

world events have continued to demonstrate that it is imperative that we remember and study the Holocaust. From the violent breakup of Yugoslavia and the cataclysmic terror in Rwanda, to the rise of anti-semitism around the world that continues today, we live in a time when the great strides in human rights made over the last half century are in danger of losing ground to ignorance and intolerance.

That is why the theme of this year's commemoration, "For Justice and Humanity," is so timely. The title comes from a statement made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt who, when he called for the rescue of the Jewish population in Hungary in March of 1944, said, "In the name of justice and humanity, let all freedom-loving people rally to this righteous undertaking." By honoring rescuers along with the victims in this year's commemoration, we are shining a light on the brave acts of individuals and organizations that can teach important lessons today.

Of course, we know that it was too late for many Jews in Hungary in 1944. With the war entering its final stages, Nazi and Hungarian authorities deported about 440,000 Jews. At least half of those were murdered in gas chambers immediately upon their arrival at the labor camp Auschwitz. By the time the Nazis and their Hungarian collaborators were driven out of Hungary in April, 1945, nearly four-fifths of the Hungarian Jewish community had been killed.

Yet there were some individuals, organizations and countries that asserted the value of human life in the face of the systematic murder of men, women and children. The War Refugee Board, established in January of 1944 by President Roosevelt, had the mandate to take "all measures to rescue victims of oppression in imminent danger of death."

Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat based in Hungary, led the War Refugee Board's most extensive rescue efforts by distributing protective Swedish passports or travel papers to tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews. Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat, issued certificates of emigration, placing nearly 50,000 Jews in Budapest under Swiss protection. Italian businessman Giorgio Perlasca issued forged visas and established safe houses. When Budapest was liberated in February of 1945, more than 100,000 Jews still remained in the city because of the efforts of Wallenberg, Lutz, Perlasca and other diplomats and individuals. The War Refugee Board played a crucial role in the rescue of as many as 200,000 Jews in German-occupied Europe.

This year, as we commemorate the lives of the millions of victims of the Holocaust, we also pay tribute to the rescuers for their courageous efforts rallying "to this righteous undertaking."

The first visit that I had to the Holocaust Museum following my election in 1994, I was taken around by the son of

a Holocaust survivor; and there are two exhibits that I would commend to my colleagues on their next visit. One was a temporary exhibit that detailed the sailing of the steamship *St. Louis* and how that boat was turned from port to port to port as no one would take the Jews into their country.

The second is the failed conference that took place in Avignon, France, where countries from around the world, aware of the "Jewish problem" during the Second World War and some of the solutions that Nazi Germany was prepared to undertake, country after country declined to take affirmative action to take Jewish immigrants into its borders, the United States being one of them.

As we ponder not only the Days of Remembrance, I hope that we as legislators also learn the lessons of the *St. Louis* and the conference at Avignon; and I would ask all of my colleagues to join us in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 359.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I would like to close on this particular resolution before the House, a simple resolution to allow the use of the rotunda for this ceremony. But when we enter the rotunda, the sacred center of the Capitol building on April 22, it is important that we do remember those victims who were lost in this horrific slaughter of human beings in World War II. We remember, as the gentleman from Ohio said so eloquently, that there were incidents like the turning away of the steamship *St. Louis* that went from port to port, and hundreds met a horrible fate because of the nations, and even the United States, who turned their backs.

The good Lord gave the United States the responsibility now, as the superpower of the world, an important responsibility that we should not lose sight of.

So as we reflect upon those victims, as we reflect upon those who ignored their responsibility, and as we recognize our responsibility in the world today, it is important that again we reflect at this time on what occurred, what was done, and what was left undone, and that we also make certain as we reflect on April 22 that we do not allow a holocaust of our time.

So with those comments, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for House Concurrent Resolution 359, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to commemorate the Days of Remembrance of victims of the holocaust.

It is appropriate that we commemorate those who perished during the Holocaust. It is also important that we not forget that genocide and human rights abuses continue to occur elsewhere around the world. As the leader of the Free World, the United States must use its

power and influence to bring stability to the world. History serves as a lesson to all, and we must ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust must never happen again.

I am proud to be a founding trustee of the Virginia Holocaust Museum and am pleased that a growing number of community-based Holocaust museums around the country are a reflection of our increasing awareness of the lessons of the Holocaust. Only when every person understands the magnitude of death, destruction, and utter horrors of the Holocaust can we feel we have done everything to prevent its recurrence.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Con. Res. 359, to allow the use of the Capitol Rotunda for a ceremony to commemorate victims of the Holocaust. Our Nation's Capitol is a symbol of freedom and democracy to so many. This resolution gives us a forum to pay service to the victims of the Holocaust. I pray that such a tragedy should never touch the world again.

A Holocaust memorial is not something to be taken lightly, or to be rushed without its due respect. The Holocaust is a product of authoritarian government and evil intentions, and we must continue to study and remember it, lest it be repeated. Hate, genocide, racial supremacism still occur in parts of the world and I believe that we as Americans can still focus our efforts on stopping them before they grow to an uncontrollable magnitude.

My heart goes out to the victims and survivors of Adolf Hitler's death camps. Every time I reexamine the Holocaust, and pay tribute to what happened, I am still shocked and pained by the organized, methodical killing that went on in Europe.

For the 12 million people that Nazi Germany exterminated, we must remember. For each of the six million Jews killed, we must respond. For the Gypsies, the gays, the political dissenters and any of the righteous people who spoke out against what they thought was evil—for this we commemorate and remember the Holocaust. It can never happen again.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 359.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of H. Con. Res. 359.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DR. DOROTHY HEIGHT

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 357) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Dorothy Height.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 357

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on March 24, 2004, for a ceremony to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Dorothy Height. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise this afternoon in support of House Concurrent Resolution 357. This is a resolution authorizing again the use of the rotunda for a ceremony which will be conducted on March 24 honoring Dr. Dorothy Height. Dorothy Height will receive a great honor of the United States Congress when she is awarded in that ceremony the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, as we just authorized the use of the rotunda for a different ceremony, and that particular ceremony and the previous action for a memorial service, this is a service of celebration and also of the life of a distinguished American, Dr. Dorothy Height.

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This is a service of celebration and also of the life of the distinguished American, Dr. Dorothy Height. On December 6, 2003, the resolution awarding Dr. Dorothy Height the Congressional Gold medal became public law. That is the purpose for our requesting a ceremony in the Capitol rotunda; and, of course, as I said before, we need permission of the House and the other body to conduct this ceremony.

I want to talk a little bit about Dorothy Height and tell a little bit about her history. She is an outstanding American and truly deserving of this great honor.

Dorothy Height was born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1912. At an early age she moved with her family to Rankin, Pennsylvania. While in high school, Dorothy Height was awarded a scholar-

ship to New York University where she studied and earned a master's degree. At a very early age she established herself as a dedicated student with exceptional oratorical skills.

After graduating from New York University, Dr. Height began her career working as a case worker with the New York City Welfare Department. At the age of 25, she began her journey as a civil rights activist when she joined the National Council of Negro Women. In 1957, Dr. Height was named president of the council, a position which she held until 1977.

During the height of the civil rights movement in the late 1960s, Dorothy organized Weekdays in Mississippi, which brought together black and white women from the North and the South to create a dialogue of mutual understanding.

Throughout her life, Dr. Height fought for equal rights for both African Americans and also for women. And in 1944 she joined the national staff of the Young Women's Christian Association, the YWCA. She remained active with the organization until 1977. During her tenure at the YWCA, she developed leadership training and other programs and other projects promoting racial and religious tolerance and understanding.

Dr. Height has served our Nation in a number of different capacities during her distinguished career, including as a consultant on African Affairs to the Secretary of State, also as a member of both the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and on the President's Committee on the Status of Women. Her tireless efforts for equal rights have earned her the praise and recognition of numerous organizations as well. She has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom From Want Award, and the NAACP Springarn Medal and now the Congressional Gold Medal. Dr. Height has also been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Dr. Height's work has helped countless women in America and around the world participate in democratic reform resulting in new opportunities for themselves, for their families, and their communities.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, if you ever had a chance to hear or see Dorothy Height, you had an opportunity to see one of the most distinguished advocates for women, an advocate for minorities that has ever been in our country's history.

If you have not seen Dr. Dorothy Height, you missed the glow in her eyes, you missed the sparkle in her voice, you missed the strength of an individual who has gone beyond so many barriers in her life, again, opening doors and offering opportunities to women, to minorities, and to all Americans.

I am a strong admirer of this lady and what she has done. I know a former Member of the House, Connie Morella,

often talked about Dr. Height and her accomplishments; and others will come forward when we pass this resolution to honor her accomplishments. So I am absolutely delighted this afternoon to be here to offer this resolution to authorize the use of the Capitol rotunda where we will present this distinguished medal to a great American, Dr. Dorothy Height.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I again would like to associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), who is eloquent and noteworthy in his praise. This has been a historic afternoon in so many respects, pausing to honor the works of Glenn Brown in the historic writings as they relate to this great Capitol facility, pausing to reflect and remember and reserve the great rotunda to participate in the Days of Remembrance with regard to the Holocaust, and now to step forward and pay homage and honor a living legend.

I urge all Members to join all of us in supporting the distinguished chairman's motion. There can be no more appropriate use of the Capitol rotunda than for a ceremony to honor Dr. Dorothy Irene Height for a lifetime of achievement of social equality and justice.

The author of the original legislation, our distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON), could not be here today, but deserves credit for having had the persistency to make sure that not only would Dr. Height receive the gold medal, but also that we would, as this Congress is required, reserve the rotunda for this great ceremony.

It is important for me today to note that Dr. Height is in my home State of Connecticut at a book signing as I speak. I am pleased that the appropriate ceremony will be approaching next month.

Congress reserves its highest civilian honor for men and women whose contributions to American society exemplify the highest traditions and ideals of public service. By every measure, Dr. Dorothy Height's lifelong commitment to the principles of freedom, equality, and social justice compels this award.

Beginning during the administration of Franklin Roosevelt and continuing to the present day, Dorothy Height has fought to promote human and civil rights throughout our society. For decades she has worked tirelessly to promote the appointment of qualified women to senior Federal positions. As president of the National Council of Negro Women since 1957, Dr. Height has been an especially forceful advocate for the advancement of African Americans. In addition, and on a personal note, I would like to acknowledge the work of Mrs. Mary A. Ballard, who