

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,

as we have seen too often lately, these precursors to violence and the murder of innocents have not been eradicated. We have seen a resurgence of anti-Semitism in many places in Europe. We have seen religious extremists in the Middle East and elsewhere carrying out horrendous atrocities against others in the misused name of their God. We have seen ethnic differences lead to genocide in Africa—a tragic event whose 10th anniversary we marked just a few days ago.

Mr. Speaker, let us recommit ourselves to fight against the intolerance and bigotry that led to the Holocaust and that continues to produce such suffering and tragedy in our world. Let us recommit ourselves to respect for individual differences and to fight for human rights.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today marks the national commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Today the Congress will stop to remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust. That dark time in history taught us lessons which we must always remember, and which must guide our future. We know the depths to which humanity can descend; we know how millions of people can embrace evil; and we know that it must never happen again.

Indeed, from that terrible moment in history, the world took up a battle cry against bigotry and hatred: "Never again." As the world's only superpower, it is our responsibility to make that statement an element of our foreign policy. The United States must be ever vigilant in preventing genocide, as we did in Kosovo. We must be willing to stand up quickly and forcefully to the ideology of hate, wherever we find it.

We must be vigilant at home, as well. This vigilance requires us to tell the story of the Holocaust to each other and to our children. We owe nothing less to the survivors and to the brave men who fought to liberate the Ghettos and the death camps. We also owe this debt to the men and women who, in the midst of Holocaust, stood out as some of humanity's brightest lights: Raoul Wallenberg and Per Anger provided nearly 100,000 Hungarian Jews with fake passports and other tools to escape Nazi persecution. Oskar Schindler's employment of Polish Jews spared thousands from death. In Denmark, entire fishing communities helped ferry almost 90 percent of Denmark's Jews to safety in Sweden. These stories must be told.

On this day when the Congress stops to remember the six million people slaughtered in the Holocaust, I hope that we also recall these incredible stories of courage and of the good that humanity can achieve, even in the midst of unspeakable horror.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE HEROES AND MARTYRS OF THE HOLOCAUST

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the attention of the House to the Day of Remembrance for the Heroes and Martyrs of the Holocaust. Today is the National Commemoration day, and the Rotunda of the Capitol again will serve as the focal point of America's obligation to remember. Sadly, the Holocaust is not old news, even though the last camp was liberated in 1945, even though the last victim was killed in 1945, even though the Nazi regime fell in 1945.

Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, the Holocaust is a current event. It is not then, it is now. It is today, it is this moment. Today in America, Holocaust survivors are still struggling to win back their lost property and overdue compensation. Today in Europe, on the same streets the Nazis declared Judenrein—Jew-free—Jews are again being attacked and assaulted. Today around the world, newspapers and media outlets are spewing vicious, venomous anti-Semitic lies and incitement. Today in other countries, ethnic cleansing is taking place. Today, intolerance, xenophobia, racism, and anti-Semitism are realities in our world, and we cannot ignore this fact.

Our obligation as a nation which has adopted the ethos of "Never Again," at a very bare minimum, is to remember. Our national commitment to remember the Holocaust is worth reflecting on and is something we can be proud of as long as we remain vigilant and aware of the unique nature of this tragedy in human history.

The American people's commitment is embodied in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and its ongoing mission. The American public also gives generously to non-profit groups that develop and share Holocaust education programs around the country. And most importantly, the United States remains an active and vocal supporter of universal human rights and guardian against the continued risk of genocide. There is, unfortunately, a justification for this activity beyond good heartedness.

The shame of this country's refusal to either admit Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution or even to bomb the railway lines to the concentration camps will forever remain a blackmark on our national honor. While this loathsome chapter of our national history cannot be unwritten, we can and must pursue policies that ensure such tragedies never occur again. Refugees continue to deserve the protection and assistance of the United States, and we must never be afraid to intervene to prevent genocide or ethnic cleansing.

We must also continue to build and strengthen the bonds of friendship and support between this nation and the State of Israel, which emerged out of the ashes of the Holocaust. While much of the world quibbles over, or disputes entirely, the right of the Jewish people to establish a state in their historic homeland, the United States has never for a moment doubted the rightness and morality of this enterprise or questioned the right of the Jewish people to have a state of their own. In-

deed, many of those states which either assisted the Nazis in the liquidation of their Jewish populations, or simply sat by quietly as the Nazis fulfilled their vicious agenda, are today among Israel's most vigorous critics.

By contrast, the United States is, and I hope always will be, Israel's closest ally and friend in the international community. I am proud of America's support for Israel, and I think it is no coincidence that the United States and this Congress do so much answer the call of memory the Holocaust demands.

Today in the Capitol we recall the stark facts of the Holocaust: that in the years between 1933 and 1945, a modern, cultured, Western nation transformed from a democracy into a dictatorship; that this dictatorship initiated a war not only against the nations of Europe, but against the Jewish people; that to fulfill the mandate of genocide Nazi Germany established ghettos, special military killing units, a bureaucracy to manage the construction and operation of the concentration camps, slave labor camps and extermination camps, and a transportation system to bring Europe's Jews to their doom; and that at the end of the Nazis' regime, their campaign of persecution and annihilation had systematically murdered some 6,000,000 innocent Jews.

Mr. Speaker, we must remember this. To ignore the Holocaust is to risk its repetition and to clear a path for deniers and bigots and their agenda of hate. The Holocaust must be remembered. As a moral nation, we can do no less.

COMMEMORATION OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we join together at the United States Capitol to observe the national commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Also known as Yom HaShoah, a Hebrew term for "The Holocaust," this is an internationally recognized day set aside each year to remember the victims of the Holocaust and to remind each of us what can happen when bigotry and hatred are not confronted.

The Holocaust's magnitude of destruction with more than 12 million deaths—6 million Jews, including 1.5 million children (more than 2/3 of European Jewry) and 6 million others—challenges comprehension. Studying the Holocaust presents a framework of many relevant moral issues. The Holocaust illustrates the consequences of prejudice, racism and stereotyping on a society. It forces us to examine the responsibilities of citizenship and confront the powerful ramifications of indifference and inaction. The Holocaust also shows us how a combination of events and attitudes can erode a society's democratic values.

As we commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, we must acknowledge that anti-Semitism and other dangers still exist. Acts of anti-Semitism in countries throughout the world, including some of the world's strongest democracies, have increased significantly in frequency and scope over the last several years. During the first 3 months of 2004, there were numerous instances of anti-Semitic violence around the world. For instance: