled by his approach that I urged you to fire him. I continue to believe that Ambassador Shear is not the man for the job. Furthermore, I am eager to know when the State Department will be able to provide me with a list of invited guests for the recent July 4 event held at the embassy.

I read with interest your public remarks earlier this week in Vietnam. While I appreciated your general comments regarding human rights concerns, I was disappointed to see no public mention of the imprisoned Vietnamese-American democracy activist Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan.

As you know, I have been unreserved in my criticism of this administration's policies in China on a host of levels. But, I will gladly concede that I have seen a promising trend with Ambassador Gary Locke, himself a Chinese-American. In numerous meetings with dissidents, human rights lawyers and activists, I have learned that they have been welcomed into the embassy under Ambassador Locke's leadership. He has taken a personal interest in their cause. This is in keeping with the finest traditions of our nation's embassies over the years. It bears noting that Chinese human rights activists and self-trained legal advocate Chen Guangcheng recently sought refuge in the American embassy—not the embassy of any other country.

The American embassy must be a beacon for those seeking basic human freedom and dignity. The American ambassador must be a stalwart defender of dissidents and advocate for human rights. Increasingly I hear from the Vietnamese-American community in the U.S. that they no longer have any confidence that Ambassador Shear is up to the task.

I again urge you to remove Ambassador Shear and appoint a Vietnamese-American ambassador, preferably someone who is well versed, through personal experience, in the oppressive ways of Vietnam's communist government, to take his place. Such an individual would not need to be reminded that human rights and religious freedom advocacy feature prominently in their job description.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2012.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
*Secretary of State,
Washington DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY CLINTON: We strongly believe that human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam need to be at the forefront of bilateral relations with Vietnam, including any discussion about a strategic partnership with the United States. While we were pleased to hear that you mentioned democracy activists, lawyers and bloggers on your

recent trip to Vietnam, we were deeply disappointed that there was no public mention of imprisoned Vietnamese-American Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan. In fact, in a letter sent earlier this month prior to your trip, several members of Congress urged you to raise the matter of his continued detention and press for his release.

We do not believe that this administration, especially Ambassador David Shear, have sufficiently advocated for basic human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam. In fact, Ambassador Shear has sidelined these issues which has been a cause for concern. The people of Vietnam yearn for American leadership in this realm—leadership which Ambassador Shear has been simply unable or unwilling to provide. As such, we urge you to dismiss Ambassador Shear from his post, and move swiftly to appoint an individual who will embrace the struggle of the Vietnamese people and advocate on their behalf.

Unfortunately, the outstanding congressional request for the list of invitees to the Embassy Hanoi's July 4th celebration remains unfulfilled. As such, we also urge you to make sure that the list is provided in a timely fashion so that we are able to see which religious freedom and democracy activists were invited, if any.

We wish to see a mutually beneficial relationship with Vietnam. In order for this to happen, we must have confidence in this administration's efforts to promote religious freedom and democracy in Vietnam. We have lost confidence that Ambassador Shear is up to the task.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF.
DANIEL E. LUNGREN.
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH.
JOSEPH R. PITTS.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 2012 BEST OF
BRADDOCK AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the recipients of the 2012 Best of Braddock Awards. The awards are given annually to deserving individuals, organizations and companies in the Braddock Magisterial District of Fairfax County, Virginia, who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community.

Residents of the 11th Congressional District enjoy an exceptional quality of life. Fairfax County schools are ranked as some of the best in the country, our communities are safe, and our employment rate is one of the highest in the nation. However, much of what defines a community cannot be found in statistics; it lies in the commitment and contributions of all who strive for the betterment of the community as a whole. It is my pleasure to recognize the following individuals for their service to our community, and to congratulate each of them on being named a Best of Braddock honoree:

Citizen of the Year: Kathy Augustine, Braddock District and Fairfax County Communities.
Young Person of the Year: Dawson Taylor, Frost Middle School.

Most Outstanding Business Person: Patrick Gloyd, Burke Centre Conservancy.

Most Can-Do State Public Employee: Katherine Stramel, Northern Virginia Community College.

Most Can-Do Local Public Employee: Gaela Hime, Laurel Ridge Elementary School Crossing Guard.

Club or Organization Making a Difference: Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification, Community Association: The Burke Centre Conservancy.

Special Recognition Award: Marian Hardy (Annandale Christian Community for Action).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding residents and companies and also in thanking them for their service to our community. Their efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETES AND
MEMBERS OF THE GUAM NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE'S
DELEGATION TO THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the athletes and members of the Guam National Olympic Committee's (GNOC) delegation to the Games of the 30th Olympiad in London, England. Since 1896, the Olympic Games have been the premier gathering for athletic competition throughout the world with more than 200 nations participating. Guam first participated in the Olympic Games in 1988 and has sent a delegation to every competition since then.

This year I am proud to recognize eight athletes who carry the distinguished honor of representing Guam in London. Our athletes are, Amy Atkinson, a runner competing in the women's 800 meter event; Ricardo Blas, Jr., a judoka competing in the men's +100 kilogram event; Christopher Duenas, a swimmer competing in the men's 100 meter freestyle event; Maria Dunn, a wrestler competing in the women's 63 kilogram freestyle event; Derek Horton, a cyclist competing in the men's cross-country mountain bike event; Derek Mandell, a runner and my former Assistant Press Secretary, competing in the men's 800 meter event; Benjamin Schulete, a swimmer competing in the men's 10 kilometer marathon event; and Pilar Shimizu, a swimmer competing in the women's 100 meter breaststroke event.

I commend each athlete for their dedication, passion, and sacrifice in preparing for their individual sporting events. Additionally, I acknowledge the support of their families, relatives, and friends in contributing to their successes as they represent our island and people.

I also commend the GNOC Executive Board Members, staff, and stakeholders for their efforts in preparing our athletes for this unique opportunity. I join our island in wishing Team Guam the best of luck and I look forward to their successes in this year's games.