

moved in 2003 to Iran as a freelance journalist. She reported for National Public Radio, Fox News, and the BBC. This is a young woman of great accomplishment. She has two master's degrees, she has a great education, and she so celebrated her culture that she wanted to spend time in the country of Iran, where her father was born, and she did reporting in the country of Iran. She stayed in Iran after her press credentials lapsed in 2006. She stayed to write a book and complete work on a master's degree in Iranian studies and international relations.

At the end of January in this year, Roxana was picked up and sent to prison. She was held nearly 2 months without charge in a prison outside of Tehran. As I indicated, this Saturday she was convicted of espionage and sentenced to 8 years in prison. The trial was a brief closed-door trial, and this young woman was not allowed to speak in her own defense.

Since Roxana Saberi was convicted and sentenced on Saturday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has sent a letter to the Tehran's prosecutor saying Roxana's rights must not be violated in any way and he asked the prosecutor to ensure that she is allowed to offer a full defense in her appeal.

In addition, the head of Iran's judiciary has ordered a "quick and fair" appeal of Roxana's case. Perhaps they understand that because of worldwide attention to the imprisonment of this young woman, Iran's credibility is on trial as well. When Iranian authorities review Roxana's cases, they will see she has not been granted the basic human and judicial rights that are guaranteed—or supposed to be guaranteed—under Iran's Constitution and penal code.

As I said, she was arrested in late January, she was held without charge and kept without communication with her family for weeks before being allowed to call her parents in faring Fargo, ND. It took about 6 weeks before she was allowed to see the lawyer who was hired by her parents. At first, she was told she was imprisoned because she bought a bottle of wine, and the person who sold her the bottle of wine had reported it to Iranian authorities. Then she was accused of working as a journalist without a valid press card. Finally, she was accused of espionage, of spying for the United States, and at the trial—conducted behind closed doors, according to her lawyer—was not allowed to speak in her own defense.

Roxana Saberi's parents have traveled to Iran to work on their daughter's behalf. They say they have been treated courteously by Iranian officials. They have now been able to visit Roxana in prison, and they have been allowed to work with the lawyer and speak to the press. I visited with Roxana's father today and a couple times last week. He is enormously gratified at the outpouring of support for Roxana from all around the world. Presi-

dent Obama, I know, has spoken of this issue, Secretary Clinton, media outlets around the world and nongovernment organizations, foreign governments and the European Union have all appealed on her behalf. Roxana's father has indicated she has not been abused in prison but that she is frail, has lost weight, and he fears she may not survive in prison for a lengthy term.

Some have said this case suggests we shouldn't have any dialogue or discussions with Iran. I think quite the opposite. One of the difficulties of this case is that an American citizen has been imprisoned unfairly in Iran and then charged and tried and sentenced unfairly. We have no embassy and no Ambassador in Iran, so we must work through the Swiss Embassy, which is the protecting power for American citizens in Iran.

My hope is that as a result of what has happened internationally and as a result of what we have heard from President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the chief of Iran's judicial system, the Iranian authorities will understand this is a travesty of justice; that this doesn't meet any standard of fairness and that Roxana Saberi is not—is not, I repeat—a spy. My hope is the Iranian authorities will decide enough is enough, and they will allow this young woman to be freed from prison and to travel back to this country.

She is an American citizen, born, raised, and educated in this country. The Iranians make the case she is an Iranian citizen. That ignores the fact that she was born and raised and educated here. She is an American citizen. To have an American citizen imprisoned in Iran, held 2 months without charge, and then charged in a closed-door trial with espionage is, in my judgment, an affront to fairness, and I think it is an unbelievable miscarriage of justice. My fervent hope is the Iranian authorities will do what should be done in this case and recognize that a miscarriage has occurred. They have the ability and the capability to rectify it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like to first address the matter of Roxana Saberi, a young woman from our home State. Roxana Saberi is someone I know. She has interviewed me many times. Roxana is a journalist, and a very good one. She is somebody who had parents with Iranian tradition and legacy in their family. She went to Iran to learn more about her own legacy, her own inheritance. She was always impressed by what she had learned about the Iranian people. She is someone who loves the Iranian people and respects their culture. She is someone who was there in a role as a reporter, providing reports to National Public Radio as well as British Broadcasting. So it was with amazement that we heard of these charges, as Senator DORGAN outlined correctly, first being told she was jailed because she

had bought a bottle of wine, then told she had filed reports without a proper authorization, and then the stunning news that she was being charged with espionage and put through a 1-day trial in which she was not able to speak in her own defense. These are circumstances which require us to speak out and to ask the judicial system in Iran to provide a swift appeal and allow Roxana to come home. She was sentenced Saturday to 8 years in prison. Her family reports that while she is not being mistreated, she is somebody who is vulnerable. This has been very difficult for her. So we ask the Iranian authorities to give her a swift appeal and allow her to return to the United States.

Roxana is someone I know well. She is a warm, loving person, somebody who is well regarded as a journalist in my home State, someone about whom I think anyone who would meet her would say: Here is someone who is proud of her heritage, proud of the history of the Iranian culture, and somebody who loves the Iranian people.

I was encouraged that President Ahmadinejad has indicated that he would like to see the court provide justice and that he has asked them to take up the appeal swiftly and to give Roxana and her defense all of the opportunities anyone should be able to expect if they are charged with such serious crimes.

I make my own personal appeal here on the floor of the Senate this evening. Roxana is somebody, as I have said, I know well. She is a terrific reporter, has interviewed me many times. There is no question in my mind that Roxana was in Iran for the purpose of preparing a book on the people of Iran and to do reports to NPR, British Broadcasting, and even to outlets back home.

I hope the Iranian authorities will think very carefully about how they are seen on the world stage based on how they treat this young reporter. Like all of us in public life, we are judged by what we do. We are held accountable. I hope the Iranian authorities are thinking very carefully about how they will be seen in this matter. I plead with them to release Roxana and to permit her to come home. She is a North Dakotan. She is someone of whom we are very proud. She is a reporter. She deserves to be released.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LARRY HAWKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a brave Kentuckian and soldier who has been awarded the Silver Star for valor in defense of our country.

SFC Larry Hawks, a native of Edmonson County in my home Commonwealth of Kentucky, received our Nation's third highest award for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. Those rare few who receive the Silver Star do so because of their display of selfless sacrifice and

unparalleled courage under fire and Sergeant First Class Hawks has certainly demonstrated that to his fellow soldiers.

Sergeant First Class Hawks showed his bravery and patriotism to all during a 14-hour battle in 115-degree heat while stationed in Afghanistan on July 25, 2005. That morning on combat patrol in the Oruzgan province, his unit encountered and gave chase to a large number of enemy fighters. Our soldiers soon found themselves facing an intense volley of fire from machine guns, small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

Without regard for his own safety, Sergeant First Class Hawks came out from behind cover to draw and return enemy fire while directing his unit into position to more effectively engage the enemy. He also directed fire from Apache gunships overhead. He passed up a chance to move to a safer position and insisted on staying in the best vantage point over the enemy.

"There were times when some of the guys thought that we weren't going to make it," Sergeant First Class Hawks was quoted as saying after the ordeal. "But I was thinking, you may not, but I am coming out of this. That was my whole thought process."

SFC Larry Hawks's service is continuing proof that there is no finer fighting man on the face of the Earth than the American soldier. Accordingly, a ceremony was held last December at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, in Fort Bragg, NC, for him to receive this honored award.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant First Class Hawks for the many sacrifices he has made to our country. We Kentuckians are honored to know and be among such heroes.

I also ask unanimous consent that the full article from the Brownsville, KY, Edmonson News of March 19, 2009, detailing SFC Larry Hawks's service and the actions that led to the awarding of his Silver Star, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Edmonson News, Mar. 19, 2009]
SFC LARRY HAWKS AWARDED SILVER STAR
FOR DEFENDING COMRADES

Edmonson County native Larry Hawks, a 1988 graduate of Edmonson County High School, was recently awarded the nation's third-highest honor for valor in combat, the Silver Star.

Sergeant First Class Hawks's extraordinary acts of heroism while engaged in a military operation in Afghanistan were witnessed by his comrades.

Hawks, his wife Callie, and their four children Tristan, 10; Lorin, 8; Addie, 6; and Aidan, 4, reside in Salemburg, N.C.

In a letter to superiors, it was explained by Sfc. Donald Grambusch that during a 14-hour battle in 115-degree heat, and taking enemy fire from every angle, Hawks, with disregard for his own personal safety, returned fire during their ATV movement which enabled

other ATVs in the group to reach sufficient cover. Hawks then directed Apache gunships fire onto the enemy, while using his own weapon to defend their position.

Hawks was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross for his bravery.

In addition to the Silver Star, Hawks has attained a long list of accolades and awards throughout his distinguished military career.

During his tenure of duty with the 82nd Airborne Division Hawks served in Panama, Egypt, Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 1992 Hawks was assigned to the XVII Airborne Corps' Long Range Surveillance Co. He also served with the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Hawks was featured in an article by Doug Clark in The Sampson Independent, a newspaper in Clinton, North Carolina, on January 25.

Hawks is the son of Tony and Pat Hawks of Wingfield.

His grandparents are the late Larmie and Pernie Hawks, and the late Lee Elmore and Lula Elmore of Wingfield.

TRIBUTE TO JERRILYN DYER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated philanthropist from my home State of Kentucky, Jerrilyn Dyer. Mrs. Dyer is well known in her community for her bright smile and comforting personality.

Mrs. Dyer has contributed countless hours to Kentucky through her volunteer work, including helping at the Pattie A. Clay Hospital Gift Shop and with the Home Meals Delivery service, helping to better the lives of so many over the years. In addition to her work in Kentucky, she was also well known for her volunteer work in Indiana particularly in Madison County.

Along with all her volunteer work, Jerrilyn is a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother and finds time to travel with her husband of 49 years, Jack, and enjoys spending time with her two children and four grandchildren.

Recently, the Richmond Register in Richmond, Kentucky, published an article detailing Mrs. Dyer's service and accomplishments. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jerrilyn Dyer and her service to the Commonwealth.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Richmond Register, Mar. 28, 2009]
JERRILYN DYER: A NON-STOP VOLUNTEER
FORCE

(By Ronica Shannon)

Jerrilyn Dyer, 67, and her husband Jack moved to Madison County from central Indiana in 1967 when Jack accepted a teaching position at the Eastern Kentucky University.

She has been an active part of the community in several areas ever since. Jack began his doctoral studies and the couple moved to Lexington in 1969, only to return to Richmond in the fall of 1989.

The two graduated from high school in Spencer, Ind. Jerrilyn graduated from Kentucky Christian College with a teaching degree in 1989.

She refers to herself as 'a late bloomer.' Jerrilyn is involved with several volunteer organizations in the community including Home Meals Delivery, which delivers midday meals to homebound residents and hosts the annual "Empty Bowls Friday."

She also is a member of the Madison County Republican Women's Club, which is affiliated with the National Federation of Republican Women. The organization supports the Republican Party and Republican candidates.

"I have served in many capacities for the party and worked as a poll officer," she said. "I feel strongly about voting and each citizen's duty to do so. It's not only a responsibility, but a privilege to participate in our government. There's great satisfaction in helping make our community environment a better place in which to live."

"We need to continually support competent people in our community leadership," she said.

No matter the circumstances, Jerrilyn always seems to have a smile on her face and laughter in her voice. How does she do it? Simple. She thrives at what she does.

"I love volunteering time and effort to several causes," she said. "It always blesses me more than what I give. Home Meals Delivery, for instance, is a program started in 1980 when there was a need. It's not the federally funded program started by the government, but is a locally endowed program relying on volunteers. I have been involved with it for about 15 years since I first heard of it at a club meeting. I am currently serving on the board."

Jerrilyn also is a volunteer at the Pattie A. Clay Hospital Gift Shop and has seen the expansion of the shop over the years.

"It's a lot of fun selling gift items and talking with all the customers who many times just need a friendly listener," she said.

Proceeds from the shop benefit the hospital needs.

"Just recently we were able to donate several thousand dollars for the new East Wing Project," she said. "I've been a member of the Richmond Woman's Club for several years and have participated with the ladies on several community projects including Habitat for Humanity, New Opportunity School for Women, The Salvation Army and (local) veterans (organizations)."

Aside from volunteering, Jerrilyn also has worked as a secretary for several businesses and organizations, including: Westinghouse in Bloomington, Ind.; Indiana State University and 8th Avenue Baptist Church and at Christian Student Fellowship on the University of Kentucky Campus.

"I've also done substitute teaching and been a teacher's aide, and a merchandiser for Gibson Greetings," she said.

Jerrilyn and her husband will celebrate 49 years of marriage this year. The two have a son who is a high school basketball coach (honored as coach of the year in his conference this year) and he teaches in Bristol, Tenn. Their daughter has taught special education for years and is a teacher consultant for six counties, including Shelby County, where she is a resident.

"We have four adorable grandchildren—two girls and two boys," she said "It is truly great being grandparents."

She and her husband enjoy traveling and have made it all over the United States.

Throughout the years, she and her husband have visited all 50 states, all the presidential libraries, all 30 Major League Baseball parks and all the Kentucky state resort parks.

They also spend a lot of time shopping for their grandchildren and playing cards with friends, she said.