

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing the 18th National Minority Cancer Awareness Week.

We continue to make great strides in the fight against cancer. As a member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I was pleased to hear from Dr. Elias Zerhouni, the director of the National Institutes of Health, just this morning. Dr. Zerhouni and Dr. Von Eschenbach, the director of the National Cancer Institute, spoke about the enormous strides that are being made in cancer research. There are now 10 million cancer survivors in the U.S. compared to 3 million in 1971. Death rates from the four most common cancers—lung, breast, prostate, and colorectal—continue to decline.

However, cancer continues to take a significant toll in the U.S. This year, 1.3 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer and, unfortunately, 556,000 are expected to die. Cancer remains the number two killer in the U.S.

I am particularly dismayed to see that the benefits of the research—the breakthroughs that have been made in terms of prevention and treatment—are not being enjoyed by all communities equally. Sadly, minority communities continue to bear a disproportionate burden of cancer cases.

We know the consequences of such health disparities, and we know that many of them stem from inadequate access by our minority communities to preventative services and early detection. Minorities also have a lower survival rate. Clearly, these will continue to be significant issues that need to be addressed by the National Cancer Institute and the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities.

I was very pleased to visit this week with constituents from my congressional district representing One Voice Against Cancer. My constituents included Ivonne DeCorra from Huntington Park and Julie Fleschman from Los Angeles, who is also the executive director of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. Another visitor, Michele Perry, knows the heartache of cancer first hand. Having lost her mother to cancer at a young age, Michele was herself diagnosed in 2000. Her personal trials however, have driven her to become an advocate for cancer research and patient programs so that she, her daughter, and countless others will never have to feel the heartache of cancer again.

It is that type of dedication and commitment—stemming from sometimes tragic personal experiences—that have made One Voice Against Cancer an effective voice in advocating for adequate funding for cancer research, prevention and treatment. I and my colleagues heard their message this week, and despite difficult budget circumstances, we will continue the fight against cancer.

The future health of America as a whole will be influenced substantially by our success in improving the health of minority and other

medically underserved populations. By increasing awareness of programs and services in minority communities, we can provide an opportunity to engage these communities in the fight against cancer.

That was the message of One Voice Against Cancer this week, incorporated in their theme—"Cancer is a Burden. Finding Help Shouldn't Be." And that is the message that my colleagues and I must act on as we recognize National Minority Cancer Awareness Week and continue the fight against cancer.

PRESERVING ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to transfer ownership of environmentally sensitive land at the former Fort Sheridan, Illinois, to a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the environment. This bill will preserve some of the last remaining pristine wilderness along the lakeshore north of Chicago for generations to come.

The bluffs, ravines, and beachfront at Fort Sheridan are a treasure that deserves to be protected. Preserving this land as a park will benefit not only the people of the surrounding communities, but the hundreds of military families who make their home at the Fort. The Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, is committed to making the Navy a good steward of the environment and he understands the responsibilities associated with control of large parcels of government-owned land. This bill not only will ensure the preservation of the land, it also relieves the Navy of the responsibility for maintaining property that has no military value.

As urban sprawl and development pushes outward from our cities, our military bases are quickly becoming some of the last wide open, wild spaces. This encroachment pushes countless species onto these bases, making it even more important to conserve these critical ecosystems. I will continue working to find practical ways to protect and preserve the environment and critical habitats in the Great Lakes.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD ROLLERT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Donald Rollert, a veteran and dedicated civil servant who recently retired from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

Donald Rollert was born in Colorado, grew up in Kansas, and graduated from the Coast Guard Academy. During the Second World War, he served as an officer on an LST in the South Pacific and was subsequently stationed in Italy. Before returning to the United States and civilian life, Don married his wife Myriam in Trieste, Italy. He did post-graduate work at

Columbia University and worked for several companies as an engineer. While working at Mergenthaler Linotype Corporation in the 1960's, he assumed responsibility for developing one of the first electronic composition systems. When Don came to the Government Printing Office, he continued developing composition software. He is the author of the GPO's current composition program, Microcomp, which is producing the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, bills, hearings, and many other government publications including the Federal Register and related publications. As the author of Microcomp, Don Rollert is largely responsible for the GPO's success in the modern publishing world. His hard work, determination, and decision making over the years have made GPO a leader in modern publishing technologies.

A recently published book about the men and women who have served in WWII refers to those people as the "greatest generation." Don Rollert is and deserves to be a member of the greatest generation. Retiring at the age of 82, Don looks forward to spending more time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He also looks forward to having more time for building models of early sailing ships, traveling, and working at his computer.

I join with his many colleagues and friends in wishing Don Rollert a long and happy retirement.

IN MEMORY OF COL. AARON BANK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of the passing of Colonel (Retired) Aaron Bank earlier this month.

Colonel Bank, who was known as "the father of the United States Army's Special Forces" for his role in creating the unconventional warfare units that became known as the Green Berets, died of natural causes on April 1 at his home in Dana Point, CA. He was 101.

Colonel Bank, a native of New York City and fluent in both French and German, entered the Army in 1939. During World War II, he volunteered for the extremely hazardous duty of working behind enemy lines with the French Resistance and guerrilla forces as a member of the famous Jedburgh Teams. Often posing as civilians, he and his three-man team helped organize a guerrilla force of up to 2,000 men and women and led them on numerous hit-and-run missions throughout Nazi-occupied France.

Colonel Bank remained in the Army after the war and became an advocate for special operations units that could do the type of work carried out by the O.S.S. While serving with a combat unit in the Korean War in 1951, he was called back to Washington to work on the creation of guerrilla-style units within the United States Army. COL Bank's personal diligence was rewarded when the Army approved the special operations concept, and the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was subsequently activated on June 19, 1952, under his personal leadership.

Special Forces, who first gained prominence while serving in Vietnam with their distinctive

green berets, are today deployed throughout the world working side-by-side with indigenous forces to combat global terrorism. America has such a capability because of this one man's vision and undaunted drive for excellence.

Mr. Speaker, our Special Operations Forces are among the best warriors this country has ever produced, and Colonel Aaron Bank stood at the forefront of that group. I am sure my fellow Members will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family, and in recognizing this great American for the service he offered his country. He was truly the quiet professional.

COMMEMORATING YOM HASHOAH

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, which memorializes the six million Jews murdered during World War II.

I join my colleagues in mourning the innocent lives and vibrant communities destroyed by Nazis while the world shamefully stood by, and call upon all of us to redouble our efforts to combat resurgent anti-Semitism and intolerance around the world.

As we observe the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, when a brave cadre of fighters battled a Nazi siege to liquidate the community's last remaining Jews, we must also pay tribute to survivors who continue today to battle the traumatic horrors of their past.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Café Europa, a social service and Holocaust survivors advocacy group of Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles, which marked its 16th anniversary this week in a Yom HaShoah ceremony at Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Hollywood Hills.

Café Europa, like other groups across the country, has played a key role in making sure that Holocaust survivors have the social support and resources they need to overcome their haunting suffering and live out their years in peace.

We all have a responsibility to make sure the atrocities they witnessed are not forgotten and never again repeated. While we have come very far in combating Holocaust denial and racial hatred against Jews, new and difficult challenges unfortunately remain ahead.

There is a terrible climate of anti-Semitism growing worldwide. In European and Arab countries, there has been a dramatic rise of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial fomenting violent attacks against Jews and exacerbating tensions in the Middle East. It is incumbent upon the United States to speak out, raise awareness, and call for action.

While the State Department annual country reports on human rights and religious freedom have attempted to track anti-Semitism the results have been woefully inadequate. For example, the 2003 State Department Country Report on the United Arab Emirates mistakenly characterizes the closure of the Zayed Centre for Coordination and Follow-up as a form of censorship instead of commending the UAE government for taking action to shut

down an institution widely criticized for promoting vehemently anti-Semitic symposia, speakers, and materials.

At a time when blood libels, canards like the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, and other anti-Semitic conspiracy theories are being broadcast on Arabic television channels, the United States must be more vigilant in its stance on this issue. We cannot allow governments afraid or unwilling to confront the blight of anti-Semitism to turn a blind eye and permit defamation to be accepted as freedom of speech.

Today, we must resound the words "never again" to the community of nations whose failure to take action against hatred and incitement against Jews quickly turned to devastation and murder a mere half century ago.

REMEMBER YOM HASHOAH

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join people around the world to remember Yom HaShoah. Remembrance of victims of the Holocaust is an indispensable and enduring task. We all must honor and identify with the victims.

The most horrifying extent of anti-Semitism took place during the Nazi and Fascist reign in Europe. Jewish people were beaten, discriminated, and deported to concentration camps where they had to suffer from hard labor and medical experiments or were executed in gas chambers. This most horrible form of anti-Semitism took the lives of more than six million people, and the Jewish fate must never be forgotten. Indeed, we must ensure that the seeds of anti-Semitism are never sown again in Europe or elsewhere in the world.

And although we are currently in the sixth decade after the end of the Holocaust, the fight against anti-Semitism is far from over. Quite the contrary, new hatred against Jews can be witnessed in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Nazi slogans are shouted in the streets of Germany, synagogues are burnt, and Jews are beaten up. This kind of hatred has already brought catastrophe to the Jewish people. Remembrance of the past is therefore essential as it helps focus attention on current and future threats to the Jewish people.

Remembrance must, however, go beyond intellectual insight and historical facts and should also include an emotional understanding, as far as this is possible. Only then are people ready to develop an attitude of zero-tolerance against anti-Semitism and discrimination in general.

NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today in the great rotunda of the Capitol Building, the annual Days of Remembrance ceremony was held to remind us of the victims of the Holocaust and again commit ourselves that such a

horror shall never again take place. It was my great privilege to join other Members of Congress and leaders in lighting one of the six candles in memory of the six million victims of the Holocaust.

The focus of today's commemoration was particularly meaningful for me, Mr. Speaker, because this year marks the 60th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary. In March of 1944, Nazi German troops occupied Hungary. Hungary had been an ally of Hitler, but as Germany began to fall back before the advancing Soviet army, the German high command was uncertain about Hungary's loyalty. Germany occupied Hungary, established a puppet regime in Budapest, and Adolf Eichmann was sent to Hungary to oversee the elimination of Hungary's entire Jewish population.

As the Germans began to move against Hungary's population, the United States took action to help preserve the Jewish population. The U.S. War Refugee Board was established in January 1944. On March 25, 1944—less than a week after German troops occupied Hungary—President Franklin D. Roosevelt called for the rescue of the Jewish population in Hungary: "In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving people rally to this righteous undertaking."

Mr. Speaker, at the request and through the involvement of the U.S. War Refugee Board, Swedish businessman Raoul Wallenberg was given diplomatic status and sent by his government to Budapest. He and his Swedish colleagues, including Per Anger, helped protect tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from being deported to Auschwitz by distributing protective Swedish passports or travel papers. With funds provided by the United States he also rented apartment blocks and declared them protected Swedish diplomatic enclaves, and he was able to protect numerous Jews in these buildings.

Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat, also issued certificates of emigration that placed thousands of Jews in Budapest under Swiss protection. Italian businessman Giorgio Perlasca, posing as a Spanish diplomat, issued forged Spanish visas and established under his "authority" safe houses, including one for Jewish children. Many other diplomats, including the Portuguese diplomat Branquinho, were active in saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, I was one of those fortunate individuals who were able to find refuge in one of the Wallenberg safe houses after I successfully escaped from a forced labor camp north of Budapest. Most of the members of my family and a large portion of my wife Annette's family were killed during that dark period.

When Soviet military forces liberated Budapest in January and February 1945, more than 100,000 Jews were still alive in the city because of the efforts of Wallenberg, Lutz, Perlasca, and other diplomats and individuals. There are many individuals alive today—as well as our children and grandchildren—because of the work of these individuals and the efforts of the United States War Refugee Board.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 60th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary, I urge my colleagues to join me in this solemn remembrance. At the same time, I urge all of us to recommit ourselves to fighting against the evils that led to the Holocaust—anti-Semitism, racism, bigotry, and intolerance. Unfortunately,