

many years. He has always been and will continue to be a good citizen and a great friend.

REMARKS OF MILES LERMAN,  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE U.S. HOLO-  
CAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL AT  
THE NATIONAL DAYS OF RE-  
MEMBRANCE CEREMONY

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, at an extremely moving ceremony in the rotunda of the United States Capitol last Thursday, Members of Congress, the diplomatic corps, representatives of our Nation's executive and judicial branches, and hundreds of survivors of the Holocaust with their friends and family gathered to commemorate the National Days of Remembrance. This was an occasion when we take the time to remember the horror and inhumanity of the Holocaust.

In 1933, more than 9 million Jews lived in continental Europe. Over the next decade the countries where these men and women and children lived were invaded, occupied, or annexed by Nazi Germany. By the end of the Second World War, 2 of every 3 of these European Jews were dead, and European Jewish life was forever changed. As my colleagues know, I was one of those fortunate individuals who survived that horrible era.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the unspeakable horror of the Holocaust and the importance that we never forget that tragedy, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council was established by Congress to preserve the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. One of the most important tasks in this effort is the annual Days of Remembrance commemoration in the rotunda of our Nation's Capitol. I commend both the Council and the members of the Days of Remembrance Committee for their achievement this year, and I want to pay particular tribute to the chairperson of the Council, my dear friend Miles Lerman, for his extraordinary effort.

The time of this year's Days of Remembrance commemoration was "From Holocaust to New Life." This remarkable ceremony celebrated the lives and legacy of those on those who survived those darkest of days, and came to a new beginning here in the United States. As one survivor explained "America gave me the opportunity to be a human being again." I fully understand those feels, Mr. Speaker.

At the national civic commemoration, Chairperson Miles Lerman, delivered an outstanding speech on this solemn occasion. Mr. Speaker, I ask that his remarks be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read them.

Salutations! In the days when the Jewish communities of Europe were rapidly being wiped off from the surface of the Earth and in the moments of our deepest despair, we clung to hope in spite of hopelessness. We dared to dream without really believing that our dreams would ever come true.

Who of us would have believed then that the day would come when hundreds of survivors would gather in the Capitol rotunda in the heart of historic America to demonstrate our commitment to remembrance.

Today as we commemorate the milestone of 50 years of new life in America, we must

bear in mind that this milestone is not a celebration.

This can only be a commemoration.

The loss is too enormous, the pain is too deep and the memories are too traumatic.

So let us use this auspicious moment to take stock of our accomplishments of the last fifty years.

When the Nazi nightmare finally ended, we stood on the smoldering ruins of a devastated Europe, our families murdered, our homes destroyed or occupied by strangers and our dreams completely shattered.

We had every reason to feel bitter with the world, suspicious and distrustful.

As a matter of fact, there were those who believed that we survivors would never be able to fit in and readjust to a normal society again.

Fortunately, we proved them wrong.

We have mastered the strength to rebuild our lives and become a constructive part of the communities that we live in.

We have every reason to be proud of our accomplishments.

Fifty years ago we came to the shores of America not knowing the language or the customs of this country. Most of us came here penniless and most of us without any technical or professional training. But in spite of these shortcomings by sheer tenacity, by hard work and decent conduct, the survivors have managed to make an impact on the economic and cultural development of their respective communities or even beyond.

Some of you whom we have chosen as symbols of this miraculous revival, created new industries and are giving employment to thousands of people.

With your entrepreneurial spirit, some of you have managed to change the skylines of many cities in America.

We survivors have every reason to be especially proud of our families and the children we have managed to raise.

We succeeded to instill in them all the positive characteristics mankind has to offer; healthy work habits, love for study, and a desire to aim for excellence.

As a result of this, our children have reached very impressive levels in the fields of science, technology and performing arts.

So let us commemorate the 50th anniversary of new life in America with a sense of gratitude that it was our fate to defy Hitler's evil plans.

A sense of achievement for having been able to play a role in re-igniting the sparks of Jewish creativity.

But above all, we are here to express our deep gratitude to our new homeland, the United States of America and its people, for giving the survivors of the Holocaust an opportunity to pick up the broken shards and start rebuilding our devastated lives all over again. This is a gratitude that we will carry deep in our hearts forever and ever.

I commend Ben Meed, the chairman of the National Days of Remembrance and his committee for designating this year's remembrance ceremony as a day of contemplation and a day of thanksgiving.

However, we must bear in mind the expressions of gratitude cannot be limited to words only. Remembrance is only meaningful if it is translated into deeds—tangible deeds.

During the creation and the building of the Holocaust Memorial Museum, survivors have demonstrated by tangible deeds that they do

remember and know what to do with these memories.

I am fully confident that survivors will continue to be in the forefront of remembrance because all of us firmly believe that destiny has chosen us to survive and become the guardians of this sacred flame.

This is a legacy we must fulfill. This is an obligation that we and our children will carry for the rest of our days.

Thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTER  
McELVAIN

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor "Red" McElvain for his lifetime of service with the Los Angeles City Fire Department. Indeed his dedication to serve our Nation and community is a model of civic duty.

Red grew up in the San Fernando Valley and graduated from North Hollywood High School. While in high school he excelled in football, track, baseball, and basketball lettering in each sport. Although his athletic prowess earned him scholarship offers to several colleges, he opted to serve his Nation in the Army. As an enlisted man, he was part of the Elite 11th and 82d Airborne Ranger Divisions.

Upon completing his tour in the Army, Red became a firefighter. In his 39 years as a firefighter he has had experience in several different types of companies. Among his assignments, he has worked on both engine and truck companies, and he has specialized in airport crash and helicopter operations. His experience not only makes him extremely versatile, but allows him to serve as a mentor to many of the new recruits.

When away from work Red is actively involved in his local community. He donates his time to local youth sports, school visitations, and other charitable events. Firefighter McElvain lives his life in accordance with William Penn's sentiments when he wrote, "The public must and will be served."

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent Red McElvain, he is a deserving recipient of the City Fire Department's Outstanding Performance Award.

FLOOD RELIEF—FALMOUTH, KY

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the flooding along the Licking River in Kentucky, I would like to recognize the following 56 men who gave of their personal money, time, and energy to assist with flood relief. At the invitation of Senator Gex Williams, they served in and around the towns of Butler and Falmouth, KY, for a period of 3 weeks from March 7–28, 1997. During this time they assisted the local emergency relief agencies in the salvage, cleanup, and demolition of homes and businesses that had been damaged, while spreading goodwill, faith,

hope, and charity wherever they went. Their sacrifice, diligence, and thoroughness conveyed a true sense of brotherly love to the citizens of Butler and Falmouth. The experiences these men received while serving will enrich their lives permanently, causing them to become better citizens, and thus have a greater impact on the world around them.

#### LISTING OF STUDENTS AND (STATES)

Ryan Batterton (WA), Joel Beaird (TX), Johnathan Bowers (TN), Michael Braband (MO), Jason Butler (AL), David Carne (OR), Thomas Chapman (MI), Charles Churchill II (NC), James Clifford (ON), Andrew Cope (SC), Geoff Davis (KY), Timothy Davis (CA), Benjamin Easling (WA), Paul Ellis (MS).

Steve Dankers (WI), Paul Elliott (WY), Ron Fuhrman (MI), Matthew Harry (MI), Timothy Hayes (NY), James Huckabee, Jr. (MO), Hans Jensen (CA), Joshua Johnson (WA), Daniel Lamb (CA), Aaron Lantzer (MI), Eric Lantzer (MI), Clayton Lord (KS), Jason Luksa (TX), Joshua Menge (GA).

Larry Mooney (OH), John Nix (TX), Steve Nix (TX), Daniel Norwood (GA), Keon Pendergast (CA), Matthew Pennell (DE), James Penner (OH), Daniel Reynolds (MN), Tim Rogers (NY), Gregg Rozeboom (MI), Joshua Schoenborn (WA), David Servideo (VA), Adam Shelley (MO), Michael Shoemaker (IN).

Chad Sikora (MI), Jeremy Smith (KY), Chuck Stewart (WV), Daniel Strahan (IN), Joshua Tanner (MI), David Thomas (MI), Timothy Tuttle (OR), Ariel Vanderhorst (KS), Daniel Weed (NY), Scott Westendorf (OR), Shane White (KY), Jared Wickam (IL), Brian Wicker (AZ), Matthew Wood (WA).

#### IN SUPPORT OF WEI JINGSHENG

##### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Chinese Government to release Wei Jingsheng and allow him to receive the medical treatment he desperately needs. Wei has been an outspoken and articulate advocate for democratic reform in China and is currently imprisoned for his efforts.

Wei has spent much of his adult life in prison. He was arrested in 1979 for his participation in the Democracy Wall movement, during which he argued that the government's modernization plans were impossible without democratic reform. He remained in prison until 1993 when he was released on the eve of the International Olympic Committee's decision about whether to award the 2000 Olympics to Beijing.

Wei was arrested again in 1994, for his continued outspokenness and only days after meeting with Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, John Shattuck. Wei was held incommunicado for 20 months and has been sentenced to another 14 years imprisonment. He is due to be released in 2009. Wei's family has not been able to see him since February and he is very ill. He suffers from arthritis, high blood pressure, and heart disease, but is not receiving effective medical treatment.

Today, we mark the publication of Wei's book, "The Courage to Stand Alone: Letters From Prison and Other Writings." Wei has received the 1994 Robert F. Kennedy Human

Rights Award as well as the Sakarov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to call on the Chinese Government to release Wei Jingsheng.

#### IN SUPPORT OF WEI JINGSHENG

##### HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to express my support for Wei Jingsheng and to call upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to release Mr. Wei immediately and to provide him with proper medical care.

As the title of his book indicates, Wei Jingsheng has had the courage to stand alone in his demands for democracy in China. China's most famous political prisoner has been incarcerated for almost 20 years. But this has not kept him silent. His collection of letters "The Courage to Stand Alone" revives echoes of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letters From a Birmingham Jail." The moral power of Wei's words inspire the international campaign to nominate him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Speaker, recent alarming news from Wei's family underscore his need for immediate medical attention. His long suffering from heart disease and arthritis is now being compounded by debilitating back pain. A worsening neck problem is preventing him from even lifting his head. Reports indicate he has not seen a doctor in more than a year. This medical neglect must end, he must be given proper medical treatment.

Mr. Speaker, Wei Jingsheng languishes in a prison because he refuses to be silent in his support of democracy and human rights. The world's focus on fellow dissidents such as Václav Havel and Adam Michnik helped turn the tide in other oppressive societies. That same glare of moral outrage must now shift to China's treatment of Wei Jingsheng.

The cases of Wei Jingsheng, Hao Fuyuan, and so many others jailed in the People's Republic of China represent an ongoing struggle. It is a battle that not only their families and friends must wage but a fight that all who believe in justice and freedom must join.

And so, Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues and supporters of liberty throughout this country and across the globe to join me in demanding freedom and proper medical care for Wei Jingsheng.

#### A TRIBUTE TO EDWARD HERNANDEZ

##### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an exceptional young police officer, Edward Hernandez. In only a few years Officer Hernandez has established himself as one of the San Fernando Police Department's top officers.

Officer Hernandez joined the San Fernando Police Department in 1993, after graduating

from the Rio Hondo Police Academy. While at the academy he was voted the No. 1 cadet in his class. As a rookie on the force, Edward quickly earned the respect of his fellow officers with his maturity, quick learning ability, and thorough training. Within his first year on the force he was consistently at the top of productivity statistics. Edward has qualified for the highly prestigious 10851 CVC Award every year that he has been on the force.

Officer Hernandez has become a crucial member of the department's Special Response Team. Drawing upon his background in the U.S. Marine Corps, he has helped to train the team for tactical situations. Edward has received numerous commendations for his high quality work and consistent professionalism.

Officer Hernandez' hard work and professionalism make him an extraordinary law enforcement officer. These traits, coupled with his leadership abilities, ensure that he will have a significant impact on the San Fernando Police Department for years to come. Indeed, the people of San Fernando are safer with Officer Hernandez on the force.

As Theognis stated, " \* \* \* but to few men comes the gift of excellence." Edward Hernandez is one of those few to whom excellence is not a goal, but an expectation. His work exemplifies the values and work ethic of the residents of San Fernando. I am honored to recognize his service.

#### RUSSIA

##### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress deliberates the issues facing our Nation and the world today, I would like to bring to your attention a group of young people and families who are taking significant steps to strengthen society in our country and around the globe. In particular, I would like to commend 384 such individuals who have recently returned from Moscow, Russia, where they have been involved over the 1995-96 school year in providing character education for orphans, public school children, college young people, juvenile delinquents, and families. They have been serving at their own expense under the authority and official invitation of the Moscow department of education. Their success continues to be heralded throughout Moscow by television, newspaper, and word of mouth among the citizens and leaders of Russia. Furthermore, the credentials and strengthening that this experience provides for those who have taken part will heighten the success of their work in their own home communities as they continue to serve families and young people through positive character training and practical assistance.

John Arnett (NC), Breton Alberty (LA), Evangeline Alexander (AL), Adam Allen (CA), Hugh Allen (CA), Karen Allen (CA), Matthew Allen (CA), Rachelle Allen (CA), Charles Astone (AZ), Jeri Lynn Backus (AR), Jerome Backus (AR), Martha Backus (AR), Sunny Barja (NC), Donny Barr (GA), Lindsay Bain (NZ), Simon Bain (NZ), Aileen Bair (OH), David Bair (OH), John Bair (OH), Peter Bair (OH), Robert Bair (OH), Stephen Bair (OH), Kelly Battson (CA), James Beaird (TX),