



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

No. 32

House of Representatives

Bring Bob Levinson Home

*Remarks by Rep. Chris Smith
February 29, 2016*

Mr. SMITH ... Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on The Middle East and North Africa and the chairwoman emeritus of the full committee, Ileana Ros-Lehtien, for her leadership on this issue. I also thank Ted Deutch, who authored this very, very important resolution. I also thank Tom Rice and Eliot Engel for quickly bringing this legislation to the floor so that Members can vote on it in anticipation of the ninth anniversary of Bob Levinson's being held by the Iranians.

Almost 9 years ago, the Levinson family wrote, in part, on helpboblevinson.com. I quote them, in part. They said:

"If you are reading this, we thank you. If you are a friend or former colleague of Bob's and have called our family to offer support, we thank you. If you sent cards or well wishes, we thank you. If you pray for Bob, we thank you. If you frequently follow the news stories and blogs about Bob's situation, we thank you. If you have spread the word about his story and continue to do so, we thank you. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. Please continue to pray

for Bob...we would love to have him home for Father's Day."

That was May 25, 2007. That, Mr. Speaker, was almost nine years ago.

In a letter to dad also in May of 2007, Bob Levinson's children wrote:

"Dad...Your seven children love and miss you very much. We are writing you this letter in the hopes that you will be able to read it wherever you are and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers every minute of every day."

The seven children continued:

"As you know, Mom is our "Rock." She has encouraged us to take each day one day at a time. While we are sure it will come as no surprise to you, she has amazing strength and has been an inspiration to all seven of us..."

"We are all looking forward to your welcome home party. It cannot seem to come soon enough. We pray for you every

day and look forward to having you come home to us safe and sound.

The seven Levinson children continued:

“Dad, you are the best dad anyone could ever ask for, and we love and miss you more than words can say. We are so proud of you, and the world now knows what we have known all along – what an intelligent, kind, and gentle man you are.”

Again, that was a letter from Bob’s kids, and it was posted online almost 9 years ago. Despite the emotional pain, Christine, his wife, and the entire family tenaciously press for Bob Levinson’s freedom.

No-one in American history has been held hostage longer than Bob Levinson. His ordeal—and the agony and heartbreak of his family—must end.

When the reports that most of the Americans held by Iran were released but no freedom or even information about Levinson, the family was indeed crushed. In response, the family wrote: “We are happy for the other families. But once again, Bob Levinson has been left behind. We are devastated.”

Devastated yes but they are absolutely committed to the return of their husband/father/grandfather/relative/friend. Both the Administration and Congress must not rest until this good, decent and honorable American is returned to his family, friends and grateful Nation.

So I again thank you Representative Ted Deutch for sponsoring H.Res 148 so we can express our deepest concern for Bob Levinson and press, as never before, for his return.