

tragic flaws which facilitated this catastrophe and moved to purify themselves. More and more Christians worldwide have studied the lessons, confessed the sins and determined to correct the teachings. Thereby Christianity chose life and love again and reasserted its own vitality as a gospel of love bringing healing to the world.

This process led the United States Government to establish a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on the national mall, and to establish Days of Remembrance in the very week of Yom Hashoah when the survivors and the victims' families devote their days to remembering. Millions of Americans—the vast majority not Jewish, not Poles or Gypsies or gays or any of the Nazis' victims whose story is told in the Museum—come there to confront the painful truth. Through this encounter, they learn how democracies fail, when governments turn indifferent, and by what process bureaucracy, technology, and obedience were turned into servants of death. Inwardly they pledge to work that this democracy shall not fail; that never again will this people stand by indifferently as millions of others are degraded or destroyed.

Each of these steps represents the choice of life.

Everywhere, people are coming to understand that the evil we have witnessed, this model of death and degradation cannot be ignored or even bypassed. Rather there must be an active response—nothing less than a mighty outburst of freedom, a choice to universalize human dignity for life. Worldwide, there is a frenzy of attempts to restore the human image of God that was defaced and destroyed. There are urgent efforts to clear up stereotypes in religion or culture that degrade others or may lead to indifference to their fate. There is a powerful thrust to develop pluralism in culture, in religion, in political process, in economic power—to prevent any concentration of power that could lead to a future choice of destruction or suppression of others.

Everywhere worldwide, these forces turn to the study of the Holocaust. Millions seek out encounter with its story and people because the encounter evokes the forces of love, compassion, human responsibility, the forces of life. Wherever people seek life, they draw strength from the bedrock of memory. Everywhere, humanity is driven by the goad to conscience which is intrinsic in Holocaust education.

Of course the forces of death are not quiescent. Out of fear of a changing world and the transformation of culture, intolerance reasserts itself. Forms of fundamentalism which deny others their freedom of religion appear. Anti-Semitism and denial of the rights of foreigners and other outsiders surge again. Forces of neo-Nazism and terrorism strengthen. Not surprisingly, such forces often deny the reality of the Holocaust or belittle its dimensions.

We are asked. Will there be an imperative to remember the Holocaust in the 21st century? The answer is: As long as humanity chooses life, then more and more people will remember and learn the lessons of the Holocaust. Then governments will more likely intervene to stop genocide, more likely create open, pluralist multi cultural societies, more likely deny dictators the claim that no one dare interfere in their internal affairs.

The true question is not whether humanity will honor the imperative to remember the Holocaust. The true question and challenge is: will humans rise to greatness in the choice of life.

Can our conscience seared by the fires of Auschwitz, become an irresistible political force so nations will not tolerate, nay, will intervene to stop genocide? Can the model of

the survivors and the righteous gentiles, inspire us to a new human solidarity that will enable all peoples to live in freedom and peace?

The memory of the victims and the voices of the survivors, the actions of the righteous and the rescuers call out to us: Choose life that you and your children may live.

POPE JOHN PAUL II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3544 which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II. As he celebrates his 80th birthday this Thursday, May 25, the spiritual leader of more than one billion Catholics around the world and millions of Catholics in the United States deserves our nation's highest Congressional honor.

In the recent past, we have honored Mother Teresa and South African President Nelson Mandela. The Pope clearly serves in such company as a global figure who continues to make an impact on spiritual and moral leadership and the struggle for equal rights and protection for all people.

There is no doubt that historians of the future will single out Pope John Paul II as one of the most influential leaders of his time. He used all the modern tools in transportation and communications to personally deliver his message of love and compassion to the far reaches of the globe. He not only made dialogue, but also influenced world movements such as the fall of Communism and the beginning of the third millennium of Christianity on earth.

We are fortunate to have lived in such changing times and to have had such leaders as the Pontiff who recognized the ever-changing facets of life around him and took steps to utilize necessary tools to effect change for the better. As he travels the world, he leads by example as a symbol of tolerance, peace and fairness not only for Catholics, but for people of different faiths, ethnicity and economic status. I commend the House for bringing this legislation to the floor and urge the enactment of this bill as expeditiously as possible.

COMMENDING ISRAEL'S REDEPLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to vote to commend Israel for its courageous decision to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Israel stands as a reminder of the courage and strength of the human spirit—and what it can accomplish. Against all odds and enemies, the people of Israel have united to build a strong nation. It has not been an easy

journey, but it has been a triumphant one. Now, more than ever, as Israel strives to build a stable and peaceful region, it is vital that we unite behind its efforts.

This critical step must be followed by equal efforts by Israel's neighbors. It is vital that all foreign forces withdraw from Lebanese territory, that all acts of terrorism against the people of Israel cease, and that southern Lebanon be given a real chance of rebuilding and re-integrating. Southern Lebanon must never become the home base for attacks against Israel again.

Congratulations again to Israel for taking this brave step and for continuing to stand as an example of courage, vigilance, and dedication to peace.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE AMOS C. SAUNDERS

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a man whom I and countless others consider to epitomize justice and fairness, the Honorable Amos C. Saunders of Totowa, New Jersey. Judge Saunders was recognized on Monday, May 15, 2000 at the Brownstone House in Paterson, New Jersey, because of his many years of service and leadership in the courtrooms of Passaic County, New Jersey. He marked the end of his stellar career when he retired on March 1, 2000. It is only fitting that Judge Saunders be honored in the annals of this great body for his unwavering efforts in the name of the law.

For the past 23 years Judge Amos Saunders has become one of the most well respected Superior Court Judges in the State of New Jersey. Judge Saunders has presided over criminal, civil and family courts and was the judge in Passaic County with the most judicial experience. Judge Saunders last sat in the Chancery Division, in which he served for the last 10 years. In doing his job, Judge Saunders' motto was, "Use your common sense, be practical, read all the papers and listen." It is by these words that he served as judge, but anyone who knows Judge Saunders knows that these words simply understate his jurisprudential excellence. As a leader in the judicial community, Judge Saunders' rulings have often served as both a precedent and a resource for other judges.

As a judge in the Chancery Division, Judge Saunders had the opportunity to handle probate, estate cases and injunctions. Over the years, however, Judge Saunders perhaps became best known as a nationally respected expert on the legal aspects of the sport of boxing. He handled many high profile boxing cases in his court including those of the prominent boxing promoters Lou and the late Dan Duva and Don King. In 1997, the International Boxing Digest magazine listed Judge Saunders as number 16 in the list of boxing's 50 most influential people.

Born in Paterson on March 9, 1934 and raised in Paterson and Fair Lawn, New Jersey, Judge Saunders has spent his years in dedicated service to the community. Judge Saunders received his Bachelor of Arts degree

from Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. Upon graduation he enrolled in Columbia Law school in New York where he received his law degree in 1958. During the first 18 years of his career, Judge Saunders worked as a private civil attorney from 1959 until 1977.

In 1977, Judge Saunders was appointed to the Superior Court of New Jersey, Passaic County by then Governor Brendan T. Byrne, and took the bench on December 7, 1978. In addition to his work in the courtroom, Judge Saunders has served as a lecturer for the National Judicial College. He is also the founding president of the Justice Robert L. Clifford American Inn of Court. In addition, Judge Saunders served as Administrative Judge to the Bi-State Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor.

In his retirement Judge Saunders has expressed interest in focusing on a new career, his family, his golf game, fishing and travel. In March of 2000 he began work at Carlet, Garrison and Klein, LLP in Clifton, New Jersey as Counsel to the Firm in Mediation and Arbitration. He currently resides in Totowa with his wife Janet, his high school sweetheart. The couple, who married in 1955, has three children and three grandchildren.

As a Congressman and former mayor of Paterson, New Jersey, Mr. Speaker, I can say that Judge Amos Saunders has one of the finest judicial minds in the State of New Jersey. Furthermore, one of my sons, David, had the honor of serving as Judge Saunders' judicial clerk in 1995 and 1996. I know that Judge Saunders has had a profound effect on his life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Judge Saunders' family and friends, the County of Passaic, the State of New Jersey and me in recognizing the extraordinary dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of Judge Amos C. Saunders in his service to the judiciary and to the people.

HENRY CLARKE, DISTINGUISHED
UNION ORGANIZER AND LEADER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, after more than 38 years of distinguished service to the independent union movement and to public employees, Henry L. Clarke will be retiring from Public Employees Union, Local One, and I rise to honor Henry and to celebrate his lifetime commitment to unionism.

In the early years of Henry's career, he was hired by the American Federation of Teachers to help organize the teachers in New York City. Henry was a part of a small team of progressive labor activists who organized the entire teacher work force, the largest single group of teachers in the United States at that time. He continued to work for the AFT until 1962 when he was hired by the Board of Directors of the Contra Costa County Employees Association as the General Manager. Under Henry's skillful organizing efforts, membership in the Association grew from 634 members to 2,100 members in 4 years, and the local agencies represented expanded to include school classified employees, city and special

district employees in addition to the employees of Contra Costa County.

In 1969, the Contra Costa County Employees Association voted to disaffiliate from the AFL-CIO and under Henry's leadership formed Public Employees Union, Local One. The membership has grown over the years from fewer than 1,000 members to over 12,000 members. The success of this growth is based upon the basic principles instituted in the formation of the union—the members have a voice in how their union is run; the union organization is founded upon democratic principles; the members have open access to the General Manager and the staff, and members freely participate through broad representation on the union Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Clarke has been an inspiration and mentor to other "independent" labor organizations throughout the State of California, and he was instrumental in developing and insuring support for a statewide legislative council. Henry has earned a reputation for being a formidable political force and also a respected and beloved advocate on behalf of his members.

Henry Clarke has built Local One on a foundation of honesty and integrity and forged professional relationships and friendships with elected officials, administrators and members. His powerful representation of his members has always reflected his compassion for working men and women as well as his insight into the needs of the community and the public served by Local One members.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that my esteemed colleagues join me in saluting Henry L. Clarke, an example of honesty, integrity, and outspoken, effective advocacy on behalf of the working men and women he has so ably represented for nearly 40 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE MAKE-A-WISH
FOUNDATION ON ITS 20TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its founding. A non-profit organization that has 82 chapters nationwide, the Foundation is the oldest, largest and most-respected wish-granting organization in the world. Since its founding, it has fulfilled the wishes of 60,000 children between the ages of 2 and 18 who suffer from life-threatening illnesses.

The Mid-Atlantic chapter was established in 1983 by concerned Maryland citizens who had heard about how the Foundation began with the granting of a wish of a 7-year-old boy with leukemia in Arizona. Since then, the Mid-Atlantic chapter has fulfilled the wishes of more than 3,000 children from Maryland, Delaware, Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Now one of the four largest chapters based on the number of wishes granted, the Mid-Atlantic chapter has grown from granting only three wishes its first year, to more than 300 in the fiscal year 1998.

Deeply committed to granting the wishes of each approved child, the Foundation depends on not only the service of more than 13,000

volunteers, but also the support of individual and group donations, corporate and small business contributions, foundation grants, community events, and Wish Friends Inc., a non-profit organization that produces events and other developmental programs to benefit the Foundation.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting the Make-A-Wish Foundation for its efforts and success on the behalf of children over the past 20 years, and congratulating Ralph A. Nappi, Jr., President of the Mid-Atlantic chapter of the Foundation, and the entire chapter for their tireless work in ensuring the fulfillment of each child's wish.

SALUTE TO COMMANDER AL
BERNARD

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a man of outstanding accomplishment, Commander Al Bernard.

Commander Bernard is retiring from the United States Coast Guard this week, and I would like to call attention to his extraordinary and meritorious service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Coast Guard is an invaluable branch of the United States military. The men and women of our Coast Guard keep our waters free of narcotics and illegal aliens, perform almost all of the search and rescue missions for the United States and provide security and safety in our waterways.

This is just a small sampling of the duties performed by the Coast Guard. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude for the services they provide.

For 24 years, Commander Bernard has faithfully performed these and other duties in service to our great country. Prior to donning the Coast Guard uniform, Commander Bernard was also a proud U.S. Marine, where he served as an infantryman in Southeast Asia. He has spent more than half of his life in service to this nation and today, we are a grateful nation for his sacrifice.

From his humble beginnings operating small boats as a coxswain to his assignment as liaison officer to the House of Representatives in Washington, Commander Bernard has performed each and every job as a true patriot.

He quickly rose through the ranks of the Coast Guard and in 1979, he was accepted to Officer Candidate School. After receiving his commission, Al's first assignment was as a security officer at Training Center New York, Governors Island. Just a year later, he was promoted to First Lieutenant and deck watch officer on the USCGC Courageous, in Cape Canaveral, Florida. He was then chosen to be executive officer of the USCGC Shearwater in Key West, Florida. In addition, he was made the senior controller at the Pacific Area/Twelfth USCG District Rescue Coordination Center.

From there, Al Bernard's military career skyrocketed. He received command of his first ship, the USCGC Nantucket, in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. It should be noted that Al is the first American of Puerto Rican descent to command his own ship.

Due to his exceptional abilities, Commander Bernard was relocated to Washington to serve