

1786. Future Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were the American signatories. The treaty was subsequently presented to the Senate, which ratified it on July 18, 1787, making it the first treaty ever to receive U.S. Senate ratification.

The treaty provided for the United States' diplomatic representation in Morocco and commerce at any Moroccan port on the basis of "most favored nation status." It also established the principle of non-hostility when either country was engaged in a war with any other nation.

President George Washington wrote to Sultan Mohammed III on December 1, 1789: "It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity of assuring your majesty that I shall not cease to promote every measure that may conduce to the friendship and harmony which so happily subsist between your empire and these United States."

U.S. relations with Morocco have strengthened in the years following this historic treaty. During World War I, Morocco was aligned with the Allied forces, and in 1917 and 1918 Moroccan soldiers fought valiantly alongside U.S. Marines at Chateau Thierry, Mont Blanc and Soissons.

During World War II, Moroccan national defense forces aided American and British troops in the region. In January 1943, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Franklin Roosevelt and Free French Commander Charles de Gaulle met for four days in the Anfa neighborhood of Casablanca to develop ongoing strategies against the Axis powers.

In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower sent a letter to Moroccan King Mohammed V to the effect that "my government renews its wishes for the peace and prosperity of Morocco." The King responded by assuring President Eisenhower that Morocco would be a staunch ally against the proliferation of Communism in the region.

Morocco was one of the first nations to express its solidarity with the United States after the September 11, 2001 attacks. The United States subsequently expressed its sympathies and support for Morocco when terrorists conducted major attacks in Morocco.

The United States and Morocco have a Free Trade Agreement and in September 2012, the U.S. and Morocco launched a Strategic Dialogue—the first such U.S. dialogue with a Maghreb nation—to advance common interests on political, economic, security, and educational and cultural affairs.

A bipartisan majority in both the House and Senate have signed letters in support of Morocco's desire to resolve the ongoing conflict in the Western Sahara through negotiations designed to ensure Moroccan sovereignty, while providing the inhabitants with autonomy. In 2009, 244 Members of the House signed such a letter. The following year, 54 Senators signed a letter expressing their support for such a negotiated process designed to end the conflict.

This rich history of friendship and cooperation sets the stage for the visit to the White House by King Mohammed VI. The visit is a result of President Obama's personal invitation to the North African monarch, who will be meeting the President for the first time.

In announcing the visit, the White House issued a statement declaring: "This visit will highlight the long-standing friendship between

the United States and Morocco and strengthen our strategic partnership. The President looks forward to discussing a range of issues of mutual interest with King Mohammed VI, including support for Morocco's democratic and economic reforms. This visit is also an opportunity to increase our cooperation on addressing regional challenges, including countering violent extremism, supporting democratic transitions, and promoting economic development in the Middle East and Africa."

I join with my colleagues in Congress in welcoming the King to Washington in the firm belief that this visit will reinforce the special relationship between our two nations.

A TRIBUTE TO LOTUS RESTAURANT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hong Nguyen, the owner of Lotus Vietnamese restaurant in Vernon, Connecticut. Hong recently announced that Lotus will be closing on December 1st after nearly thirty years of business. The Zagat-rated restaurant has received rave reviews from locals and esteemed food critics alike who return for dishes like the Bombay beef, peppered shrimp, spicy soup, and my favorite, the Saigonese pancake.

Hong Nguyen served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the South Vietnamese Air Force and commanding officer of the 819th combat squadron during the Vietnam War. After the fall of Saigon in 1975, Nguyen and his family fled to the United States. With the assistance of USAF Lt. Colonel Gib Whitman, the Hongs were sponsored for U.S. citizenship and moved to Guilford, Connecticut as the first Vietnamese refugees in the State.

In 1984, Hong Nguyen and his wife, Canh, opened Lotus at its first location on Route 83. In their first years in business they worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Canh did all the cooking and Hong managed the rest of the chores in the restaurant. The grueling work paid off as a growing clientele prompted the Hongs to move into a larger space on the Hartford Turnpike.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the Hong family for their achievements. Their story is a testament to the American dream, and I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this year's recipients of Leadership Fairfax's Northern Virginia Leadership Awards.

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to finding, training and growing leaders in Northern Virginia. Leadership Fairfax seeks to build leaders who raise the tide

not only in their organization or local community but in the whole Northern Virginia region. Graduates from its programs become part of a fast growing network of civic leaders. I've always said, "When you walk into a crowded room it's easy to spot the graduates of Leadership Fairfax—they just stand out!"

Leadership Fairfax alumni and the general public submitted nominations for the 17th annual Northern Virginia Leadership Award, and a panel of community and business leaders made the final selections. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2013 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Bob Chase, president of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, will receive the Regional Leadership Award, which recognizes an individual for advancing regional collaboration and partnership. For two decades, Bob has worked with the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, a coalition of business and civic leaders, to educate the public and advocate for major improvements in regional roads and transit.

Lynn Tadlock, chairman of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and deputy executive director of the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, will be presented with the Trustee Leadership Award, which honors an individual who has demonstrated visionary leadership by embracing new opportunities and pursuing innovative, collaborative approaches. Ms. Tadlock has been associated for 28 years with the Fairfax County Park Authority, and in philanthropy at the Claude Moore Foundation. She has been instrumental in bringing to reality many projects that exist in the county today, including the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, the Cross County Trail, and two county parks for disabled children: Clemjontri Park in McLean, and the Special Harbor Spray Park at Lee District.

Pam Michell, executive director of New Hope Housing, will receive the Nonprofit Leadership Award for her 22 years of inspirational leadership at New Hope Housing. Michell has grown New Hope from a small, local agency to a regional agency, with shelters, transitional and supportive housing, and outreach and support services.

The JBG Companies, a real estate investment firm, will be presented the Corporate Leadership Award. JBG develops active, sustainable communities, advances affordable housing and promotes public art. JBG Cares, the companies' volunteer arm, matches volunteers from the company in the areas of affordable housing, education, the environment, hunger and the arts.

Joe Thompson, assistant principal at Annandale High School, will be honored with the Educational Leadership Award for his efforts in launching the first Annandale Pyramid Resource Fair this past August. This event provided school supplies, clothing, hearing and sight testing, haircuts and other goods and services to almost 4,000 families in the Annandale High School Pyramid.

Patricia Stevens, executive director of the Office of Public Private Partnerships, Fairfax County, will receive the Chairman's Award for her enthusiastic and distinguished service on the Board of Directors of Leadership Fairfax as Governance Committee chair, and as a member of the Executive and Membership committees.