

IN HONOR OF SOUTH PASADENA
LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Pasadena Little League which will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on Saturday, March 9, 2002. For 50 years, South Pasadena Little League has offered youngsters an opportunity to enjoy the numerous benefits of organized athletics and community events.

South Pasadena Little League, at the time of its founding, was the only organized sport in the City of South Pasadena. Over the last half century, the league has grown considerably, and this season, over 700 young boys and girls, ranging in age from 5 to 14, will participate in baseball and softball.

The benefits of participation in South Pasadena Little League are extensive. Over the years, South Pasadena Little League has instilled in its participants a sense of character and loyalty and has set forth a framework to teach teamwork, sportsmanship, and fairplay. The league not only affects those who participate as athletes but also the entire community of spectators, parents, and donors. Each year, members of the community donate more than \$20,000 to ensure the vitality of the league.

It is my pleasure to recognize such a worthwhile organization and I ask all Members of the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating South Pasadena Little League as they celebrate 50 years of offering young people a positive environment in which to grow and learn.

MALCOLM S. PRAY, JR. NAMED
"CITIZEN OF THE YEAR"

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my constituent and good friend, Malcolm S. Pray, Jr. on being named "Citizen of the Year" by the Greenwich, Connecticut Rotary Club. I truly cannot think of an individual more deserving of this award.

Over the years, Malcolm's love of his town and dedication to serving the community have been exemplary. His civic activity in greater-Greenwich has truly run the gamut—ranging from the Boy Scouts, to the Boys and Girls Club, to the Greenwich Symphony, to the Garden Club and the Greenwich Red Cross.

As a prominent automobile dealer, Malcolm has served as president of state, national, and international automobile dealers trade associations. Whether chairing the Soap Box Derby or showing his impressive personal automobile collection to aficionados, Malcolm is equally at home and willing to share his passion for automobiles with others.

Greenwich is truly a better place to live and work thanks to Malcolm Pray, and it is an honor for me to join the Greenwich Rotary and his larger community in taking the opportunity to recognize his outstanding commitment by naming him "Citizen of the Year."

AMBASSADOR RICHARD SCHIFTER'S
INSIGHTS ON THE RAOUL
WALLENBERG CASE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago the American Jewish Committee held an extremely interesting briefing on the case of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews in the last days of the Holocaust of World War II. Wallenberg disappeared into the horrors of the Soviet Gulag in January of 1945, and his fate is still not known.

This event commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the designation of Raoul Wallenberg as an Honorary Citizen of the United States. The legislation to make Wallenberg an honorary U.S. citizen was my first congressional action when I entered Congress. I hoped that if Wallenberg were a U.S. citizen, our government would be in a stronger position in our attempt to find and free him. It also brought greater public attention to the Wallenberg story and his great courage and heroism.

Mr. Speaker, The American Jewish Committee event featured a number of people who have spent many years trying to solve the Wallenberg mystery. The Chair of AJC's International Relations Commission, Ambassador Richard Schifter, made remarks that were particularly insightful and important. Ambassador Schifter brings a wealth of experience as a senior United States diplomat and as a respected attorney. I would like to share his remarks with my colleagues, and request that they be placed in the RECORD.

[From AJC Lunch on Raoul Wallenberg, Feb. 13, 2002]

THE RAOUL WALLENBERG CASE

(By Ambassador Richard Schifter)

The cause of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, the great product of the Enlightenment, is now for the third time in less than one hundred years under attack from totalitarians. As we move forward to deal with this latest onslaught, it is fitting for us to remember a great hero in the struggle against the first totalitarian attack, the Nazis, who, sadly, fell victim to the second, the communists.

It was in the hell on earth created by the evil forces at work two generations ago that Raoul Wallenberg, a man of decency and truly uncommon courage appeared in 1944. Arriving in Budapest in the summer of that year, he demonstrated what one courageous person committed to a righteous cause could accomplish in the fight against those who murder at will. Taking risks, using his ingenuity, working day and night out of the other neutral countries into action, he saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from certain death.

Tom and Annette Lantos witnessed it all. And they did not forget. Tom must once again be thanked and congratulated for having provided a fitting memorial for Raoul Wallenberg's unforgettable accomplishments. Tom's very meaningful gesture is most certainly deeply appreciated by the Wallenberg family and by many other Swedes.

Although his cover was that of a Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg has volunteered for his work in Budapest as the representa-

tive of the United States War Refugee Board. It was that agency of the United States Government that provided him with the standing necessary to carry out the tasks that he undertook.

It is worth noting, in this context, that Wallenberg would not have gone to Budapest, the tens of thousand would not have been saved, and Tom and Annette Lantos might not be with us today if a bureaucratic coup had not been carried out in the Roosevelt Administration, with strong Congressional support, in January 1944. The persons who initiated the coup were four mid-level officials of the Treasury Department, John Pehle, Josiah DuBois, Randolph Paul, and Ansel Luxford.

These Treasury officials had become increasingly concerned with the failure of the State Department to lift a finger to assist in the rescue of those European Jews who had at least a slim chance of escaping the Nazi death machine. The State Department leadership consisted in those years of the Secretary, one Under Secretary, and four Assistant Secretaries.

The Assistant Secretary supervising the Visa Division, Breckinridge Long, had been given responsibility for European refugee policy. As to Jews his policy was very simply: don't let them come to the United States. Further, given the concerns of the British Foreign Office that Jews might want to migrate to the Mandate of Palestine, the United States, under Long's policies, was not to help in any rescue effort. As the United Kingdom had advised the United States: "The Foreign Office are concerned with the difficulties of disposing of any considerable number of Jews should they be rescued from enemy occupied territory." It is evident that by letting them be killed, one avoided the difficulty of disposing of them.

Further, so as not even to get the issue discussed in Washington, the U.S. Legation in Bern, which was in receipt of information about the magnitude of the Holocaust, was explicitly instructed not to transmit such information to Washington.

But the United States Government had another mission in Bern. It was staffed by personnel from the Treasury Department's Division of Foreign Funds Control. Its task was to enforce the Trading-with-the-Enemy Act. It was that mission which continued to transmit information on the Holocaust and on the State Department's failure to take action. The four officials that I have mentioned, none of whom, I should note, was Jewish, became increasingly concerned and finally decided to write a report to the Secretary of the Treasury. It was entitled "Report to the Secretary on the Acquiescence of This Government in the Murder of the Jews." It was a severe indictment of the State Department.

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau was quite shaken by the Report and decided to take it to President Roosevelt. Treasury also prepared a plan to take responsibility for refugees from the State Department and create a separate rescue agency. President Roosevelt accepted the plan, without even checking with the State Department. The Executive Order that established the War Refugee Board a few days later, and John W. Pehle, the leader of the Treasury Department effort, became its Executive Director.

The speed with which this bureaucratic coup was carried out—it all happened in a matter of days—was undoubtedly the result of the fact that if the Administration did not move forward without delay, Congress would enact legislation calling for the establishment of a refugee agency. The leader of eleven other Senators, including Senator Robert Taft of Ohio. It was this combination of

Treasury officials and Members of Congress that at long last got the United States engaged in the rescue effort, whose greatest hero is indeed Raoul Wallenberg.

It is thus particularly appropriate for this memorial event to take place on Capitol Hill. It is Congress that for decades has insisted that the foreign policy of the United States must be infused with moral content and it has succeeded. Tom Lantos, who has been witness to the history that we recount today, has been a truly outstanding leader in this effort. We are indebted to him.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF ALL SAINTS ACADEMY IN BREESE, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of All Saints Academy in Breese, Illinois, and their important and heartwarming efforts to help those affected by terrorism.

On October 11th, 2001, President Bush made a request of the children of America. He challenged each of them to earn and send in one dollar. This money, sent by the kindness of the children of the United States, will be used to reach out to the unfortunate children in far off Afghanistan.

The students of All Saints heard and met that challenge. I recently received a check for \$1,000, made out to America's Fund for Afghan Children—that's more than one dollar for each student in All Saints, and more than our President requested.

The students, parents, faculty, and members of the Breese community should be recognized for this fine effort. The terrorists believed they could accomplish their goals with the murder of American innocents; but the American citizens have responded with aid to the innocents of Afghanistan. Nothing else could better show how utterly Al Qaeda has failed.

Mr. Speaker, as President Bush said in his announcement of the Fund for Afghan Children, "One of the truest weapons that we have against terrorism is to show the world the true strength of character of the American people." The children of All Saints have shown that character, and they deserve our thanks. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my District on Tuesday, March 12, 2002, and I would like the RECORD to indicate how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote No. 53, the bill to expand the class of beneficiaries who may apply for adjustment of status under section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act by extending the deadline for classification petition and

labor certification filings, I would have voted "aye."

ENHANCED BORDER SECURITY AND VISA ENTRY REFORM ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member CONYERS for bringing HR 1885 to the floor today. The issue of border security and the extension of section 245(i) are truly important issues, and I'm glad that they are being addressed. I support HR 1885, the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act, for many reasons, namely because it insures safety for the people within this country's borders. This bill provides the tools necessary for the U.S. Customs and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to better serve the American people.

The bill also has a provision to extend the border crossing card deadline for residents along the Southwestern border of the United States. This extension will provide a much-needed boost to the economies that have suffered since the tragic attacks of September 11th. After the attacks, Congress stopped work on a stand-alone bill with bipartisan support to extend the deadline for one year to October 1, 2002. With this extension, shop owners that were forced to close their doors after the deadline passed will once again be able to open them. People granted the extension can use their border crossing cards to go to school, to go to work, to go shopping, or to just merely visit their families. They will continue being productive members of society of the border economy.

The Southwestern border, according to a recent U.S. Chamber of Commerce report, has a population of 6.2 million people in the U.S. and approximately 4.3 million people in Mexico. The buying power of border residents is immense and the economy of South Texas depends on their participation in our market place. In my district alone, 75–80% of Brownsville's downtown retail sales normally come from people crossing the border. Since September 11th this number has dropped. This same report also cites the border crossing card deadline as one of the main reasons that fewer people are crossing the border. The economic effects of the attacks in September were bad for the country; they were devastating for the Southwestern border.

The Southwestern border is vitally important to the United States. It is the gateway to the United States from Latin America, it is the port-of-entry for one of our most valued trading partners, and it represents the rich diversity of immigrants on which this country was founded. This bill is an excellent first step in recognizing that fact. Again, I thank Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. CONYERS for their actions.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE BRADY LORENZ, FIRST ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S UNSUNG HEROINE AWARDS HONOREE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who has dedicated so many years to serving her city and her community, Jeanne Lorenz. Her remarkable achievements have brought so many families and communities together in an effort to educate and promote racial and ethnic justice. As the Michigan Women's Commission held the First Annual Governor's Unsung Heroine Awards, they honored the contributions of women in communities across Michigan whose work has otherwise gone unrecognized. Gathering together on Tuesday, March 5, 2002, the Michigan Women's Commission chose to honor Jeanne Lorenz, a longtime friend and advocate of civil rights and community service.

A leader and an activist all her life, Jeanne Lorenz has lived her life by her principles and has dedicated her life to teaching these principles to others. As an active member of the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice in Macomb County for over 30 years and Secretary of its Executive Board for more than 20 years, her efforts for her community have been truly selfless. Beginning in 1971 with monitoring the local newspapers and courts and organizing a program called Peaceful Schools during anti-bussing demonstrations, Jeanne participated in a wide variety of activities to promote civil rights. As one of the primary cooks for the first few annual Martin Luther King Holiday Celebrations in Macomb County, an event which raised money to purchase books on racial diversity for school libraries, Jeanne was integral in the fight to promote racial understanding in her community. This determination and commitment to civil rights led her to help defuse racial tensions at a local high school at the request of the Lake Shore Schools superintendent. Forming an advisory group to relieve racial tensions, she helped this group later evolve into the Committee for Racial and Ethnic Understanding, a group that provided a forum for communication and sponsored ethnic fairs.

Demonstrating outstanding dedication and commitment throughout the years, Jeanne Lorenz has also been active in community outreach, working in programs that have helped advance her local community. An active member of St. Gertrude's Church, Jeanne served as the first elected female president of the St. Gertrude Parish Council and served on the Christian Service Commission. Using her training as a home economics teacher, Jeanne organized a funeral luncheon program at St. Gertrude's Church in St. Clair Shores and prepares and serves meals periodically with her volunteers at the Salvation Army in Mount Clemens. She also cooks for the McRest Homeless Shelter program at her church and directs the kitchen crew at the Interfaith Care Givers' Annual Spaghetti Fund Raiser. Jeanne Lorenz's crusade to raise the standards of activism and community outreach programs is one that will be remembered by citizens of this community for years to come.