

194 cases involving 269 U.S. children abducted to or wrongfully retained in Japan. As of March 25, 2010, OCI had 85 open cases involving over 121 American children abducted to Japan. Of these abducted children, Keisuke Collins, is the son of one of my constituents, Randy Collins.

Unfortunately, since the signing of the Treaty of Peace with Japan between the Allied Powers and the Government of Japan in 1951, the Japanese Government has never issued and enforced a legal decision to return a single abducted child to the United States. In addition, Japan has not agreed to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, which has resulted in the continued absence of an immediate remedy that would enable the expedited return of abducted children to their custodial parent in the United States. Sadly, the Government of Japan is the only G-7 country that has not acceded to the Hague Convention.

This problem is also compounded by Japan's legal system. Because Japan's existing family law system does not recognize joint custody nor actively enforces parental access agreements for both its own citizens and foreigners, there is little hope for children to have contact with the noncustodial parent in violation of internationally recognized and protected rights. What is worse, the Government of Japan has repeatedly claimed to foreign governments that parental child abduction is not considered a crime in Japan despite the fact that Article 3 of the Japanese Penal Code does indeed make it a crime for a Japanese citizen to abduct a child and move the child across national borders.

Although Japan's current Justice Minister said upon her appointment that she is determined to show that Japan "is very proactive" in adopting international protocols and conventions that are the "international standard," child abductions to Japan continue to be a very serious and rampant problem. Consequently, is critical for the United States and Japan to work together to prevent future incidents of international parental child abduction to Japan.

As such, I call on my colleagues to support House Resolution 1326. This resolution calls on the Government of Japan to immediately address the growing problem of abduction to and retention of American children in Japan. The resolution also calls on Japan to work closely with the United States to return these children to their custodial parent in the United States and to provide left-behind parents immediate access to their children. Lastly, House Resolution 1326 calls on Japan to immediately adopt the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction so that these abducted children can be returned to their custodial parent.

As an original cosponsor of this resolution, it is of utmost importance to not only me, but to my constituents Randy and Keisuke, that it is passed with the overwhelming support of the House of Representatives. These abducted kids—and their families—cannot wait any longer.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF ENTERTAINER
AND PHILANTHROPIST JOEY
RUSSELL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his 90th birthday, I rise to commemorate Joey Russell of Milford, Connecticut, a comedian and humanitarian who has spent a lifetime working to make the world around him a better, happier place.

Known to generations of Connecticut children as "Happy the Clown," a television staple in Hartford and my hometown of New Haven, Joey has brought laughter, good cheer, and good works to those around him for decades. In fact, Joey's wit and timing as a stand-up comic has taken him all over the world, including famed comedy venues like the Copacabana in New York and Grossinger's Hotel in the Catskills.

Throughout his career, Joey has matched his gift for entertaining with an impressive record of philanthropy and public service. The son of a rabbi who served in the United States Army, Joey has raised money for over 20 ambulances for American Red Magen David for Israel (ARMDI), formed the Golan Chapter of this international humanitarian organization, and has led over fifty tours of the Holy Land.

I congratulate Joey, his wife Josi, and their five children on reaching this impressive milestone, and I thank Joey for all the laughter over the years. With or without the "happy sticks" on hand, I know he will greet this cause for celebration with a smile.

MARGARET HOUGASIAN: A SURVIVOR'S STORY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through the Armenian Genocide CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Members of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

This is one of those stories:

(Submitted by Shirley Collins)

My name is Shirley Kalashian-Collins. I was born in 1951 to Armenian parents. My

mother was born in Aintab, Turkey in 1920 in the midst of the genocide of the Armenians. My mother and my grandparents narrowly made it out alive and found refuge in the U.S. My paternal grandmother also had a harrowing story. Due to the threat against the Armenians she was shipped to the U.S. at 15 years old to marry an Armenian, only to find out a few years later that her parents were killed and her younger sisters kidnapped. My mother tried hard to put all these stories down on paper so the world would know what happened to our families. After she passed away, I attempted to finish her project. After nearly 10 years and hundreds of hours of work, I put the story together.

Now I want to thank our Rep. Adam Schiff for his efforts to put these stories that are left untold in the Congressional Record. I know my mother, if she were alive, would be dancing up and down with joy. You can't imagine how exciting this is for me after all the years of work to make sure these stories are kept alive and heard so that history will be recorded accurately.

Thank you Rep. Schiff. This is such a wonderful and amazing idea.

My great-grandfather, Sarkis Kalashian, married Margaret Hougasian after my great-grandmother, Shoushan, died. Sarkis was killed in 1915 by Turkish soldiers. This left Margaret a widow with small children. My cousin, Margo Torigiants, shared with me the following story of how her grandmother escaped to France after Sarkis was killed:

After the massacre of the Armenians started, Margaret suddenly became a widow when her husband and older son were killed in 1915. According to her granddaughter, Margo, Margaret had some gold nuggets as Sarkis had been a merchant in Kharpet. Earlier pictures of Sarkis and Margaret show them happy and very well dressed.

She used these gold nuggets to get some Turkish people to help her and her children: Khoren, Hrant, Dickran, Araksi and Vartan (and maybe Agavni—daughter of Khoren) to flee. She dressed up the boys as girls to disguise them. (Boys were more likely to be killed by the Turkish military). Somehow they were able to get to Aleppo, Syria. She tried to get them in an orphanage, but since they had a parent, she could not get them in. she cooked for people and took the leftovers home for the kids to eat. They stayed there for a few years, but stayed close.

They were afraid Arabs would kidnap the kids. From there they settled in Marsielle, France.

HONORING THE HANNAH WESTON CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hannah Weston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their care of the Burnham Tavern for 100 years.

The Chapter carries the name of Hannah Weston in honor of the 17-year-old pregnant woman who showed incredible courage in helping the patriots fight the British in the Battle of the Margareta. This was also known as the Battle of the Machias, the first naval battle of the Revolutionary War. Since 1910, the Hannah Weston Chapter has owned and maintained the Burnham Tavern, where the