

a group of human rights advocates about her recent visit with her imprisoned father, the heroic Chinese democracy activist Wang Bingzhang. Dr. Wang is a founding father of the post-Mao Chinese democracy movement; he personally founded or co-founded a magazine, a movement, and a political party dedicated to promoting democracy.

Dr. Wang is an incredibly brave man who is serving a life sentence in China for “espionage” and “terrorism”—these are the Chinese Government’s words for promoting democracy. In fact “espionage” and “terrorism” come close to describing the Chinese Government’s own behavior in pursuing Dr. Wang, a permanent U.S. resident whom Chinese Government agents abducted from Vietnam in June 2002, smuggled back into China, and secretly held incommunicado for 6 months, before subjecting him to a “star chamber” trial in January 2003. The U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has ruled that Dr. Wang’s detention is arbitrary.

Madam Speaker, any father would consider himself extremely blessed to have a daughter like Ti-Anna. When I first met with her, a few months ago, I was deeply moved by how determinedly she has been working for his release. I’m sure the love she is showing for her father is bearing fruit in his life, comforting him while he is in prison.

Today, Madam Speaker, is the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—an inspiring document, much of which remains a promissory note, unredeemed by so many governments of the world. It is our duty to continue pressing the governments of the world, including our own, to live up to this declaration. Let’s keep working, and keep praying, in solidarity with Dr. Wang and Ti-Anna and all those denied the rights that the Universal Declaration promotes.

Madam Speaker, I would like to introduce into the record Ti-Anna’s report on her recent visit with her father and his condition.

I would like to start by thanking everyone here, on behalf of my family, for taking the time to come to this event. Since I started my work in DC, I’ve been lucky enough to be surrounded by supportive, generous and kind people who are genuinely concerned about my father’s case. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in his fight for freedom. More specifically, I would like to thank Dr. Yang, Congressman Wolf, Congressman Smith, Congressman Ros-Lehtinen, and Senator Feinstein for their recent work on my father’s case. It is the compassion of every one here that gives my family hope and reason to believe that the unlikely is possible.

I’m here today to tell you about my recent visit with my father just two weeks ago. To give a little background, my father’s sentence allows for only one visit a month. Each of these visits last about 30 minutes.

The standard procedure is that my family receives a visitation notice in the mail that lets us know the date of the visit.

As my whole family lives in North America, we usually have a very short amount of time to make the necessary travel arrangements for a long trip to China. Once there, we have to go through a lengthy authorization process before we are allowed to see him. For my latest visit, I had some difficulties getting my visa as scheduled, and didn’t have the proper paperwork, which added a lot of additional stress to this already difficult process.

The visit takes place in a bare concrete building that borders the gate of his remote

prison, several miles away from the closest city. It is so secluded that we have to be driven there by the prison officials, as some of the terrain in that area has yet to be paved.

Right before we can meet, the prison authorities remind us of the rules and regulations, which include only speaking in Chinese, and staying away from topics that will cause my father anxiety. These visits are conducted in visitation booths and are monitored by four prison officials, two standing behind the each of us.

Separated by metal bars and two layers of Plexiglas, my father and I can only communicate using a telephone.

I was very nervous about seeing my father this time. It had been over a year since my last visit, and my family had lost contact with him for two months without any clear explanations from the prison, so I was worried about the state that my father was in. I was so relieved when I was finally able to see him, cheerful enough to smile.

My first concern was his health. My father said that while he is stable, his chronic allergies and severe phlebitis continues to plague him. We talked mostly about my family, my educational future and the work that we are doing on his behalf. As we spoke, it was clear to me that my father’s untreated depression and psychological health continues to worsen.

He had difficulty making steady eye contact and sometimes repeated the same sentences several times. The prison officials monitoring our conversation were kind enough to allot us an extra 10 minutes.

My father wanted me to let everyone know that he is eternally grateful for all the work that has been done on his behalf and that he remains hopeful that justice will prevail.

As our conversation came to an end, my father began to cry. He said the thought of never seeing his ailing 87-year-old mother again often brings him to tears and that his only wish is that they will be reunited before it’s too late.

It has now been over 6 years that my father, now almost 62 years old, lingers alone in prison. I come here today in hopes of conveying the message that my father’s situation has become ever more critical and his time is running out. This is the third time I’ve visited my father, and it is obvious that both his physical and mental health are deteriorating. He has aged so much in the last few years, and his depression is becoming dangerously severe. The prison authorities have told my family that my father’s only chance of receiving medical parole is if he admits guilt to the charges of “terrorism” and “espionage” . . . but I know that my father would never, nor does my family want him to confess to claims that are not only false, but that will comprise his dignity and values.

As we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I just want to remind everyone that it is because of my father’s unwavering commitment to this cause that he is being so unjustly punished today.

As the founder of the Chinese overseas pro-democracy movement, there was nothing harder that my father fought for than the values of human rights, freedom and democracy for the people of his homeland.

His contribution to his beliefs has now cost him 6 years of solitary confinement, and possibly his life if we do not continue to fight for his freedom.

So I would like to close today by asking the present and new administration to call for my father’s immediate release on medical and humanitarian grounds.

I also invite everyone here, along with your friends and family to visit

www.initiativesforchina.org to sign an online petition addressed to President Hu Jintao, also calling for my father’s release.

Lastly, I would like to work with congressional leaders toward the goal of obtaining honorary U.S. citizenship for my father as recognition of his lifelong service to democracy and as a statement of America’s recommitment to making human rights a priority in its agenda.

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone here for coming and for your sincere concern for my father.

IN HONOR OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR THEODORE N. TANCZUK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Theodore N. Tanczuk, as he retires after 26 years of service in the U.S. Army, and in recognition of his outstanding dedication to our country.

CSM Theodore Tanczuk was born in Cleveland on December 6, 1948, a few years after the end of World War II. In 1971, while in his early twenties, he enlisted in the Army. Commander Sergeant Major Tanczuk quickly moved through the ranks and graduated from nursing school, becoming a licensed practical nurse (LPN). In 1982, his vision and dedication to developing the medical department in the U.S. Military led him to set up a nursing school program through the U.S. Army and local nursing schools in Northeast Ohio. The program was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Army, and students who completed the program graduated in one year. 65 of the 68 people who completed this program went on the graduate from nursing schools and work as LPNs in Ohio. Commander Sergeant Major Tanczuk served as a guide and mentor to each of the students throughout the entire process, until they too went on to serve our country in local hospitals all over northeast Ohio.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of CSM Theodore N. Tanczuk, and in recognition of his outstanding service to our country. May his work as an LPN and mentor to other military servicemen serve as an example for all of us to follow.

HONORING JAMES FRANK POLLARD

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a larger-than-life Texan, James Frank Pollard. This afternoon in San Angelo, TX, Frank will be laid to rest. I ask my colleagues and all those present in the chamber to join me in offering their thoughts and prayers to his beloved family, daughter Lisa, son Jim, daughter-in-law Wendy, and his grandchildren, Charless and Sophia.

Born to Charlie and Grace Pollard in Coleman, TX in 1931, Frank’s ingrained Texan values, can-do spirit, and a healthy dose of pragmatism drove him to make his mark in many