

not given up on Oybek and were prepared to grant asylum, not only to Oybek, but to one of the other four Uzbeks because they were committed to taking two detainees, not just one. Oybek and the other Uzbek, who we referred to as the "Uzbek to be named later," were eventually put on a U.S. military airplane at Guantánamo and flown into Dublin where they arrived over a year ago.

When the plane with Oybek and Shakhrukh, the other Uzbek, landed in Ireland, they were shackled—hand and foot. When the representative of the Irish government got on the U.S. military plane and was told by the officer in charge that the guards were ready to escort Oybek and Shakhrukh off the plane, the Irishman said: "These men are not going anywhere until you remove the shackles and handcuffs. When they step off this plane onto Irish soil, they will do so as free men."

There was one last item left undone. During the course of our representation, Michael had tried, without success, to locate Oybek's wife and children. But without legal travel documents and afraid to return to Uzbekistan, they had lived as refugees in Central Asia since Oybek's disappearance. One day, Oybek's family was listening to the Uzbek service on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and heard Michael being interviewed about his efforts to get Oybek resettled in Ireland. Eventually, Michael was put in touch with people in Pakistan and Oybek's wife and two children were located in a refugee camp in Pakistan. Michael then worked with the Irish Government to bring his wife and his two children, one of whom he had never seen, to Ireland. This work is not over. Detainees remain at Guantánamo despite the fact that in nearly 70 percent of the cases that have been heard by Federal Judges, the writ of habeas corpus has been granted. We will continue to fight for human justice. Michael and I have filed an Appearance in another detainee's case and look forward to his eventual release.

Why did lawyers, including the Fellows of the College, undertake the representation of these men in a very unpopular cause? They did it because it is part of their DNA. It is the reason many of them went to law school. Who among you has not imagined yourself as Atticus Finch standing in that hot Alabama courtroom defending an innocent man? Every state in this country has a long tradition of lawyers providing pro bono representation in unpopular causes. When Michael and I each passed the bar, we signed a book that has the name of every lawyer who has ever practiced in Massachusetts. That roll contains the names of the lawyers who represented Sacco & Vanzetti. It has the name of Benjamin Curtis, a Massachusetts lawyer and member of the Supreme Court of the United States, who dissented in the Dred Scott case and then resigned as a matter of principle. Curtis returned to Washington in 1868 to represent the very unpopular President, Andrew Johnson, in the impeachment trial before the U.S. Senate. We all know the story of John Adams, who defended the British soldiers in the Boston Massacre, but his son, John Quincy Adams, who, after he had been President, represented the African slaves on the Spanish slave ship, the *La Amistad*, is also on that roll of attorneys. This is not just a Massachusetts tradition; it is

the fabric of what it means to be an American lawyer. All of you have or will have an opportunity at some point in your career to undertake an unpopular representation. I would urge all of you to seize that opportunity because you will never forget it.

John Adams said that of all the things he did, which included not only the presidency, but being the driving force behind the Declaration of Independence, that the representation of the British soldiers was the best service that he had ever done for his country. Each of us standing here today would tell you that this is the best thing that we have ever done. Thank you and God bless the Constitution of the United States.

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IN RECOGNITION OF ALBERT  
CIMPERMAN

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HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Albert Cimperman on his induction into the Legion of Honor by the President of the French Republic. The most prestigious award that France bestows, the medal of the Knight of the Legion of Honor is reserved for soldiers and civilians who have demonstrated remarkable talent and character. Mr. Cimperman fought bravely in World War II, displaying courage and discipline in some of the most grueling battles.

Napoleon Bonaparte conferred the first medals of honor on the civil servants of the French Republic. These first medals realized his vision of a merit based award that would spur soldiers and civilians alike to pursue endeavors that would do credit to their country. The Legion of Honor is the only remaining national order remaining in France.

Mr. Cimperman fought bravely in nine campaigns during World War II, including the battles of Normandy and Ardennes. He has received six awards from the United States government for his efforts, including the Bronze Star Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. Today, Albert and his wife of 65 years, Zora, are active Parma residents. They were awarded the Joined Hearts in Giving Award in 2007 for their dedication to community volunteer work, and continue to teach a weekly line-dancing class at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center in Parma.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in thanking Mr. Albert Cimperman for his service. Without the sacrifice and perseverance of soldiers like him, the Allied Forces could not have prevailed and we would live in a much crueler, culturally impoverished, and oppressive world. It is my honor and my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Cimperman on his great accomplishment.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE  
LIFE OF IRVING GELLERT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Irv Gellert, a dear friend who passed away on November 1, 2010 at his home in Los Angeles, California.

Irv had a great sense of joie de vivre and lived his life to the fullest. He was born in January of 1917 and grew up in the rural coal mining region of Pennsylvania, where his athletic abilities and interest in sports led him to become an all-star high school football player. After attending Temple University in Philadelphia, Irv enlisted in the Army and served his country with honor and pride during World War II. When the war was over and his service ended, he enrolled in New York University Law School and graduated with a law degree in 1949.

Not long after graduating from law school, Irv married his beloved wife Harriet. In 1954, their only child, a son Jay was born, and Irv took on one of the great roles of his life as a parent. He was a loving role model to Jay, who called him his most admired person. Just three years after Jay was born, Irv was admitted to the California Bar Association and he spent the next 30 years as a respected practicing attorney in both New York and California.

Irv's competitive nature and enduring spirit compelled his interests throughout his life. He had a passion for sports and was a dedicated Los Angeles Lakers fan. He also held a deep-seated interest in politics and closely followed elections and the political process. In the recent midterm election cycle, Irv made use of the latest technology to keep track of races across the country by following the elections on his new Apple iPad device. Each election cycle, Irv lent his support to candidates he felt would best serve his local community as well as the country he was so proud of.

Later in life, Irv's most rewarding experiences came from caring for his ailing wife during her ten-year battle with Alzheimer's. It was during the time he cared for Harriet that Irv's true nature shone through. His love, coupled with his optimism and interminable selflessness, provided comfort to Harriet, to Jay, to their family and to their many friends affected by Harriet's condition.

Irv had a genuine love for life and humor about every aspect of it. He was the most positive person I've ever known, a man who demonstrated very clearly what he believed in by how he lived. He was a man of integrity and intelligence, grace and goodness.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincere condolences to Jay Gellert, the light of Irv's life and the son of sons. In Irv's passing, we've lost a great friend and patriot whose dedication and service made our nation a better place. We mourn his passing, but take comfort in the knowledge that his legacy lives on through the wisdom he shared, through the humor and keen observations he displayed, and through all the people he touched throughout his long and extraordinary life.