The Baha’is in Iran

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about recent reports that the government of Iran has executed a member of the Baha’i faith, and imprisoned and condemned others to death solely because of their religious beliefs. In addition, reports suggest that Iranian officials arrested 32 Baha’i teachers in a crackdown against those on the Baha’i faith.

The recent execution of Mr. Ruholah Rowhani for proselytism is the first execution of a Baha’i in six years and, unfortunately, it was accompanied by the death sentence of other Baha’is. Just last week, two of these sentenced men had their death sentence confirmed, Mr. Sirus Zabihi-Moghaddam and Mr. Hedayat Kashefi Najafabadu were arrested in the fall of 1997 for holding meetings for religious “family life.” Reports reveal that after no legal representation at secret trials at the beginning of 1998, the two men were sentenced to death. Unfortunately, there are other Baha’is in similar situations.

Mr. Speaker, the government of Iran must be held accountable for violating the fundamental human right of religious liberty for the Baha’i and other religious minority believers in Iran. If the leadership of Iran desires to play a role in the international community, they must uphold religious liberty and all fundamental human rights for all people.

I, along with other Members of Congress, Senators and the American people will be watching closely to see whether or not the Iranian government protects the rights of its people, or continues to blatantly violate international human rights norms.

In Memory of the Honorable Frank Piombo

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before the House to celebrate the life of a most distinguished citizen and incomparable friend. Judge Frank Piombo, who passed away peacefully at his home in Redwood City, California, on September 21, 1998. A Memorial Mass was held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Judge Piombo’s picturesque hometown of Redwood City.

Born and reared in San Francisco, Frank Piombo was a resident of Redwood City for 51 years, making the Bay Area his lifelong home. For this decision we, the residents of San Mateo County, are very grateful because we shall forever remember the contributions he made both to our community and our country.

To his country, Frank gave years of dedicated and courageous service. During World War II, he served in the 100th U.S. Infantry, earning a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. After the War, he continued to serve in the Army Reserves, achieving the rank of Colonel. A distinguished graduate of the California educational system, Judge Piombo did undergraduate work at Stanford and the University of California at Berkeley, graduating from U.C. Hastings College of the Law in 1943. To his community, Frank Piombo devoted himself to a career in public service. He was a Deputy District Attorney for San Mateo County, as well as City Attorney for the City of Millbrae. In 1971, he was appointed a Municipal Court Judge, and later that year Governor Ronald Reagan elevated Frank Piombo to the Superior Court.

His devotion to the community extended beyond his judicial duties. He was active in the Elks, the Eagles, and the Sons of Italy. He was known for contriving some of the best practical jokes. Stories of these stories are now legendary. His love of card games was a well established fact, and he was known to show up at a moment’s notice for a game.

Nothing in the world meant more to Frank Piombo than his family. He was married for 47 years to the love of his life, Lydia, and they were blessed with five children: Lee, Robert, Nancy, Susan and Jan, as well as ten magnificently grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Piombo’s life was a beautiful combination—his deep pride in his Italian-American heritage, and his fervent patriotism rooted in the Constitution and the law, his great faith which gave him guidance and unswerving belief in the beatitudes, and love of the family which was unparalleled. His gift to me was our friendship and I shall treasure this all my life. I ask that the entire House honor this good and faithful citizen because of how he lived and who he was. Frank Piombo was the best of America.

A 50th Wedding Anniversary Tribute to Irene and Al Dalpiaz

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Mr. NEY and I would like to bring to your attention today the 50th wedding anniversary of our dear friends, Irene and Al Dalpiaz of Dover, Ohio. Al and Irene will mark the occasion during a special celebration with their children and grand-children next weekend in Medeira Beach, Florida.

Irene Sikora and Albert Dalpiaz were married on October 2, 1948 at St. Mary’s Church in Dover, Ohio. From their first meeting at a dance, Al and Irene knew they shared a special bond. Irene was the oldest of eight daughters and, in the early days of their courtship, usually had a difficult time getting rid of her sisters when Al would come calling. From the beginning, they were the ultimate family couple. Unfortunately, the wedding photographer forgot about their wedding and only showed up at the end of their ceremony. Ironically, Al and Irene spent their honeymoon in Washington D.C.

Al and Irene’s first son, Larry, was born in 1954. Seven years later, the family moved to Dover, Ohio and their favorite (and only) daughter, Elaine, was born. Kevin was born four years later. Al was the co-owner of Tusco Service where he was a genius installing and repairing air conditioning and refrigeration units. In those days, especially, that was a bonus; their home was the first on the street to have central air conditioning. Al left Tusco in the 1970’s and worked at Cummins Diesel until his retirement in the late 1980’s. After a stint of being a full-time mom, Irene returned to work as a secretary at Dover Public Schools in the late 1970’s.

The Dalpiaz family was, and remains, a very tight-knit family. Family summer vacations to the Smokey Mountains, Daytona Beach and Myrtle Beach were very common. Like most Italian families, “la famiglia Dalpiaz” was tremendously dedicated to those things in their life that meant the most to them—spending time with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins as well as their commitment to work, school, the needy, and the Catholic Church.

That commitment is extraordinary; today as it relates to their grandchildren, Anthony and Gabriel. For many years, Al and Irene have also looked out for those less fortunate and to this day provide the most needy in Tuscarawas County with food and clothing. In short, they have made a special commitment to showing their family and those around them with love.

While Al and Irene are officially retired, one would not know it from watching them. Like