

RECORD Mr. Wiesel's contemplative reflections on the nature of resistance that he recently contributed to "Parade" I desire not only to inform my colleagues of his views, but also to pay tribute to his remarkable service to mankind.

In the spirit of Elie Wiesel, the resolve that America, since September 11, has implemented in its struggle to free the world of this terrible hatred has been a source of bipartisanship and unity. We must continue to work towards this end, in this same spirit.

[From Parade Magazine, Oct. 26, 2001]

WE CHOOSE HONOR

(By Elie Wiesel)

None of us will ever forget that sunny day in September when the United States was subjected to a manmade nightmare: a heinous terror attack unprecedented in contemporary history. It will remain shrouded in mourning in the violated memory of our country.

Would this terrible act drive us apart, I asked myself, or draw us together as a nation?

My wife and I were in a taxi in midtown Manhattan. We looked with disbelief at the gigantic clouds of smoke and ashes hanging over the lower part of the city. We listened to the radio and couldn't understand what we heard. Suddenly our hearts sank: Someone we love worked on Wall Street. Cell phones remained mute. At home, we found a message: He was all right.

Glued to television like so many others, we watched the first pictures. They were both surreal and biblical: the flames, the vertical collapse and disappearance of the world's two proudest towers. Many of us were stunned into silence. Rarely have I felt such failure of language.

I remember what I was thinking: "That's madness, madness." Two banal words, like an accursed mantra. Sheer madness. Terrorists wanted to die in order to spread death around them. They demanded neither ransom nor concessions. They proclaimed no belief and left no testament. But then what did they wish to affirm, negate or prove? Simply that life is not worth living? Some observers insisted that they were "courageous," since they wanted to die. I disagree: They wanted to kill and to do so anonymously. It would have taken more courage to live and explain why they had chosen murder.

More questions, many of them, came later: Faced with such immense suffering, how can one go on working, studying and simply living without sinking into despair? How is one to vanquish the fear that infiltrated our very existence? And how are we to console the families and friends of the more than 5000 victims?

The pictures of missing victims, the sobbing of relatives, the farewell words on cell phones, the sight of hardened journalists weeping . . . Days and days elapsed, and the devastated site was still reminiscent of war-torn Europe in 1945.

I checked history books for a semblance of precedent for this terror. There may be one. In the 11th century, a certain Hasan-e Sabbāh founded a secret small sect of assassins in Persia. Known as the Messengers of Death, they roamed around Islam clandestinely for years before fulfilling their mission. They killed people they did not know, for motives they themselves did not comprehend. Is Osama bin Laden a reincarnation of Husan-e Sabbāh? No. Those times and those violent "dreamers" are gone. The 21st century will not be theirs.

Why, then, the mass murder now? A human earthquake, it was caused by people whose faith had been perverted. There can be no

justification for it. Can it be explained? Yes, by hatred. Hatred is at the root of evil everywhere. Racial hatred, ethnic hatred, political hatred, religious hatred. In its name, all seems permitted. For those who glorify hatred, as terrorists do, the end justifies all means, including the most despicable ones. If they could, fanatics of violence would slaughter all those who do not adhere to their ideological or religious principles. But this they cannot achieve and so they resort to simply arousing fear, the goal of terrorists since they emerged in history.

Only this time, they failed. The American people reacted not with fear and resignation but with anger and resolve. Here and there it was misguided and misdirected: Individual Muslims were assaulted and humiliated. That was and is wrong. Collective blame is unwarranted and unjust. Islam is one of the world's great religions and most of its believers in our country are good and decent citizens. That had to be said and our leaders said it.

On the highest level of government, President Bush immediately charted the right path to follow by declaring war against terrorist leaders and all those who harbor and aid them. His address before the joint session of Congress made the American people experience a moment of greatness. The Senate and the House made us proud. Democrats and Republicans spoke with one voice. The White House, the State Department, the Pentagon lost no time in preparing for the battle to come. In a very short while, our entire nation and its allies were mobilized to wage a new world war whose aims are to identify, uproot, disarm and apprehend all those who were and are directly, or indirectly, linked to terrorist practitioners of mass murder.

One thing is clear: By their magnitude as well as by their senselessness, the terrorist atrocities constitute a watershed. Yes, life will go back to normal; it always does. But now there is a before and an after. Nothing will be the same. The political philosophy of governments, the national economy, the concern over security, the psychology of citizens, the weight of comradeship and hope: Everything has changed. One will not, as before, take a plane without considering the possibility of sabotage. Nor will one look at his or her neighbors without suspicion. We may never visit Lower Manhattan without pangs of sadness; we all know of someone who perished simply because he or she was there.

But the American people did not bend. Never have they been more motivated, more generous. Their behavior was praised the world over. Instead of trying to save themselves, men and women, young and old, ran to Ground Zero to offer assistance. Some stood in line for hours to donate blood. Hundreds of thousands of sandwiches, sodas and mineral waters were distributed. Those who were evacuated from their buildings were offered food and shelter by neighbors and strangers alike. Rudy Giuliani, the most admired New Yorker of the day, appealed in vain over radio and television for volunteers to stay away; they kept coming. And then, one had to see the outpouring of affection and gratitude toward policemen and firefighters to believe it.

And so, the terrorists achieved the opposite of what they wanted. They moved people to transcend themselves and choose that which is noble in man.

For in the end, it is always a matter of choice. Even when faced with the murderous madness of criminals, and in the presence of the silent agony of their victims, it is incumbent upon us to choose between escape and solidarity, shame and honor. The terrorists have chosen shame. We choose honor.

I belong to a generation that thinks it knows all that is possible to know about the thousand manners of dying but not about the best way of fighting death. And I know that every death is unjust, that the death of every innocent person turns me into a question mark. Human beings are defined by their solidarity with others, especially when the others are threatened and wounded. Alone, I am on the edge of despair. But God alone is alone. Man is not and must not be alone.

If the terrorists believe they can isolate their living targets by condemning them to fear and sadness, they are mistaken. Americans have never been as united.

Nor has our hope been as profound and as irresistibly contagious.

## RADIO FREE AFGHANISTAN ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2001*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 2998, "The Radio Free Afghanistan Act," of which I am an original cosponsor. This legislation creates a "Radio Free Afghanistan" under Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). It will revive the broadcasts that RFE/RL conducted when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan during the Cold War. Europe is very familiar with the challenges of broadcasting to Afghanistan, and it has the institutional knowledge necessary to perform these broadcasts and get them up and running quickly. This bill authorizes the funds necessary to allow broadcasting into Afghanistan for 12 hours a day. This vital legislation will provide the voice the US currently lacks within the region.

At the present time there is no alternative to the hateful propaganda that is being aired in support of Afghani terrorism. One such example is a bogus story that reported that 4,000 Jews did not go to work on Sept. 11th at the World Trade Center. This false information insinuates that Israel is somewhat responsible for the attacks—unfortunately these lies are not being responded to. The Afghan people deserve an alternative to listen to—the truth.

Prior to September 11, tragic conditions existed in Afghanistan. The Afghans had endured their worst drought in 30 years, 23 years of military fighting, and oppressive and barbaric treatment of women and minorities by the Taliban regime. All of these circumstances contributed to massive numbers of Afghan refugees who migrated to Pakistan. Some 3.5 million Afghan refugees fled to Pakistan, two million to refugee camps and 1.5 million to the cities and villages. Since September 11, the number of people attempting to flee Afghanistan and its cities has increased dramatically, and the plight of refugees and displaced persons has become even more perilous. These figures are a prime example of why the people of Afghanistan need to know the truth—that America stands in support of their freedom and is not the cause of their strife. They need to know that humanitarian aid is just that and nothing more.

Author Henry Peter Brougham once said "Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave." The people of Afghanistan

are being enslaved because they have no access to accurate information. We must empower the people of Afghanistan, counter the lies and false propaganda, and allow free flowing the factual information to be presented to Afghanis. "Radio Free Afghanistan," will allow us to do just that.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2001*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was detained in returning from my district last night due to delays in my flights and missed three votes. Had I been here I would have made the following votes: Rollcall Nos. 426—"aye", 427—"aye", 428—"aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS J. NOWIERSKI, R.P.H., M.P.H AND ROSE MARIE POVEROMO, BEING HONORED BY THE TAMINENT REGULAR DEMOCRATIC CLUB, INC.

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2001*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Thomas J. Nowierski and Rose Marie Poveromo who are being honored on November 3, 2001 at this year's annual Taminent Regular Democratic Club, Inc. dinner and dance. Taminent's two honorees have made outstanding contributions to the civic life of the community.

For twenty-five years, Thomas J. Nowierski has served this community's pharmacological needs. He opened his first pharmacy, Ravenswood Drugs, in the Ravensview projects in Long Island City. He purchased Astoria Chemists at Astoria General Hospital, now known as The Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, three years later.

In 1984, he opened Chris Drug, named for his daughter Christine, at Astoria Medical Group. Mr. Nowierski established one of the first programs in the state where seniors could receive information about their medications free of charge, in various languages.

Mr. Nowierski has spent much of his career working to address the needs of others. This is precisely what led him to open the Western Queens Dialysis Center almost two years ago. His goal was to ensure that patients in need of dialysis can get the quality of care they require.

Over the last decade Thomas Nowierski has worked on behalf of the Variety Boys and Girls Club. He became President of its Board of Directors in 1999. Tom has also dedicated his time and energy to SHAREing & CAREing, work he has done largely in memory of his late mother who battled breast cancer.

For two decades Rose Marie Poveromo has been a dedicated community activist in Astoria and Jackson Heights. A native New Yorker, she owns and operates Rose Marie Realty, while also working as an aide to City Council Speaker Peter Vallone.

She served as President of the United Community Civic Association for 9 years, during which time she organized one of the most successful Town Hall Meetings coordinated by a civic association in Queens County, with more than 600 residents participating to discuss community needs and concerns. She also organized a "Community Health Fair," which attracted over 700 attendees. Rosemarie is a tireless advocate for a better quality of life in Queens, and I have often worked with her on issues relating to the noise and congestion generated by the airports.

Rose Marie Poveromo has also served her community in numerous other capacities. She was a member of Community Board #1, Vice-President of the Astoria Heights Homeowners and Tenants Association and Vice President of Kiwanis Club of Jackson Heights. She currently serves on the Queens Borough President's Air Monitoring Task Force and the Queens Borough President's Aviation Advisory Council.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Thomas J. Nowierski and Rose Marie Poveromo for their contributions to their community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE MARY WARREN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Honorable Mary Warren for her life long commitment to serving her community.

Sadly, Mary passed away suddenly on this past Sunday, November 4, 2001. She began her long career in community service with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). During her thirteen years at NYCHA, Mary held a variety of positions; she worked as a Community Associate, Community Liaison, and Community Service Aide. She was an expert on New York City Housing programs. While she worked for NYCHA, she volunteered for her East New York community as the spokesperson for the Community Police Precinct Council. In addition, she organized tenant patrols, youth patrols, and led her tenant association.

After a rewarding career at NYCHA, I was able to lure Mary and her housing expertise to my staff as my Special Assistant. In this role, Mary proved herself to be an outstanding advocate on behalf of community residents. Also, she was a tireless worker, organizing events, working with constituents, and acting as my liaison to groups and agencies concerning crime, drugs, and, most importantly, housing.

Of course, Mary's service to her community never ended at the end of the work day, she also continued to be involved with both the youth and elderly in her community. As the Community Relations Associate for the Wartburg Lutheran Home for the Aging, Mary developed and implemented marketing strategies to increase participation for Meals-on-Wheels, Adult Day Health Care, Senior Housing and at the nursing home itself. This effort required the ability to work closely with people from the community of all different backgrounds, an area in which Mary excelled. Her outgoing personality served her well as the

Recreation Specialist for the New York City Parks Department's Brownsville Recreation Center. Here, she served as Program Coordinator and Registration Supervisor for the various school and summer programs.

In addition, Mary had five children, 15 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild and was still an active volunteer in her Brooklyn community. She served as the District Leader for the 40th Assembly District for three terms. Finally, as a testimonial of her passion for providing affordable housing to her community and her devotion to the children of East New York, she served as the President of the Long Island Baptist Tenant Association at Unity Plaza Housing for over 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Mary Warren devoted her life to serving her community on all levels and was an invaluable member of the community and my staff. She will truly be missed. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring the life of this truly remarkable community leader.

#### TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR PAULA J. CARTER

### HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2001*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound sadness over the passing on Monday of Missouri State Senator Paula J. Carter, one of Missouri's most distinguished and respected public servants. She was a powerful force in the state legislature and represented her St. Louis constituents well during her combined 15 years of service in the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives.

Paula Carter was a dear friend of a former colleague of mine in the Missouri General Assembly, and her passing is a tremendous loss to those of us who had the privilege of serving with her. She will be greatly missed.

Paula Carter began her career as a public servant in 1984, when she was elected Committeewoman of the 27th Ward in St. Louis and two years later she was elected to her first term in the Missouri House of Representatives. While in the House, she became an outspoken champion of the poor, the disabled and the disenfranchised, and she worked tirelessly to make Missouri government more caring and responsive to our state's neediest citizens. Through her efforts in the House, Missouri improved its assistance and care of those with mental illness and disabilities, and expanded employment and educational opportunities for women and minorities.

In March 2000, Senator Carter was elected to the Fifth Senate District seat in a special election and subsequently re-elected to her first full term in November 2001. She wasted little time in making her presence felt in the upper chamber. She served on the Senate Appropriations Committee; the Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee; the Insurance and Housing Committee; and the Aging, Families and Mental Health Committee. She also served as President of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus.

Despite her illness, just two months ago in a special legislative session, Paula Carter played an instrumental role in the passage of