

In the increasingly busy world in which we live, it is vitally important to recognize the efforts of those who give freely of their own time. Without volunteers, many services would go unprovided.

In 1995 alone, the North Miami Foundation provided to North Dade's elderly 26,545 hours of chore service, 38,388 hours of friendly companionship visits, and 56,519 telephone reassurance calls. In addition, 6,227 hours of special projects were conducted by local organizations and schools. These volunteer hours are equivalent to 47 full-time staff positions.

It can easily be seen that the North Miami Foundation is exactly that: a foundation. Upon their shoulders rest thousands of people who can not as easily help themselves. The groundwork that they and their volunteers provide is truly the basis on which a community is built. I am proud to say that they are part of my constituency and rise today to thank each volunteer for their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO REV. CURLEE
WINDHAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Rev. Curlee Windham for his longstanding service to God and the community of Brooklyn and the members of Liberty Baptist Church. Reverend Windham is a native of St. George, SC. Employed as a New York Housing Authority housing inspector, Reverend Windham is guided by spiritual faith and devotion.

As the pastor of Liberty Baptist Church he has been instrumental in mentoring and creating spiritual leadership within the church community and the community at-large. Under the pastor's religious and organizational direction his congregation has retired the mortgage on his church. Additionally programs that nourish the soul, body, and mind have been developed under Pastor Windham's guidance. His initiatives include a 12-step program of Narcotics Anonymous, and programs that provide food, clothing, tutoring, and community outreach.

Reverend Windham has established himself as a pillar and visionary in the community. On May 3, 1996, he will celebrate his 13th anniversary of service to God, his church, and the community. I am pleased to recognize his selfless efforts and dedicated service.

ALLISON OWENS WINNER IN VOICE
OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST

HON. TOM BEVILL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Allison Owens of Gadsden, who is the State winner of the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its ladies auxiliary.

I am very proud of Allison who wrote a stirring script based on the patriotic theme, "Answering America's Call."

With your permission, I would like to submit her winning script for the RECORD:

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Allison Owens)

SSSHH. Can you hear it? It echoes in our spacious skies, it rings from purple mountainside, and crashes in our waves, from sea to shining sea. It is America's call. Can you hear it?

Washington heard it as he took a challenge many would not face by becoming this country's first President. As a general, he took many risks for this great country because he heard her call to him. But, America does not call without firmness. The call to her people is not weak. But, is strong and stern. Abraham Lincoln heard it as he took the measures needed to preserve his country in its greatest hour of trial—The Civil War. Theodore Roosevelt heard it. His answer prepared America for her role in the twentieth century as he built the world's first modern Navy. Franklin D. Roosevelt heard her call, though it was not an easy one. He responded by saying "Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

But, fear is little when you live in a country as strong as our America; we proved this in WWII. Her call is reflected with determination by her people. The slogan of the U.S. Air Force is "The difficult we do immediately, the impossible takes a little longer." Some of America's calls are quite difficult.

John F. Kennedy heard it. "A Nation of Immigrants," he called her. And, we are. Sometimes, people especially from such a diverse group of backgrounds, have a difficult time understanding each other. Kennedy also said "In the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we all are mortal." Kennedy answered her call by submitting civil rights legislation to Congress to ensure equality for all. America is calling for unity. E Pluribus Unum—From Many—One. That is America. That is her call. Do you hear it?

America is facing many more trials. Her people are suffering. Franklin D. Roosevelt also said, "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." He answered this call by passing Social Security legislation to protect all Americans from catastrophes like the depression. America is still today calling for those who have no voice. Can you hear it?

Ronald Reagan heard it. He held the hand of a dying American spirit. He heard her call for what many people thought would be the last time. Spirit like ours. DOES NOT DIE, but will live forever no matter what trials may come our way. We overcame Vietnam. We overcame Watergate. We overcame the Iranian Hostage Crisis. Every time America has called, her people have answered. America is calling for a resurrection of triumph. We will overcome the seemingly impossible trials that lay in our path. America will never die. Answering America's call keeps her alive. Can you hear it?

Do you hear her calling to you? In big ways and small, she calls to us for we are Americans, and answering this call is part of our duty. Not just for this country, but for the world. Dwight D. Eisenhower heard it and said "Whatever America hopes to pass in this world must first come to pass in the heart of America." The Heart of America, where her call begins. Is the Heart of America not the heart of her people? Is the call of America not the call of her people? Of our people, the young, the old, the poor, the prosperous, the weak, and the strong. The

ones who call to us loudly, and the ones who suffer silently. They are all America's calls. Can you hear it? Will you answer? Theodore Roosevelt said, "There can be no 50/50 Americanism in this country. There is room here for only 100% Americanism." And how can you be 100% American if you do not answer America's call? Listen, can you hear it? I can!

HONORING THE PEA RIDGE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Pea Ridge Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues today in remembering the tragedy endured by the Armenian people in the years 1915-23.

Extensive massacres of Armenians took place during that period in eastern Anatolian plains in an atmosphere akin to a horrible civil war. Those events have indelibly and permanently marked the consciousness of many Americans, including Americans of Armenian descent, who are commemorating April 24, 1996, as a national day of remembrance of man's inhumanity to man and a special day of remembrance for the Armenian victims of strife in the early years of this century.

April 24 marks the 81st anniversary of the calamity. It is appropriate on this occasion to

direct our attention and prayers to the memory of the vast number of victims who died in these tragic events.

It is in the interest of all of us and in the interest of mankind that this type of tragedy not occur again. The leading organizations of the Armenian-American community have been seeking to work within our political system for a statement concerning these critical events in their heritage.

This year in the House of Representatives that vehicle is House Concurrent Resolution 47, honoring the memory of the victims of the massacres of Armenians, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor. No one can deny these events and the centrality of these events in modern Armenian history. I am proud to be associated today with my colleagues on this important day of remembrance.

I would also like to salute the Republic of Armenia, which continues to move forward in its democratic and economic reforms. This country of 3.3 million people is already developing important ties with the United States. Americans have an interest in the economic development of Armenia, its progress toward a free market economy, and its development of democratic institutions. We want to work with Armenia and its neighbors to insure peace, stability, and progress in their search for greater freedom and security. There is no better way to honor the misdeeds of the past than rededicating ourselves to a better future.

Today in Europe, we have a chance to advance the cause of peace and stability more vigorously and on a wider scale than ever before. I salute all governments, private organizations, and individuals, including the Armenians, who are working toward this end. I hope that their efforts will make the world a safer place, where innocent people no longer suffer the unspeakable crimes of war and terror.

TRIBUTE TO EDGAR BRONFMAN, PRESIDENT, WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, 1996 the Senate Committee on Banking held a hearing to return the missing Jewish money, deposited by many Jews before the Holocaust, to their survivors. I would like to commend Mr. Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress for his tireless efforts and his dedication to obtain a full and independent accounting of Jewish and Nazi assets in Swiss banks. Mr. Speaker, I ask for you to have the testimony given by Mr. Bronfman at this hearing inserted into the RECORD, and I hope all my colleagues will take the time to read these important words.

TESTIMONY OF EDGAR M. BRONFMAN, PRESIDENT, WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, WORLD JEWISH RESTITUTION ORGANIZATION

Mr. Chairman, I want to commend you for holding these hearings and for the outstanding job your staff has been doing in ferreting out information long lost or concealed. That which you are doing is of great historic significance. Our collective mission here is nothing short of bringing about justice. We are here to help write the last chapter of the

bitter legacy of the Second World War and the Holocaust.

Today, Mr. Chairman, I am acting in my capacities as President of the World Jewish Congress and as President of the World Jewish Restitution Organization. I am also testifying on behalf of my Co-chairman, Mr. Avrum Burg, the Chairman of the Jewish Agency.

The WJRO was created in 1992 by the leading international Jewish organizations and the survivor's groups to coordinate claims for the return of Jewish community property and the transfer to the Jewish people of heirless holdings. We also work to secure for individual Jews no longer resident in the countries in question the same rights that would obtain for local Jews who remain. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit as part of my formal testimony, the list of the international organizations that make up the WJRO. [List to be appended]

The WJRO has also been designated by two successive Prime Ministers to represent the State of Israel in these matters. It has also concluded agreements with Jewish Communities in several countries in order to coordinate restitution efforts.

I hope it will not sound presumptuous, Mr. Chairman, but I speak to you today on behalf of the Jewish people. With reverence, I also speak on behalf of the six million, those who cannot speak for themselves.

The issue before us today, the one I want to talk to you about, can be summed up in a single word: Justice.

Fifty years after the Holocaust, as Germany and the collaborationist countries have sought to face their responsibilities and make restitution, there remains the glaring void in the behavior of the banks of Switzerland.

Just a year ago today, the bipartisan leaders of the United States Congress declared in a letter to the Secretary of State, and I quote:

"It should be made clear to the countries involved that their response on this [restitution] matter will be seen as a test of their respect for basic human rights and the rule of law, and could have practical consequences on their relations with our country. It is the clear policy of the United States that each should expeditiously enact appropriate legislation for the prompt restitution and/or compensation for property and assets seized by the former Nazi and/or Communist regimes. We believe it is a matter of both law and justice."

President Clinton has declared:

"We must confront and, as best we can, right the terrible injustices of the past. I thus support the efforts of the World Jewish Restitution Organization and the World Jewish Congress to help resolve the question of Jewish properties confiscated during and after the Second World War."

Mr. Chairman, I wish to personally commend Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat for his contribution to this effort. President Clinton assigned him a special mission to assist in this task while he was the United States Representative to the European Union, and although he returned to Washington earlier this month to become Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade, he will continue his efforts as Special Envoy on Property Claims in Central Europe. He has been doing an outstanding job serving the interests of all Americans, not only Jews.

I would also like to take this opportunity of adding that the European Parliament unanimously added its voice to that of the United States, expressing the same view and declaring that restitution is a matter of justice which must be fulfilled.

Mr. Chairman, as the Congressional letter made clear, what today's hearing is about is

"respect for basic human rights and the rule of law." Nothing less.

I am not here to talk about whether there is only \$32 million remaining in Swiss banks belonging to Holocaust victims and survivors or, as may be closer to the truth, several billion. Nor am I ready to endorse those who say the records were purposely destroyed and the money confiscated.

When I met with the Swiss Bankers Association on September 12, 1995 in Bern, I was struck by one comment they made to me. "Mr. Bronfman," they said, "we do not wish to hold on to one Swiss franc that is not ours."

I told them that I certainly agreed with that sentiment. I explained to them that the World Jewish Congress initiated activity aimed at the recovery of Jewish property even before the war in Europe ended. In November 1944, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the co-founder of the World Jewish Congress raised the issue at the War Emergency Conference in Atlantic City. He declared then:

"The principle that Jewish assets must be given back to their legitimate holders wherever possible must be regarded as inviolable."

Now that the Swiss Bankers have told me they accept this universal principle, Mr. Chairman, I ask that you, your Committee, this Congress and our Government help the Swiss Bankers fulfill their own wish not to hold on to a single Swiss franc that is not their own.

A word of concern, Mr. Chairman: time is running out for those who will be the primary recipients of this restitution. Knowing you as I do, I am confident that your investigation will be thorough and will result in the full exposure of the facts.

At the aforesaid meeting in Bern September last, I did not discuss dollar amounts. What I sought was an impartial audit. I came away thinking that we had agreed on that, but in February, the Swiss Bankers Association unilaterally announced they had done their own survey and had found only \$32 million—an amount that defies credibility.

"Trust us," they told the victims of the Holocaust, "we looked into our records and our own vaults and that's all we could find."

One of the documents already uncovered and released by your own investigators, Mr. Chairman, suggest that at a single Swiss financial institution, the present values of deposits may be nearly that much alone.

Mr. Chairman, as you may know, heading these two organizations is not my only job. I am also a businessman.

As a businessman, I often deal with bankers. I know that the most important asset any banker can have is his reputation, the trust of his customers. If we cannot have faith in the integrity and trustworthiness, in the honor of the banker to protect our deposits, to give a faithful and accurate accounting, then we must go elsewhere.

Dealing with the Jewish people must be for the Swiss bankers and issue of trust.

What is urgently needed, Mr. Chairman, is a transparent mechanism to conduct a verifiable audit of all Nazi-era assets, those deposited by Jews and those assets stolen from the Jews by the Nazis and also deposited in Switzerland and their disposition so that all the parties involved can be satisfied justice has been served.

The Swiss bankers cannot be permitted to come back and say, once again, that they will create such a process, but that they want to be the ones who appoint the auditors. Their repeated failure of integrity over 50 years has forfeited for them such a privilege. There must be an arm's-length process that is credible to the entire world.

There is already much to learn from the very beginning of the documents uncovered