

In other words, abducted American children are not coming home from these countries and American families need other options.

The same is true for many countries that have not signed the Hague Convention. In 2012 alone, more than 634 children were abducted to countries that have not signed the Hague Convention—countries like Japan, Egypt, and India.

More than 300 children have suffered abduction from the United States to Japan since 1994. Congress does not know of a single case in which the Government of Japan has issued and enforced an order for the return of an abducted child to the United States. According to U.S. State Department statistics, the United States is monitoring 54 ongoing cases involving 74 children who were abducted from the United States to Japan and 21 additional children from the United States who may not have been abducted, but who are being denied access to their American parent.

Although Japan has recently taken steps to join the Hague Convention, Japan's ratification will not address current cases for return. Moreover, experts question whether the ratification includes reservations that will make it impossible for even new abduction cases to be resolved with returns.

The United States does not have a bilateral or other agreement with Japan to facilitate the return of American citizen children who are currently abducted-citizens like Jade and Michael Elias, whose father will testify before us today.

Under the Convention alone, if ratified by Japan, the best that American parents of currently abducted children can hope for is a visit with their child. Such visits are projected to be one hour long, once a month, in a secure facility—hardly dignified or unfettered.

Despite our multi-billion dollar investment in Egypt, neither the Mubarak government nor the Morsi government has seen fit to return abducted American citizen children Noor and Ramsey Bower. They, along with 30 other American children in Egypt, are forced to live without half of their culture, half of their identity, and without the love and guidance of an American parent who daily fights for their return. The United States does not have a bilateral agreement with Egypt to facilitate the return of American citizen children, and has so far been unwilling to make prioritization of these cases a condition for the continued funding of the Egyptian Government.

India also has been a source of immense frustration and grief for American parents. In 2012, 32 more children were abducted to India, bringing the total number to 78 open abduction cases involving 95 children. Although some Indian courts make "Hague-like" decisions to return some children, returns are uneven. Parents attempting to utilize India's courts for the return of abducted children report corruption and incessant delays. The United States does not have a bilateral agreement with India to facilitate the return of American citizen children Convention.

In the last Congress I introduced legislation—the Sean and David Goldman Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act—to impress upon both Hague and non-Hague Convention countries that the United States will not tolerate child abduction or have patience with countries that hide abductors behind the Hague Convention. The bill would empower

the President and Department of State with new tools and authorities to secure the return of abducted American children.

When a country has shown a "pattern of non-cooperation" in resolving child abduction cases, the President will be able to respond decisively with a range of 18 actions and penalties. Based on past experience—particularly with the Goldman case in Brazil—we know that penalties manage to get the attention of other governments, and help them prioritize resolution.

The bill also calls for the State Department to work out memorandums of understanding with countries that have not signed the Hague Convention in order to create agreed-upon routes to abduction resolution between countries, rather than the never-ending and torturous maze American are currently forced to run.

The status quo is simply not adequate, while well meaning and sincere, current policy has failed far too many children and their left behind, broken hearted, parents. To combat the cruelty and exploitation of human trafficking, over a decade ago I authored the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. To tangibly assist abducted American children and their left behind parents I introduced "The Sean and David Goldman Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act" this week. The United States can and must do more to protect innocent American children and their left behind parents from the horrors of international child abduction.

IN HONOR OF THE VALLEY FORGE
ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA
SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.
AND THE 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY
OF THE PATRIOTS OF AFRICAN
DESCENT MONUMENT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the 20-year anniversary of the Patriots of African Descent Monument.

One hundred years ago, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority started with 22 women at Howard University. Since then, it has grown to more than 300,000 members in 1,000 chapters worldwide. Today, more than one hundred dedicated alumna from the Valley Forge chapter live in and serve the greater Philadelphia area.

On May 18, 2013, the women of the Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter will pay tribute to the Patriots of African Descent with a wreath laying ceremony commemorating its 20th Anniversary. The Patriots of African Descent Monument, sponsored by the Valley Forge Alumnae chapter in 1993, pays tribute to the service and sacrifice African-American soldiers of the Continental Army provided to our young nation during the Valley Forge Encampment of 1777–1778 and throughout the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for its continued efforts to honor African-American patriots who have served this country bravely and honorably.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON WOOTEN

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about Don Wooten, a man I greatly admire and am honored to call a friend. Tonight, Don is being honored by Augustana College in Rock Island, his alma mater. Due to votes here in Washington, I won't be able to make it, but I want to talk about Don and what he has meant to me, and our community in Illinois.

Don is a former award-winning television reporter and producer. He has also been a teacher, a print columnist and has served on the board of numerous local and state organizations. Don went on to become a public servant, and served two terms in the Illinois State Senate. Afterward, he returned to his roots and founded WVIK radio station at Augustana College in 1980, where he still hosts two weekly radio programs at the ripe age of 85.

Don has been married for more than 50 years to Bernadette and they have 5 children and three grandchildren. As someone who spent years as a journalist herself and has now entered public service, I couldn't ask for a better role model than Don Wooten. He has influenced so many over his life and is a true community leader.

Mr. Speaker, I want to Congratulate Don, and I look forward to hearing his voice on the radio for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DR.
IRENE H. BRODIE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant from my district, The Honorable Dr. Irene H. Brodie, Mayor of the Village of Robbins. As Mayor Brodie retires after 24 years of service to the Village I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize her many achievements.

Irene Brodie began her career in Robbins as a teacher at Kellar Elementary School where she worked alongside her husband, J. Edmon Brodie, who served as the school's principal. Through her hard work and diligence she later became Assistant Principal at Turner Elementary School. In addition to her professional responsibilities, Brodie continued to be a loving and devoted wife and mother. While doing this, and in spite of her busy schedule, she earned her Doctorate in Education at Northeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Now a recognized educator in the region, Dr. Brodie joined the staff of a small junior college that, at the time, had only a few buildings to accommodate its 12,000 students. After two years of serving as a professor, Dr. Brodie became the first African-American Dean at Moraine Valley Community College. During her tenure, Moraine Valley grew to become the second largest community college in Illinois with a student population that now numbers well over 30,000.

Despite her having left the field, Dr. Brodie's dedication to education has never ceased. She has hired, financially supported, tutored, counseled, and graduated hundreds of residents from Robbins and the surrounding communities. Additionally, under her tutelage, the Mayor's Scholarship Fund has funded tuition costs for hundreds of students through the years and her individual efforts have produced teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, and educators around the world. Her contributions to education were recognized when Moraine Valley named the "Dr. Irene H. Brodie Academic Skills Center" in her honor. This center serves as a critical area of academic enrichment for Moraine Valley students.

During her tenure at Moraine Valley, Brodie also served as Village Clerk for the Village of Robbins for 12 years. Her service there led her to be recognized as a leader by a group of constituents who asked her to lead Robbins as its Mayor. Her election as Mayor marked her retirement from Moraine Valley and a shift in her career from educator to elected leader.

Mr. Speaker, throughout her career Dr. Brodie has served in such leadership positions as Vice-President of the Illinois Municipal League, Executive Board Member and Assistant Secretary of the National Conference of Black Mayors, and Chair of the Education and Scholarship Committee for the National Conference of Black Mayors. Additionally she has served as a member of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, numerous Gubernatorial Transition Teams, various state and federal advisory boards, and as a member of President Clinton's Environmental Think Tank Group.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank Mayor Brodie for her decades of service and congratulate her on her retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO IOWA'S CIVIL WAR HEROES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the invaluable contribution of Iowa's servicemembers during the United States Civil War as the Kinsman Monument in Council Bluffs, Iowa is rededicated on May 18, 2013. This event will mark the 150th anniversary of the passing of Colonel William H. Kinsman of Council Bluffs, for whom the monument is named.

Born in Canada in 1832, William Kinsman studied in New York and Cleveland before setting off for Iowa in 1858. After travelling across the entire state by foot, Colonel Kinsman settled in Council Bluffs, where he was admitted to the bar, taught school and wrote for the local press. He volunteered at the outbreak of the war and was elected a lieutenant under famed Iowa war hero General Grenville Dodge in Iowa's 4th Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Kinsman was ultimately promoted to the colonelcy of the 23rd Iowa Infantry following a stretch of valiant service, and in 1863 he and his troops joined General Grant's campaign to capture Vicksburg, Mississippi. On May 17 of that year, Colonel Kinsman fought and was mortally wounded in a pivotal battle at Big Black River Bridge that helped isolate the

Confederates, leading to their eventual surrender in Vicksburg weeks later. Although Colonel Kinsman passed the following morning, he gave his life for our state, our country, and the cause of freedom.

Kinsman was interred on the battlefield, but nearly 40 years later in 1904, General Dodge, by then a former U.S. Congressman, secured the necessary financial resources to bring his remains home to Council Bluffs to be permanently laid to rest. Today, the Kinsman Monument reminds us of the sacrifice of Iowa's veterans during the Civil War and the strength of our nation's resolve.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent the people of Iowa, the city of Council Bluffs, and the legacies of Colonel Kinsman and General Dodge in the United States Congress. Their stories represent just a fragment of Iowa's extensive contributions to this great country made by our selfless veterans and their family members. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking the Iowa Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for this historic ceremony, and I humbly express my unending gratitude to all of our nation's veterans, servicemembers, and their families for their service and sacrifice.

HONORING ANDREW GOTZON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Gotzon. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1260, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Andrew contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Andrew cleaned and renovated 13 playgrounds, sanding off the old paint, applying a fresh coat of paint and cleaning up the playground area.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Gotzon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE LEGACY OF SRI LANKA'S CIVIL WAR

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, four years ago this week, the Sri Lankan military declared victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) after more than 25 years of conflict. Thus ended one of the most devastating civil wars of the century, offering hope of a brighter future for the Sri Lankan people characterized by peace, reconciliation, and economic prosperity.

Unfortunately, four years later this brighter future remains elusive for much of Sri Lanka's population. The Sri Lankan military's final offensive against the LTTE left hundreds of thousands of civilians—most of them Tamils—in a situation of forced relocation, humanitarian disaster, and precarious political rights. We have also learned that the government likely committed serious abuses during the fighting itself, leading to the death, torture, or disappearance of tens of thousands of Tamil civilians. A recent report by Human Rights Watch sheds a startling light on these abuses, documenting widespread and potentially systematic incidences of rape, torture, and sexual assault of Tamil detainees by Sri Lankan forces.

Since the end of the conflict, the Sri Lankan government has blatantly and repeatedly defied the demands of the international community and commonly accepted norms of justice and human rights by failing to reintegrate large numbers of Tamil citizens in a timely manner, denying access by journalists and humanitarian organizations to conflict-affected areas, and detaining former combatants indefinitely without access to legal recourse. The government has also persistently rejected calls by a growing number of governments, international bodies, and human rights organizations for an independent investigation into potential war crimes. If the government truly has nothing to hide, why resist even this basic measure of accountability?

On this anniversary of the end of the 2009 conflict, I call on the government of Sri Lanka to act expeditiously to reintegrate Tamil civilians into their communities, provide ex-combatants with appropriate legal recourse and a path toward reintegration, and open its doors to a truly independent international investigation. I also call on our own government to redouble its efforts to pursue accountability for atrocities committed by all sides of this tragic conflict. In the meantime, I urge Congress to expand current conditions on aid to the Sri Lankan government to cover all forms of military assistance.

It is past time for the international community to finally bring an end to this dark chapter in Sri Lanka's history so that the Sri Lankan people can realize the future they so badly deserve.

RECOGNIZING IGANCIO "NASH" CANTU FOR HIS DEDICATION TO BETTERING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Igancio "Nash" Cantu and his devotion to enriching the lives of people with disabilities in my district. Nash, a resident of Carrollton, TX who works as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) at Mosaic in Dallas, was recently named by the American Network for Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) as Texas' Direct Support Professional of the Year for 2013.

DSPs across the nation are vital in helping people with significant disabilities lead a healthier and more meaningful life. This award