

into the future, he should also be recognized for his service to the Michigan Townships Association where he served as a board member since 1968 and as the organization's president in 1978. Even though he will be leaving public service, Ron intends to remain active in the White Lake Historical Society and his church.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Ronald Voorheis upon his retirement, and thank him for his fine service to our community and our country, and wish him the best.

HONORING CLARENCE EDWARD
STANFORD, SR., ON HIS 80TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy birthday to one of Northwest Florida's true patriarchs, Clarence Edward Stanford, Sr., who celebrated his 80th birthday on November 13, 2004.

Ed Stanford has led a distinguished life beginning with his service to the U.S. Armed Forces in World War II. After his tour of duty Ed moved to Pensacola in 1953 and has continued to share his patriotism with the citizens of Northwest Florida. In 1961, Ed successfully developed a million dollar general insurance agency, where he worked full-time until his retirement in 1979.

Those who really know Ed have elected him President of the Pensacola Kiwanis Club, Christian Business Men's Committee, his local PTA, the Easter Seal Society of Northwest Florida, the Independent Insurance Agent of Pensacola, and the Industrial Toastmasters. He also served as a Commissioner to the NW Florida Housing Authority, as a Trustee to Florida Baptist Children's Home, served on the Board of Directors for the Waterfront Rescue Mission, and on the Board of Missions for Southern Baptist of Florida. As an active member of the community, Ed earned the respect of citizens and had a new found love for Northwest Florida.

In addition to giving of himself and his time in the interest of the greater good, Ed served 12 years on the Escambia County School Board, for 2 years as Vice-Chairman and 2 years as Chairman. As a school board member, Ed gave over a thousand motivational talks to Escambia County students. During his last 10 years in office, he visited every sixth grade class in the county. The students listened and responded to his lessons of achievement. Ed's sense of humor and ability to motivate young people made these visits a true success.

During his distinguished career, Ed has received a number of recognitions for service to his community. He was honored with the 1988 "God in Government" award, and in the same year also received a special award from the Escambia Search and Rescue for 10 years of fund raising. Additionally, the Parent Teacher Association of six local schools honored him in 1988 with a PTA lifetime Membership award.

He continues to serve his community by sitting on the Board of Directors of the West Florida Blood Bank and on the Board for the Foundation for Excellence in Education. Ed is deserving of these awards because of his dedication, hard work, and positive attitude he brings to everyone he meets.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I extend to this special man warm birthday greetings and wishes of many more to come. I offer my sincere thanks for all he has done for Northwest Florida.

IN MEMORY AND TRIBUTE TO THE
LATE WILLIAM M. BURKE

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory and tribute to the late William M. Burke, who passed away recently after a brief illness. Mr. Burke was Founder and President of the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, established in 1975 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian educational organization that allows college students from all around the country and the world to have access to academic internships in Washington, D.C.

To those who knew him on and off the Hill, Mr. Burke was an indefatigable leader, brimming with vision and ideals—a mentor, a teacher, a friend, and, most importantly, the source of inspiration to countless young leaders. The institution that he built and nurtured has earned a lasting and enduring place in experiential education. Under Bill Burke's leadership, the Washington Center educated thousands of young people from the United States and abroad, and achieved great respect in the academic, business, nonprofit, and legislative communities in its 30 years of existence.

Bill Burke shaped the Washington Center into an institution to mentor, nurture, and develop leaders in politics, the nonprofit sector, media, business, and other fields. It was Bill's desire that our young people learn those values that are important in our future leaders: self-respect, selflessness, dedication, ethics, courage, teamwork, and the highest standards of work.

He believed that it is important for young people to discover that they are already leaders, and that they inherently possess qualities that they can take back to their communities and college campuses, whether they are from a village in Mexico, a small town in our heartland, or a big city. He saw that the world was full of possibility and promise, opportunity and optimism, and that we can change it, one person, and one neighborhood, at a time.

Mr. Burke passionately believed that an interchange between our young people is essential in furthering understanding, here and abroad, and in giving people the tools to develop their communities, block by block. He said that it was important for a kid from Kansas to meet a student from Kenya, and a student from Mexico to meet peers from Canada and California, and see that our differences

are not that vast, and it is our great commonality of purpose that unites us. He grasped the importance of experiential education in international development, and at the time of his death, the Center was well on its way to establishing programs where students go back to their communities with the skills and contacts to better people's lives.

Mr. Burke was a master presenter and motivator. He used to look at a sea of young people, and proclaim that they should get to know the person sitting on their right and the person on their left, because, Washington is a small town, brimming with former interns, and you can never tell for whom you will be working, and who will make a difference in the world! He had an encyclopedic knowledge of all of the personalities of Washington, and he could inspire students with his vast knowledge of who, at one time, had served an internship. He was known to name some important leader, and finish the comment with: "And they were an intern!"

Mr. Burke tirelessly championed the involvement of members of Congress and the executive branch, corporate CEOs, foreign dignitaries, media luminaries, leaders in philanthropy, nonprofit leaders, state legislators, and college and university presidents, and the Center's 33,000 alumni in various aspects of the Washington Center.

Bill Burke's innovation and singular belief in the importance of providing college students equal access to the Washington Center led to the development of such programs as Women as Leaders, Minority Leaders Fellowship Program, Diversity in Congress Program, NAFTA Internship Program, Internship Initiative for Students with Disabilities, Native American Program, Americas Program and the Washington Center's growing international programs. In addition, in order to assure accessibility of programs regardless of the students' economic background, Bill Burke perseveringly sought philanthropic partnerships for scholarship support for the students who participate in these programs.

A native of Norwood, Massachusetts, Mr. Burke earned a Master's in Education from the University of Massachusetts, his Bachelor of Science in Management from American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts, and an Associate's degree in Accounting from Norwalk Community College, Norwalk, Connecticut. He also received an honorary Doctorate of Law from Richard Stockton State College. He once remarked that he loved every job he had ever held.

Mr. Burke is survived by his wife, Sheila McRevey Burke, and two children, Barry and Reavey. We offer our condolences to Sheila, Barry, and Reavey, and to his colleagues, friends, and the thousands of former students who were touched by this good man's life and example. And so, Mr. Speaker, we say: in the loving memory of Bill Burke, we salute him. May the Lord bless and keep him close, and may his family and numerous friends find comfort in the knowledge that his legacy and life's work go on.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ARISTIDES DE SOUSA MENDES, HUMANITARIAN AND WORLD WAR II HERO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of World War II hero, Aristides de Sousa Mendes. Mr. Sousa Mendes, the defamed Consul General of Portugal to Bordeaux, France, spared more than 30,000 lives from the perils of Hitler's Nazi regime.

In May of 1940, the Nazis broke through French defense's in Sedan and Hitler's blitzkrieg exploded over the French borders. In a matter of days, a deluge of refugees from Paris, Warsaw, Berlin and Riga headed towards Southern France hoping to flee to neutral Portugal or Spain via Bordeaux. Using pushcarts, trucks, wagons and any other ramshackle mode of transportation, thousands of Jewish refugees and others of "ill-defined nationality," according to the Nazis, stormed the city of Bordeaux in hopes of obtaining the transit visa needed to exit France. Homeless and laden with their salvaged belongings, men, women and children slept in the streets and on the park benches of Bordeaux. The Jewish refugees sought out the Bordeaux synagogue in seek of shelter and care.

Kindled by Nazi propaganda, rampant anti-Semitism plagued Bordeaux as the flood of Jewish refugees spread through the streets. The situation for the thousands of refugees became more desperate day by day. The wealthier refugees managed to book sea passage and left Europe for safer shores. The remaining helpless masses became increasingly despairing as Spanish General Franco, indebted to Hitler, was determined not to allow refugees to infiltrate the Spanish borders. Unless refugees held a Portuguese issued transit visa on their person, they were unable to flee to Portugal via Spain.

In November of 1939, Portuguese Premier Antonio de Oliveira Salazar issued a directive, which forbade his diplomats in Europe from granting transit visas to categories of people without explicit permission from Lisbon. Included in these categories were "Jews expelled from the countries of their nationality or those from whence they issue", "stateless persons," and "all those who cannot safely return to the countries from whence they came." Subsequently, on May 17, 1940, days after the Nazis invaded France; Salazar declared that under no circumstances was any visa to be granted unless previously authorized by Lisbon, and only on a case-by-case basis.

Serving as the Portuguese Consul-General, Aristides de Sousa Mendes witnessed the clamoring throngs of refugees at the gates of the Portuguese Consulate in Bordeaux. Disregarding the Premier, Sousa Mendes declared, "I will grant a visa to whoever needs it, whether they can afford it or not. I will act in accordance to what my Christian conscience tells me."

Indiscriminately, Sousa Mendes distributed transit visas in Bordeaux, Bayonne and Hendaye near the Franco-Spanish border. Sousa Mendes issued 30,000 transit visas and

opened up a refugee escape route assumed to have saved the lives of over one million World War II refugees. Ten thousand of these refugees were Jews certain to have perished at the hands of the Nazis in extermination camps. The other 20,000 visas appeared in the passports of artists, writers, intellectuals, journalists, priests, nuns and others whose beliefs did not embody those of the fascist regime of Hitler's Nazi empire.

Sousa Mendes became known as the "Angel of Bordeaux." He and his beloved wife Angelina welcomed refugees into their own home. The halls, chambers and grounds of the Portuguese Consulate were filled with hungry, exhausted and terrorized individuals awaiting visas that promised them life.

By June 17, 1940, an arbitrary system of gathering stacks and stacks of passports, stamping them with the coveted visas, and redistributing the documents without fee, record or count became Sousa Mendes' unceasing mission.

As conditions worsened in France, more and more refugees fled to the South of France in hopes of fleeing to Portugal. On June 19, 1940, Sousa Mendes left his family in Bordeaux to assist more refugees in the Franco-Spanish border city of Bayonne. Overtaking the Consul General in Bayonne, he began to distribute exit visas to the thousands lined up all around the Consulate. In Bayonne, a telegram was sent to Lisbon from the actual Bayonne Consul General, Mr. Machado, informing Salazar of Sousa Mendes' activities.

Two telegrams were sent to Sousa Mendes. One telegram demanded that Sousa Mendes cease his visa production and the second informed Sousa Mendes of his dismissal. Neither telegram was received, as Sousa Mendes had already moved to the border city Hendaye, to continue distribution. However, on June 24, 1940, he returned to Bordeaux and received the telegram with orders to leave France. Sousa Mendes disregarded the notice and thought of a method to keep the trapped refugees out of concentration camps: he began to issue Portuguese passports. Again he was rebuked by Lisbon and ordered to depart from France.

Due to the group of prestigious individuals Sousa-Mendes saved, including Otto Habsburg, members of the Rothschilds family and members of the Belgian cabinet, Premier Salazar initially acknowledged the good press resulting from Sousa-Mendes' disobedience. Regardless, shortly thereafter, Salazar shunned Sousa Mendes, rendering this hero a disgraced, persona non grata.

Closely monitored by Portuguese authorities, Sousa Mendes and his family were condemned to humiliation, destitution and infamy. Merely weeks before the end of the war, Sousa Mendes suffered a stroke and was left paralyzed. Eight years later his wife, Angelina, who served with Sousa Mendes tirelessly throughout the insanity of their days in Bordeaux issuing exit visas and passports, suffered a cerebral hemorrhage in 1948 and perished six months later.

On April 3, 1954, Aristides de Sousa Mendes died at the Franciscan Hospital of the Tertiary Order in Lisbon. The Portuguese government never pardoned him while he still lived. Finally, in 1987, President Mario Soares granted Sousa Mendes the Portuguese Order of Freedom and publicly apologized to his surviving family for the injustices their family endured.

Mr. Speaker, as you know my wife Annette and I were saved from death by Raoul Wallenberg. Aristides de Sousa Mendes action's were equally valiant, as Ben Macintyre said, "Like Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from Auschwitz in 1944 and 1945 by issuing them with diplomatic documents, de Sousa Mendes risked his life and destroyed his career by following his conscience."

Despite Sousa Mendes' noble sacrifice, the public at large is not aware of the courage and bravery of this man. However, one organization that does honor this man's life, and recognizes the importance of acknowledging the power of one to make a difference, is the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation.

In recognition of those who strive to emulate the courageous and selfless acts of Wallenberg and de Sousa Mendes, the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation minted a commemorative Aristides de Sousa Mendes medal. This Medal is presented yearly to individuals from all walks of life whose lives exhibit an unwavering commitment to humanitarian values, and a willingness to risk one's own life for fellow human beings, as Wallenberg and Sousa Mendes did in World War II.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of this great humanitarian's death. It is imperative to me and my wife, that this unsung hero's legacy is recognized and celebrated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Aristides de Sousa Mendes.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 23RD STREET ASSOCIATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ANNUAL AWARD LUNCHEON

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of the 23rd Street Association, its president, Sharon L. Ullman and the Association's 2004 honoree, North Fork Bank, on the occasion of the Association's 75th anniversary celebration and award luncheon. The 23rd Street Association is an outstanding organization that addresses community concerns and fosters a wholesome environment for those who live and work between 18th and 28th Streets in Manhattan.

The 23rd Street Association was formed in 1929 by 22 local businesspeople to improve environmental conditions and promote economic development in Manhattan. Today, the Association addresses a broad range of citizen complaints and concerns by working closely with local community boards as well as city, state and federal government agencies. The Association is also actively involved with local police precincts to improve area security and prevent drug sales, theft and other crimes. Whether purchasing and planting over 200 trees from the City Parks Department or working with the New York Department of Transportation to improve traffic conditions, the Association's commitment to community service has been exceptional.

One of the Association's most notable achievements is its Campaign for the New Madison Square Park, which raised more than