

Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman

Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman is recognized by the World Peace Prize Awarding Council for being a life-long champion of human rights: fighting world hunger, narcotic abuse and trafficking. He has made many successful efforts to bring about "prisoner exchanges" which resulted in freedom of American citizens in East Germany, Mozambique, Cuba and several other nations. Congressman Gilman served 15 terms (30 years) in the U.S. Congress. Prior to that, he served 6 years in the New York State Legislature as Assemblyman, and several years as Assistant Attorney General in the New York State Department of Law. While in Congress, he has served as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and as Congressional delegate to the United Nations with title of Ambassador, and later the Ukrainian Famine Commission and Vice Chairman of the committee on POW's. Mr. Gilman has been the recipients of numerous honors including the President's Certificate of Outstanding Achievement "for continued, demonstrated vision, initiative, and leadership in the effort to achieve a world without hunger" and has annually received the "Peace Through Strength" Award presented by the American Security Council.

Prior to retiring from the 107th Congressional session (January 2003), Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman had accumulated thirty years of experience, applying his seniority and compassion for his constituents in upper New York. From 1995 to 2002, Gilman served as Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, applying his seasoned leadership experience having served as a member of this Committee since his Congressional inauguration in 1993.

During his federal tenure, Gilman served as the Congressional Delegate to the UN under Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick during the 1981 UN Session. He also served on the Ukraine Famine Commission, the US European, US Canadian, and US Mexican Inter-parliamentary Conferences in addition to membership as a Congressional Advisor to the UN Law of the Sea Conference, Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs and the International Task Force on Narcotics. Subsequently, Congressman Gilman was reappointed by President Bush as a Public Delegate to the 28th UN General Assembly as a Senior Advisor to U.S. Ambassador, John Negroponte.

In Gilman's extensive advocacy for Human Rights, he successfully concluded prisoner exchanges, providing freedom for prisoners in East Germany, Mozambique, Cuba, and the Soviet Union during which he

also served as the Congressional Human Rights Caucus Executive Member.

During the 101st Congress (1989-1991), he chaired the Emigration of Soviet Jewry House Task Force. Speaker Foley appointed Gilman to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in 1993 and he was re-appointed by Speaker Gingrich in 1997.

Gilman served as the Senior Republican on the Government's Reform and Oversight Committee and co-founded the House Select Committee on Narcotics, on which he was ranking Republican (1977-1989) actively serving that Committee until its abolition in 1993. Gilman also took part in fighting World Hunger and Malnutrition during the mid 1970's working with Hunger Champion singer songwriter, Harry Chapin. Gilman authored legislation creating the Presidential Commission Against Hunger, subsequently serving on the Select Committee on World Hunger.

Congressman Gilman was a member of the Select Committee on POWS and MIA in Southeast Asia (1975-1977), subsequently serving as Chairman of the MIA and POW Task Force, and leading our nation's fight for an accounting of our POWs and MIAs in Vietnam, Laos, and China.

During WWII, Gilman served as Staff Sergeant in the 19th Bomb group of the 20th Air Force, flying 30 missions over Japan and earning his Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters.

In the NY State Government, Gilman served as Assistant Attorney General in the NY State's Law Depart. and as Counsel to the State Assembly's Committee on Local Finance, having been elected a member of the NY State Assembly, serving from 1966-1972.

Gilman is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the International Medical Relief Foundation, Cooperation Ireland, the Humpty Dumpty Institute serving the U.N., the American University of Antigua, Benai Zion, the American Friends and Shakespeare, and is an advisor to the U.S. Institute of Peace, the World Hunger Year, the Population Institute, and the New York Law School Alumni.