

disregard for their humanity as the Jews. Nearly a quarter of the one million Roma living in Europe were killed.

Poles and other Slavs, Soviet prisoners of war, and mentally or physically handicapped people were likewise massacred in cold blood. Groups as disparate as Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals, as well as political opponents and many writers and artists, were treated with appalling brutality.

To all these we owe respect, which we can show by making special efforts to protect all communities that are similarly threatened and vulnerable, now and in the future.

But the tragedy of the Jewish people was unique. Two thirds of all Europe's Jews, including one and a half million children, were murdered. An entire civilization, which had contributed far beyond its numbers to the cultural and intellectual riches of Europe and the world, was uprooted; destroyed; laid waste.

In a moment, you will have the honour of hearing from one of the survivors, my dear friend Elie Wiesel. As Elie has written, "not all victims were Jews, but all Jews were victims". It is fitting, therefore, that the first State to speak today will be the State of Israel—which rose, like the United Nations itself, from the ashes of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust came as the climax of a long, disgraceful history of anti-Semitic persecution, pogroms, institutionalized discrimination and other degradation. The purveyors of hatred were not always, and may not be in the future, only marginalized extremists.

How could such evil happen in a cultured and highly sophisticated nation-State, in the heart of a Europe whose artists and thinkers had given the world so much? Truly it has been said: "all that is needed for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing".

There were good men—and women—who did do something: Germans like Gertrude Luckner and Oskar Schindler; foreigners like Meip Geis, Chiune Sugihara, Selahattin Ülkümen, and Raoul Wallenberg. But not enough. Not nearly enough.

Such an evil must never be allowed to happen again. We must be on the watch out for any revival of anti-Semitism, and ready to act against the new forms of it that are happening today.

That obligation binds us not only to the Jewish people, but to all others that have been, or may be, threatened with a similar fate. We must be vigilant against all ideologies based on hatred and exclusion, whenever and wherever they may appear.

On occasions such as this, rhetoric comes easily. We rightly say, "never again". But action is much harder. Since the Holocaust, the world has, to its shame, failed more than once to prevent or halt genocide—for instance in Cambodia, in Rwanda, and in the former Yugoslavia.

Even today we see many horrific examples of inhumanity around the world. To decide which deserves priority, or precisely what action will be effective in protecting victims and giving them a secure future, is not simple. It is easy to say that "something must be done". To say exactly what, and when, and how, and to do it, is much more difficult.

But what we must not do is deny what is happening, or remain indifferent, as so many did when the Nazi factories of death were doing their ghastly work.

Terrible things are happening today in Darfur, Sudan. Tomorrow I expect to receive the report of the international commission of inquiry, which I established at the request of the Security Council.

That report will determine whether or not acts of genocide have occurred in Darfur. But also, and no less important, it will identify the gross violations of international humani-

tarian law and human rights which undoubtedly have occurred.

The Security Council, once it has that report in its hands, will have to decide what action to take, with a view to ensuring that the perpetrators are held accountable. It is a very solemn responsibility.

Today is a day to honour the victims of the Holocaust—to whom, alas, no reparation can ever be made, at least in this world.

It is a day to honour our founders—the allied nations whose troops fought and died to defeat Nazism. Those troops are represented here today by veteran liberators of the camps, including my dear friend and colleague, Sir Brian Urquhart.

It is a day to honour the brave people who risked, and sometimes sacrificed, their own lives to save fellow human beings. Their examples redeem our humanity, and must inspire our conduct.

It is a day to honour the survivors, who heroically thwarted the designs of their oppressors, bringing to the world and to the Jewish people a message of hope. As time passes, their numbers dwindle. It falls to us, the successor generations, to lift high the torch of remembrance, and to live our own lives by its light.

It is, above all, a day to remember not only the victims of past horrors, whom the world abandoned, but also the potential victims of present and future ones. A day to look them in the eye, and say: "you, at least, we must not fail".

COMMENDING DANIELLE M. DEJOY
FOR HER EXEMPLARY CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to enter into the record an article published in the Post Journal of Jamestown, NY, on January 22, 2005 and a brief explanation of its origin.

On January 4, 2005, I was blessed and honored by the presence of hundreds—that's correct, hundreds—of friends, family and supporters who traveled to this great capital city of Washington, DC, to attend ceremonies associated with the administration of my oath of Office as a member of the 109th Congress.

One very special attendee that day, Danielle DeJoy, an 11th grade student at Falconer High School in "South County"—the southern portion of Chautauqua County, was kind enough to commit the events of her trip to Washington to paper, and her account of that trip was published in the Post Journal on January 22, 2005. A transcript of that article is included herein.

I enter this material to serve as an example to young people throughout the nation of the importance of civic involvement in our everyday lives. Danielle's interest and participation in civic events undoubtedly was learned at the family dinner table—her father Vince is an exemplary civic leader in Jamestown, serving in many important capacities, including with the city's Rotary club and as Chair of the city's Democratic Committee—her commitment to paper of the events of this day is inspirational. It reminds us all that those of us blessed to be chosen by the people as their Representatives in "the people's house" must never forget from whence we came, and that Jessica

DeJoy and the millions like her in these United States look to us as leaders—leaders who must strive hard to inspire young people and involve them in government.

A DAY NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., Tuesday, Jan. 4, to represent Chautauqua County for the swearing-in of newly elected Congressman Brian Higgins. It was an experience that I will never forget, and it has given me a new perspective on how lucky we are to be Americans.

My Dad, Vince DeJoy, is the chairman of the Jamestown Democratic committee, and he felt that this would be an educational experience. I was so excited to see our nation's capital for the first time in person and not just seeing it on television or through pictures in the paper.

In addition to my father, Chautauqua County Election Commissioner Norm Green, Assistant Majority Leader of the Chautauqua County Legislature Ron Szot of Dunkirk and Janet Jankowski George made the trip to Washington. I had never met any of these people, but after a day of traveling by planes, trains and buses, I felt as if I have known them all of my life. We had a great day together.

We left Buffalo early Tuesday morning by plane at around 8:30. It was an overcast, gray day in Western New York, but once our plane climbed above the clouds, the sky was that pretty color blue that we long to see in January. The second leg of the journey would involve an Amtrak train from BWI Airport to Union Station in Washington, D.C. This would be another first for me. The coach that we rode on was very comfortable, clean and offered a very smooth ride. We arrived at Union Station around 10:30 a.m., and the first thing that caught me eye was the grandeur of this magnificent train station. I tried to imagine the Erie Rail Road Station in Jamestown, and how cool that it would be if it could be restored to have the same feel that Union Station offered.

Once outside the doors of Union Station, the view of the capital dome was very impressive. Of course we had to pose for pictures with the capital in the background exchanging cameras within our group. We then made the four block walk to the Cannon Office Building to the office of Congressman Higgins. As soon as we walked into his new office, we were greeted by Jonathan Weston of Panama. Jonathan found out that he was fortunate enough to be chosen as a staff member to the Congressman on Dec. 31. He was excited to see familiar faces from Chautauqua County make the trip, and promptly introduced us to the rest of Congressman Higgins staff.

There were over 150 people that squeezed into Mr. Higgins' office. There we enjoyed bagels, muffins and juice, while we watched the actual ceremony on closed circuit television. The well wishers became very quiet when the Clerk of the House announced his name to vote for the House Leader. Than a huge cheer was heard throughout the third floor of the building with other congressional offices down the hall.

We had some time to do sight-seeing before the next reception, so we walked next door to the capital. Security was very tight, but the Secret Service allowed us to get close enough for some great pictures in front of the capital.

The next reception started at 1:30 p.m. at the Rayburn Building, and we decided to go there early. That was a very wise choice because as we walked down the corridors past rooms where House Committee meetings take place, we approached the room which would host the reception and found Senator Hillary Clinton just standing alone in the

doorway. I had met Senator Clinton in 2000 at Diethrick Park while she made a campaign stop in Jamestown. She made us feel that we were long lost friends. We even had the time to discuss my college options. The Town Supervisor of Orchard Park, Toni Cudney, took our picture with the Senator, and then people quickly surrounded her.

It wasn't until nearly 3 p.m. that Congressman Higgins was able to come to his reception. While waiting, I got the opportunity to meet a sorority sister of my mother from the State University College at Geneseo, Peggy Hannon. I had never met Peggy before, but she knew that I was Bonnie's daughter right away. They lived together in the Alpha Clio Sorority House 1981.

Senator Chuck Schumer arrived in time to introduce Congressman Higgins to the now large crowd of 200 people. Intertwined with accolades for Mr. Higgins was the message that my Dad really wanted me to hear and understand. Senator Schumer spoke of the celebration of the peaceful transition of power that just took place. We as Americans may take such an event for granted, but the people of Iraq with elections next month probably don't expect a peaceful transition of power. The Ukraine also came to mind with their corrupt elections, violence and even poisoning of a candidate.

Mr. Higgins' speech thanked his supporters and his family. The funniest part of the speech was a story that he told of his son, John. He had a talk with his son at the onset of the election, preparing him for the negative things that may be said about his Dad.

John said, "Don't worry Dad, 'the tax-man' will do OK." This was a reference to television ads from his opponent. The room erupted in laughter. My Dad got a big hug from Mr. Higgins after the speech, and we posed for a picture with my Mom's friend from college, that grew up with Brian Higgins in South Buffalo.

After the reception, our group walked the parade route of the Presidential Inauguration down Pennsylvania Avenue. Workers were very busy constructing reviewing stands for the President at the White House, and setting up bleachers for the public along the route. Again, the theme of celebrating the peaceful transition of power came to mind. Seeing the White House, even from the gates still gave me a chill running up my spine.

One last reception, at Mackey's Irish Pub on L Street, a few blocks away from the White House. The speeches were over, it was now time to unwind with our new friends from Buffalo and Erie county, and to have something to eat—and celebrate the wonderful things that Congressman Higgins hopes to accomplish for Western New York, and the nation during his tenure in the House of Representatives.

My final thoughts and discussion with my Dad on the return trip to Jamestown was how I felt like I was a part of the democratic process, even though I am not old enough to vote yet. I had a wonderful time with my father and my new friends, and the memories will last for a lifetime.

HONORING GEORGE NEUKOM, JR.
OF ZEPHYRHILLS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George A. Neukom, Jr. of Zephyrhills, Florida.

George A. Neukom, Jr. is a fifth generation Floridian from Pasco County, a lifetime resident of Zephyrhills, a 1959 graduate of Stetson University and a great fifth district constituent.

I would like to recognize George for his outstanding lifetime of work in Pasco County, Florida. As recognition for his efforts, George will be honored as the recipient of the 2nd annual Lincoln Heritage Award held by the East Pasco Republican Club.

This prestigious award was established by the East Pasco Republican Club to recognize an outstanding community member for his or her commitment to the principles practiced and espoused by the first Republican, Abraham Lincoln, and for humanitarian services to his or her community and to Pasco County.

Beginning in 1921 when his grandmother opened Neukom's Drug Store in Zephyrhills, the Neukom family has been a positive influence in the community. The store included a coffee shop where the traditional game of "scratch" provided a forum for local, county, State and Federal candidates of all parties to discuss current topics. In later years, George continued this practice until the store closed.

An accomplished businessman in Pasco County, George is also the president and chairman of the board of Neukom Properties, Inc., a citrus and cattle company. He also founded the George A. Neukom, Jr. Insurance Agency and serves as a consultant to both Precise Power Corporation in Bradenton, FL and Neukom Groves.

An active member of the First Baptist Church in Zephyrhills, George was appointed to the Florida Citrus Commission by former Governor Bob Martinez and served from 1989 to 1992. He is a member of Zephyr Lodge 198 F & AM, Scottish Rite—Shrine and Rotary Club. George serves on the hospital advisory board at East Pasco Medical Center in Zephyrhills and is also on the advisory board at the Zephyrhills City Library.

George married the former Ann Brooke in 1962, and together they raised two children, Tamara and George III. They have been blessed with four loving grandchildren, Ashley and Hannah Oakley and Victoria and George Neukom IV.

Mr. Speaker, George Neukom is a model Pasco County citizen and is truly deserving of the 2nd Annual Lincoln Heritage Award.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
SENATOR RON AMSTUTZ

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Ohio State Senator Ron Amstutz is an exceptional individual worthy of merit and recognition; and

Whereas, Senator Amstutz has been appointed to lead the Senate Ways and Means Committee by Senator Bill Harris; and

Whereas, Senator Amstutz should be commended for his excellence, professionalism, integrity, and for his ongoing efforts to work for the constituents of the 22nd District in Ohio.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Senator Ron Amstutz

for his appointment to the Ways and Means Committee.

ADDRESS OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PAUL WOLFOWITZ, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF NAZI DEATH CAMPS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on January 24 of this year, the United Nations General Assembly commemorated the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi death camps. January 27, 1945, was the date on which Russian troops liberated Auschwitz, the most notorious of the death camps, and the symbol of the Holocaust, in which over 6 million Jews and hundreds of thousands of other nationalities were brutally murdered during World War II.

The United States was ably represented by Paul Wolfowitz, our Deputy Secretary of Defense who addressed the General Assembly on behalf of the United States and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the outstanding statement of Secretary Wolfowitz be placed in the Congressional Record. He addressed "the larger meaning" of the Special Session noting: "We are here to reflect on . . . how totalitarian evil claimed millions of precious lives. But just as important, the member nations attending today are affirming their rejection of such evil and making a statement of hope for a more civilized future, a hope that 'never again' will the world look the other way in the face of such evil." I urge my colleagues to read Secretary Wolfowitz' thoughtful remarks:

Thank you, Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished delegates, distinguished guests.

Thank you, Mr. President for convening this 28th Special Session and thank you to the member states that supported the request for commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps.

Thank you Mr. Secretary General for your eloquent statement today and for your encouragement of this initiative.

Thank you, Sir Brian Urquhart for your service in the war and your witness here today.

And our special gratitude goes to Elie Wiesel, not only for his inspiring words today, but for all he has taught us with his life. Elie Wiesel has taught us that "in extreme situations when human lives and dignity are at stake, neutrality is a sin. It helps the killers," he says, "not the victims."

Elie Wiesel teaches us that we must speak about unspeakable deeds, so that they will be neither forgotten nor repeated. Most of all, he offers personal witness to all humanity that in the face of the most horrific oppression, there is always hope that the goodness of the human spirit will prevail.

That is the larger meaning of why we gather here today. We're here to reflect on the magnitude of the occasion how totalitarian evil claimed millions of precious lives. But just as important, the member nations attending today are affirming their rejection of such evil and making a statement of hope