

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical service to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's charity ball, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. Gary Mitchell, President and CEO of Opportunity Enterprises, Inc., a non-profit organization that serves to create opportunities for individuals with unique challenges and abilities. From the beginning, social work was not only a career choice for Gary but a way of life. Focused on his calling, Gary graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor's degree in social work and went on to receive his master's degree in social work from Indiana University. After college, Gary held many positions in the social service field, and he also has years of experience in business and industry.

In 1986, Gary joined the team at Opportunity Enterprises as the Chief Executive Officer. Opportunity Enterprises has enjoyed unprecedented success under Gary's leadership. The company has continued to grow and expand. In 1986, the organization served 263 individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. Since then, Opportunity Enterprises has shown immense growth and now serves over 1,000 individuals. Gary has made it his goal to provide day services, residential programs, and vocational opportunities for individuals of all ages, whether they have physical, emotional, or developmental disabilities. For the past 15 years, Opportunity Enterprises has received the three-year accreditation for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), a not-for-profit organization that establishes standards of quality for service to people with disabilities. In addition, for his efforts on behalf of his community, Gary has received numerous honors, including the President's Award in 1992 and the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1993 from then-Governor of Indiana, EVAN BAYH. For his selfless and passionate support for helping individuals to re-establish their roles in community life, Gary is to be commended and admired. He is truly an inspiration.

Gary's dedication to the people he serves is matched only by his devotion to his family. Gary has been married to his wife, Paula, for 42 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Mr. Gary Mitchell, for their outstanding contributions to their communities and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational. For these reasons, the Asian American Medical Association, its members, and Mr. Mitchell are to be recognized, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, D.C.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2009

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 3, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2009, continuing a series of bills that I will introduce this session to ensure a continuation of the process of the transition to full democracy and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia. This bill is the seventh in our "Free and Equal D.C." series of bills to eliminate anti-Home Rule legislation and to remedy obsolete or inappropriate congressional laws to the local affairs of the District of Columbia or denials of federal benefits or recognition routinely granted to other jurisdictions.

This bill would establish an Office of District Attorney for the District of Columbia, to be headed by a district attorney elected by D.C. residents. This bill would effectuate the November 2002 referendum in which D.C. voters overwhelmingly (82 percent) approved a locally elected District Attorney.

This important legislation is designed to put the District of Columbia on par with every other local jurisdiction in the country by allowing D.C. residents to elect an independent district attorney to prosecute local criminal and civil matters now handled by the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, a federal official. Under this bill, the new, locally elected district attorney would become the city's chief legal officer. The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia would remain and, like other U.S. Attorneys' offices in the U.S., would handle only the federal matters under its jurisdiction. As presently constituted, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District is the largest in the country only because it serves mainly as the local city prosecutor. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia needs to be freed up to handle national security and other vital federal cases, particularly in the post-9/11 nation's capital.

There is no law enforcement issue of greater importance to our residents, or on which we have less say, than the prosecution of local crimes here. A U.S. Attorney has no business in the local criminal affairs of a local jurisdiction. This bill simply would make the District's prosecutor accountable to the people by electing him or her, as elsewhere in the nation.

In addition to issues of democracy and self-government, such as congressional voting rights and legislative and budget autonomy, that District residents are entitled to as American citizens, residents are determined to achieve each and every other element of home rule. Amending the District's Home Rule Act to create a local district attorney position would be an important development toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEYS TESTIFY BEFORE THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 3, 2009*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the following testimonies of two Chinese human rights attorneys who submitted testimony for a hearing last week of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

[Written Testimony submitted to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the rule of law in China, Oct. 29, 2009]

ON THE RELIGIOUS CASE IN SHANXI AND THE STATUS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN CHINA

(By Mr. Dai Jinbo)

I. THE STATUS OF CHINA'S RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN RECENT YEARS

Since the release of the Regulations on Religious Affairs (hereafter abbreviated as Regulations) by China's State Council in 2004, house churches and other unregistered religious organizations have all been regarded as illegal by the ruling administration. House churches that do not want to join TSPM (Three-Self Patriotic Movement) churches, due to disagreement concerning their beliefs, have become targeted because they refuse to acquire administrative approval by registering their house church as a religious organization. The Regulations have become the basis for government departments to carry out selective law enforcement on unregistered religious organizations including house churches. This is also a result of China's institutionalization of religious issues.

Therefore, with the official implementation of the Regulations in 2005, house churches in various places have all faced or have experienced being banned, fined and/or requested to suspend their religious activities by the government. This can cause such administrative sanctions against them on the grounds that they are not registered. In terms of banning, there are various kinds of different rulings authorizing the ban. These rulings include administrative penalties meted out by the religion management departments to ban illegal religious organizations, ban illegal venues for religious activities and ban illegal Bible training workshops. The religious affairs departments also manage civil affairs departments and use their capacity as a governing entity for social organizations and religious organizations to ban and crack down on house churches on grounds that they are illegal social organizations. An example is the persecution experienced by the Autumn Rain Church in Chengdu in June 2009. Even public security agencies would also interfere in the internal affairs of religious organizations and prevent them from making progress towards autonomy. Further evidence of this type of religious persecution is the case in Baixiang, Wenzhou, in March 2009.

While the Chinese government was attempting to control and crack down on unregistered religious organizations, including house churches, these unregistered religious organizations did not succumb. Instead, they took the path of defending their rights in accordance with Chinese law. By defending their rights, they have exposed the Chinese government's violation of the rule of law and the principle of human rights. While cracking down on unregistered religious organizations on grounds that they are not registered, it is a violation of the international

convention and the relevant provisions concerning religious freedom in China's constitution. This has also made more religious organizations reach a consensus, that is, whether being registered or unregistered is not a criterion for defining a religious organization as legal or illegal. If they are not legally registered, this should not deprive the citizens of their right to religious freedom.

An excessive number of cases involving violations of citizens' religious freedom would negatively affect China's international image. Controlling unregistered religious organizations by banning them could not achieve the desired effect. Some local governments have changed their strategies of cracking down on the unregistered religious organizations and turned religious issues into non-religious issues, thus, trying to control unregistered religious organizations by means of limiting their access to venues. This is mainly reflected in two approaches. One approach is targeted at urban religious organizations that primarily rent their venues. The government departments often secretly force the landlords to cancel the lease or not to renew their lease so that the religious organizations will not have stable venues for religious activities. The second approach is to forcefully demolish unregistered facilities for religious activities on grounds that they were illegally built. The religious case in Xiaoshan in 2006 was evidence, as was the case in 2009 where the Land and Resources Bureau in Jinghai County, Tianjin, ordered the party concerned to demolish their newly-built church facilities. They also fined the church in excess of 10,000 Yuan on grounds that they had violated the law of land management. Therefore, the unregistered religious organizations in China cannot obtain legal church assets. This has caused a breakdown in achieving religious freedom in China.

The recent case in Linfen, Shanxi, will produce a profound impact on China's religious freedom. This is also an issue of church assets. Since according to the current Law of Land Management and the relevant provisions in the Urban Planning Law, a construction project not only requires a certificate of land use but also requires a planning permit for the construction project. However, the government departments would absolutely not want to process these procedures for houses that may be used for gatherings of house churches. Churches are often unable to obtain approval when they are trying to resolve the problem of meeting venues by building new houses, this includes some TSPM churches. Some registered legitimate historical facilities, used for religious activities also found it very hard to obtain approval for construction of new churches. If houses are built without approval, they would be considered "illegal constructions" and would face the risk of being demolished at any time.

At dawn, on September 13, 2009, more than three hundred police officers, without producing any legal paperwork, stormed into "Gospel Shoes Factory," a gathering venue for house churches in Fushan County, Linfen, Shanxi. The government broke into the gathering place of the church members and used military weapons, wood sticks, bricks, iron hooks and other sharp instruments beat the people, while smashing and looting the property. They severely beat more than one hundred Christians who were caught entirely off guard. Many lost consciousness and many more collapsed in pools of their own blood. At the same time, bulldozers and other heavy machinery were dispatched to destroy and demolish many buildings. All this had occurred because the government departments deemed their meeting venue as "illegal buildings" for the sake of

cracking down and oppressing house churches.

The local government has tried to negotiate with local church leaders since this religious incident. The negotiations between the government departments and the church failed. On September 23, Yang Rongli of Linfen Church and six other church members decided to report the situation to the provincial government. On their way to the province capital they were stopped by the local government. A large number of PAP officers were stationed at the Cathedral in Linfen city, blocking the entrance to the church and confiscated important items in the church. They also prohibited believers from going to meet there. Many church members, including the pastor of the Linfen Church, Huang Xiaoguang, were detained illegally, put under house arrest, or closely monitored. It seemed that the local government wanted to completely destroy the house churches in Linfen. At present, the situation is still developing yet the media has not reported any incidences on this case.

According to Mr. Fan Yafeng, who is rather familiar with the situation, states that house churches in Linfen, Shanxi, are one of China's ten major house church systems in China. If house churches in Linfen were destroyed by the government through the use of illegal force, this would be the ultimate invasion in the Chinese government's crackdown on house churches and persecution of citizens. According to Professor Li Fan's research at the World and China Institute, a non-governmental think tank, house churches in China make up at least half of China's NGO resources. If such respectful and honorable house churches are destroyed, this will be a major regression of China's religious freedom and a serious violation of citizens' religious freedom. This would cause a massive blow to China's non-governmental forces of freedom and would seriously hinder China from making any progression toward religious freedom and the rule of law.

## II. SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS TO THE U.S. CONGRESS

1. We request that the U.S. Congress review and forward the religious case in Linfen and relevant information concerning the status of religious freedom in China to President Obama. It is our desire to increase attention to the religious case in Linfen. Furthermore, it is our desire for President Obama to convey this religious persecution to the Chinese government during his visit to China.

2. We request the U.S. Congress to immediately ask the spokesperson of the U.S. State Department to hold a press conference focusing on the religious persecution case in Linfen.

3. We request the U.S. Congress pass a resolution to adopt strong measures in response to the Chinese government's infringement of human rights and religious freedom.

4. We request the U.S. Congress encourage and support the U.S. Embassy in China to periodically meet and communicate with the groups of Chinese human rights lawyers and advocates. We also request that the U.S. Embassy will make U.S. entry visas more accessible for these people who are fighting for China's democracy, freedom, and rule of law.

5. We request that the U.S. Congress send a letter to the Chinese government expressing concern for Pastor Wang Xiaoguang of Linfen Church in Shanxi who is currently being detained, as well as church leaders, such as Yang Rongli, Yang Hongzhen, Li Shuangping, Yang Chaizhen, Yang Xuan, Cui Jiaying, Gao Fuqin, and Zhang Huamei.

[Written Testimony submitted to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the rule of law in China, Oct. 29, 2009]

## THE CHALLENGES RIGHTS DEFENSE ATTORNEYS IN CHINA FACE AND ITS FUTURE PROSPECT

(By Mr. Li Fangping)

We are now living in the China set against such a dramatic background of the times: First, the economic system is fast evolving while its political system has seen little changes over the years. Second, its legal system is increasingly improving, but the public power is often not restrained by the law. Third, the citizens' awareness of their rights is increasing and the more the awareness to defend one's rights, the more prominent the abuse and the shirking of responsibilities by the public power becomes.

With the advent of the Internet in China, the first widespread and passionate participation by the citizens in political matters occurred in 2003 during the "Sun Zhigang Incident," which successfully made the State Council announce the annulment of the system of "internment and deportation." In the next year, "The State respects and safeguards human rights" was solemnly written into the Constitution. In the next five years, right defense attorneys have, as a professional social group committed to promoting rule of law and safeguarding human rights, presented themselves before the world.

Certainly, in a country where rule of law is still far from realized and where there is full of terrible things against ordinary citizens, the work and life of right defense attorneys must be full of obstacles and frustrations. Just because we engage in work involving human rights, government departments not only do not understand the significance of our existence, they also regard us as the targets of their domestic defense. We seem to have become *personae non gratae* in the eyes of the government and we are often treated unfairly. Some of us have been beaten and kidnapped. The personal freedom of some of us is illegally restricted and some of us are illegally stalked by force. Some of us are forced to report our activities and some are driven out by our landlords due to pressure from the government. Some are threatened and given a disciplinary warning by Bureau of Justice and lawyers' associations. Some are simply fired by their law firms due to pressure from the government.

This year, the right defense attorneys as a social group are enduring more pressure than ever before. As far as I can confirm, there are now at least 17 attorneys at this time unable to practice law. These attorneys have always persisted in providing legal assistance or defense services for clients to safeguard their legitimate rights. They include victims of Sanlu poisonous milk powder, parents of children victimized in the earthquake, HIV carriers, peasants who have lost their land, detained Tibetans, house church Christians, Falun Gong practitioners, right defense activists, political dissidents, victims of family planning policies and clients from other various areas.

Judicial administrative departments in Beijing and other places have terminated attorneys' rights to practice on the ground that these right defense attorneys have not passed the so-called "annual evaluation" or that the law firms where they work have not passed the "annual inspection." However, the "annual evaluation" for attorneys and the "annual inspection" for law firms themselves are not the administrative penalty that can terminate the right to practice of the attorneys or of their law firms. We can see that the "annual evaluation" for attorneys and the "annual inspection" of law

firms have degenerated into an illegal, disorderly and remediless administrative penalty in disguised form that overrides the disciplinary penalty in the industry and administrative penalty on the practicing attorneys.

What delights us is that on the one hand, the right defense attorneys have not given up their idea of safeguarding rule of law and human rights. Each time they negotiate with judicial administrative departments, they express their criticism on the illegal administration and their firm belief that China will certainly develop into a country under rule of law. On the other hand, the disadvantaged social groups whose rights are harmed also express their desire of "attorneys for us, and we for attorneys." It is my belief that the appeal for rights by the ordinary people whose rights are harmed, and the sense of mission of the attorneys, will combine to form a powerful synergy in promoting the progress of our country in human rights and rule of law.

Though the road to rule of law and human rights in China will be hard and long, yet the long march of this time is attracting more and more people, including you, us and them. Given this situation, I, as a member of this social group of defense attorneys, personally am full of confidence for the "Same World, Same Human Rights."

Finally, let me express my gratitude for all my friends who are concerned about the rule of law in China and the progress in human rights!

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 3, 2009*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 832, H.R. 1168, rollcall No. 833, H. Res. 291, and rollcall No. 834, S. 509 I was not present. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on No. 832, "yea" on No. 833, and "yea" on No. 834.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF DR. WALTER C. BOWIE

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 3, 2009*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the memory of Dr. Walter C. Bowie of Tuskegee, Alabama.

For many years, Dr. Bowie served as the Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University. Known as "the Dean of Deans," Dr. Bowie was and is considered by many to be a mentor, friend, respected colleague, and a gentleman.

Dr. Bowie held a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Kansas State University, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Cornell University and completed post-doctoral studies at the University of Michigan.

His 63-year tenure at Tuskegee University included positions as teacher, scientist, department head, administrator, associate dean, and dean emeritus. Dr. Bowie served as president of the American Association of Veterinary

Physiologists and Pharmacologists, and the Alabama Heart Association. Dr. Bowie was among the founders, and later served as president, of the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools.

Dr. Bowie passed on October 25, 2009. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Cornelia (Connie), daughters Sibyl, Carolyn, and Colleen; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family members.

While Dr. Bowie will be sorely missed, his legacy will live on in the students he taught at Tuskegee University.

#### MR. RON GOOD

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 3, 2009*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated and selfless citizens, Mr. Ronald Good, of Lake Station, Indiana. After serving the people of Lake Station as a firefighter for 52 years, the last 16 of which he served as the department's Fire Chief, Ron retired from service at the end of 2007. In recognition of Mr. Good's service to his community, not only as a firefighter but also for his commitment to serving his community in many other capacities, a party will be held in his honor on Sunday, November 8, 2009, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9323 in Lake Station, Indiana.

Following a 3-year enlistment in the United States Marine Corps, Ron returned to his hometown and joined the fire department in 1956 at the age of 21. He credits his grandfather, Captain Solomon Hursey, a charter member of the fire department, which was then the East Gary Fire Department, with peaking his interest in his chosen career path. Mr. Good, as a child, would often go on fire calls and was immediately drawn to the idea of following in his grandfather's footsteps. Later on in his life, it must have made Ron quite proud to see two of his sons keep the family tradition alive through their service as Lake Station firefighters.

Aside from his incredible 52 years of service on the fire department, Ron's contributions to Northwest Indiana and beyond through his service on various firefighters' associations and service organizations have also touched the lives of many people. Mr. Good is a lifetime member of both the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association and the Indiana Firefighters Association, for which he has served on the Board of Directors. He is also a lifetime member of both Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9323 and American Legion Post 100, and he has been an active member of the Lake Station Lions Club for the past 30 years. Never one to shy away from taking a leadership role when it comes to service to his community, Mr. Good also served for several years as a representative on the Lake Station City Council.

Ron Good's commitment to his community has been matched only by his commitment to his family. A husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Ron and his adoring wife of an astonishing 54 years, Beverly, have 7 children, 15 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. Ronald Good for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to the residents of Lake Station, Indiana. He has touched the lives of countless citizens, and his commitment to the safety of his community and to the improvement of the quality of life for the people of Lake Station is to be admired.

#### REMEMBERING APOLLO 11

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 3, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Forty years ago, Neil Armstrong spoke the words that would soon resonate across a nation, and with them bring renewed pride and a sense of patriotism to the American public. It was in 1961 that President Kennedy expressed in a speech before Congress his belief "that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth." Eight years later, on the 20th of July, that goal was achieved, and with it a new watershed moment in American history.

The legacy of the Apollo project is a multifaceted one; it demonstrated the unmatched American capacity to meet and overcome challenges, while stimulatingly establishing national prominence over rival nations. As observed in the November issue of Science magazine in 1968, "NASA has not been our largest national undertaking, but... it may turn out that [the program's] most valuable spin-off of all will be human rather than technological: better knowledge of how to plan, coordinate, and monitor the multitudinous and carried activities of the organizations required to accomplish great social undertakings."

With the Soviet Union a distant memory for many Americans, it is easily forgotten how the perception of the Soviet leadership in space and technology affected the country's perception of itself. So, as we look back on the Apollo Project, and in particular on the flight of Apollo 11, it is important to remember the political tides that fueled its origins and set the stage for an era of renewed American esteem. Yet let us not lose the greater lesson: that when met with adversity, Americans will rise to the challenge and reaffirm within themselves their ability to meet challenges in order to prosper as a nation.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 3, 2009*

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3619—the Coast Guard Authorization Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING  
Bill Number: H.R. 3619