

first of these National Days of Remembrance ceremonies, and ultimately the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum itself.

We gather at this 29th Days of Remembrance ceremony in a year and season of grim anniversaries. It has been almost exactly 75 years since the Nazis organized a massive nationwide boycott of Jewish businesses that inflamed anti-Semitism throughout Germany. 70 years since Kristallnacht, the night of brutality that, as Fred Zeidman eloquently described, exposed to the world Nazi intentions toward the Jews. 65 years since the Warsaw uprising, as Joel Geiderman reminded us, the best known of many episodes of heroic resistance.

Passover, which ended just a few days ago, commemorates the liberation of Jews from slavery in Egypt thousands of years ago. So 65, 70, even 75 years in our history is not so long a time. But it is almost a lifetime. Had Mordecai Anielewicz, the young commander of the Warsaw uprising, survived, he would be almost 90 today.

With the passage of time, the Rescuers, the Liberators, and the Survivors—like those whom we're blessed to have with us today—are naturally dwindling in numbers. Earlier this year, we lost the beloved Congressman Tom Lantos (so well remembered just now by Ambassador Meridor), whose experiences as a Survivor gave extra gravity to his powerful calls to conscience.

We are transitioning from living memory to historical memory, and that places a great burden of responsibility on the rest of us. As the witnesses to the witnesses, we carry the moral obligation of memory.

And what is that obligation? Surely it is more than fixing blame—for just as the generation of Survivors, Rescuers and Liberators dwindles, so must the Perpetrators, Collaborators and Bystanders. But why must we remember in such painful detail?

In his introduction to the presidential commission report that my father helped shepherd, Elie Wiesel gave an eloquent answer: First, Wiesel wrote, "we cannot grant the killers a posthumous victory. Not only did they humiliate and assassinate their victims, they wanted also to destroy their memory. They killed them twice, reducing them to ashes and then denying their deed."

A Nazi guard once told Simon Wiesenthal that, in time, no one would believe his account of what he saw. Many in this room have devoted a lifetime to proving that prediction wrong. Yet there are still those who challenge the facts surrounding the Holocaust, or even brazenly deny its reality. Whatever form it takes—from cartoons in a newspaper owned by the Syrian government, to statements by leaders of Hamas, to an international conference hosted by the President of Iran—we must stand against every attempt at denial. We have an obligation to condemn these lies for what they are—and remind people of the truth.

Wiesel's second explanation for the moral obligation of memory is that "we cannot deny the victims the fulfillment of their last wish . . . to bear witness." This wish is captured in Emanuel Ringelblum's "Oneg Shabbat" project, which Sara Bloomfield just described. When we read the victims' stories in those long-buried milk cans, we relive their suffering. We honor their defiance. And we fulfill their request never to be forgotten.

Third, and most important, Wiesel wrote, "we must remember . . . for the sake of our own humanity," because "indifference to the victims would result, inevitably, in indifference to ourselves."

We saw this indifference on shameful display at the Evian Conference, which also marks its 70th anniversary this year. At that conference, powerful nations gathered in the heart of Europe to consider the plight of

Jews in Nazi Germany. Yet they mustered only excuses for inaction, refusing to make the changes in refugee laws that could have rescued millions of Jews with a simple stamp on a paper. Five years later, with the full horror of the Holocaust primed to unfold, nations again gathered in Bermuda. This time, they produced a mere joint statement—along with a bureaucratic report that arrived long after the killing machines of Auschwitz and Treblinka were operating at full force.

Tragically, the international community has repeated this indifference in the decades since the Holocaust. In Rwanda and elsewhere, the innocent have paid the price.

Our generation has an opportunity—and a moral obligation—to be different. When we say, "Never again," we must mean it. Not in our moment of history and responsibility. We must call evil by its name, and confront it with purpose and courage. We in government service especially must challenge those who have become enamored with process that substitutes for action and who shrink from the hard choices.

This commitment is being tested in Darfur. President Bush is the only world leader to call the killing there "genocide." He has ordered sanctions on those responsible for violence. And he has pledged to provide training and equipment to help African troops deploy to Darfur. Yet America remains too lonely in this effort. In the past three years, the United Nations Human Rights Council has passed more than six times as many resolutions against Israel as it has against Sudan. And despite repeated urging, the UN peacekeeping force has yet to deploy. It is not too late to set this right.

In answering Wiesel's three calls—to deny the killers a posthumous victory . . . to fulfill the last wishes of the victims . . . and to affirm our own humanity—we uphold the moral obligation of memory. And in our responsibility as witnesses to the witnesses, we are blessed to have remarkable assets.

First, of course, are the Survivors themselves, who comprehend evil with a clarity that comes only from direct experience. As they share their stories, they do more than deepen our knowledge of history—they advance the cause of justice.

We are also blessed with the efforts of individuals like Father Patrick Debois. Going door to door, Father Debois has collected the testimony of more than 700 witnesses and bystanders to the Nazi terror in Ukraine. He has identified the burial sites of countless victims shot execution-style in what has been called the "holocaust of bullets." Thanks to this good priest's work, names and stories are replacing the cold anonymity of mass graves. And witnesses who have held these memories in their hearts for 60 years are finding healing. Father Debois, we are honored by your presence today.

For generations to come, a lasting source of learning and memory will be the museums. In the past year, I have had the privilege to visit three with the President—Yad Vashem in Israel, the Kigali Genocide Memorial Center in Rwanda, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington. These museums commemorate loss in distinct ways. Yet they all recognize that genocide is possible only by the denial of individuality. And they recognize that the best way to restore humanity is to retell the victims' stories, one by one.

At Yad Vashem, exhibits commemorate not only the victims lost—but also the lives lived. They show loving homes and cherished possessions—reminders of the richness of humanity stolen away.

At the Kigali Center, a communal grave holds nearly a quarter million victims, and that number continues to grow as Rwandan authorities gather remains from the 1994

genocide. God only knows—literally, only God knows—the identities of those who rest on the site. Yet inside the museum, exhibits display vivid Polaroid photographs of individual victims, most of them children. Beneath the photos are descriptions of simple things like a favorite sport or food—personal details that capture the uniqueness of each unfinished life.

At the U.S. Holocaust Museum, each visitor receives the identity card of a victim—the tragedy of the Holocaust on a personal scale. Already, 27 million visitors there have pursued their obligation of memory. Now and always, the witnesses will far outnumber the victims.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Holocaust Museum. Later this month, I will travel with President Bush to commemorate another proud anniversary—the 60th anniversary of the founding of Israel. The birth of Israel just three years after the Holocaust reminds us that the last word need not be death and destruction. When Air Force One touches down at Ben-Gurion airport, we will see the American and Israeli flags waving side-by-side. And we will hear two national anthems: the Star Spangled Banner, and "Hatikvah" . . . "The Hope."

Hope is at the center of Israel's existence. It is at the center of the Jewish faith. And it is at the center of our task during these Days of Remembrance. The Holocaust shows that evil is real—but hope, goodness, and courage are eternal. When we carry this truth in our hearts, we uphold the moral obligation of memory. And we summon the strength to meet our solemn pledge: Never again. Not in our moment of history and responsibility.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRANKLIN D. BARCA

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to express my thanks to Franklin D. Barca, a loyal member of my staff who has chosen to retire after being a public servant to our country for more than four decades. A graduate of Braintree High School in Braintree, MA, and Northeastern University, Frank served a full career as a civilian within the Department of Defense at locations such as the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Systems Center, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the Pentagon. To my good fortune, Frank was assigned to my office as a detailee in 1997 and later agreed to join my staff as my military legislative assistant, a position he has dutifully held ever since.

Serving as my adviser on national security issues, Frank's greatest legacy will be his work as the clerk of the caucus created to save the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard during the 2005 round of base realignment and closure. His tireless work ethic, attention to detail, and leadership were instrumental in our efforts to show the Department of Defense that Portsmouth truly is the gold standard of the Navy. During his work on BRAC, Frank was affectionately given the nickname of "The General."

Walking through the Capitol with Frank you understand his love and respect for history. Whether it's showing someone Lincoln's catafalque for the first time or telling stories of the District during the Civil War, Frank

seems to have a bit of trivia for every corner of this building. In the words of another man whom the states of New Hampshire and Massachusetts lay claim, Daniel Webster, "The dignity of history consists in reciting events with truth and accuracy, and in presenting human agents and their actions in an interesting and instructive form. The first element in history, therefore, is truthfulness; and this truthfulness must be displayed in a concrete form." I will certainly miss Frank's advice, straightforwardness, and willingness to go the extra mile to help me serve the people of New Hampshire.

I hope that Frank Barca will enjoy his retirement. It is an achievement that he certainly has earned. I know that Frank will get pleasure from being able to spend more time with his wife Elaine, his daughters, and his four grandchildren Katie, Meredith, Michael, and Sarah.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BRUHN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the people who has done the most to protect so much in Vermont is Paul Bruhn. We Vermonters know that Paul, as the executive director of the Preservation Trust, has done an enormous service by leading conservation efforts to save the very best of our State.

I ask unanimous consent that the full article by Virginia Lindauer Simmon, from the April edition of *Business People Vermont*, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From *Business People Vermont*, Apr. 2008]

PAST PERFECT: GUIDING THE CONSERVATION OF ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S 11 MOST ENDANGERED PLACES

(By Virginia Lindauer Simmon)

Paul Bruhn hasn't strayed far from his roots. What he has done is continue to tweak them, to the benefit of us all.

Bruhn is executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, which he helped to found in 1980. The list of properties the organization has helped since then—more than 1,500—reads like a compendium of places that make Vermont . . . well, Vermont.

The organization's story is much broader than preserving historic structures. The work involves, for example, a partnership with Mad River Glen to reconstruct and rehabilitate the single lift chair, an icon of skiing in Vermont; helping people in Starksboro establish a village store—so crucial to community life in small towns and villages; acquiring a geologic site in Isle LaMotte; encouraging large-scale retailers such as Wal-Mart to consider building smaller-scale stores in Vermont's downtowns; underwriting publications that speak to the Vermont way of life; aiding community-supported agriculture or a group in Hardwick that, says Bruhn, with contagious enthusiasm, "figured out that if you're going to have a good community and downtown revitalization project, you need a great small restaurant and pub that serves the entire community."

Bruhn's passion for his work makes perfect sense, especially when it comes to downtowns. He grew up in Burlington, where his

family owned Bruhn Office Equipment on Church Street—in the same building where Bruhn's office is today. "I used to hang out this same window when I was a little kid watching parades," he says.

After graduating from Burlington High School in 1965, Bruhn studied at Fairleigh Dickinson and the University of Vermont. "I left without graduating, and just before they were probably going to throw me out," he says with a grin.

At the time, he was working for the Suburban List community newspaper and its founders, Proctor and Ruth Page. "I started out selling advertising at \$25 a week," he says, chuckling. "I was a reporter and took care of the paper when they were on vacation. They really gave me my start in life."

That start included backing him when he launched Chittenden Magazine, a monthly publication he poured his life into from 1969 to '73, including mortgaging his house for living expenses. "Proc and Ruth backed it for four years, and it was arguably an artistic success and not a real financial success." He laughs heartily. "That was my real 'college' education."

When the magazine folded, Bruhn found work with his friend Patrick Leahy, the state's attorney for Chittenden County, as a consumer fraud investigator. A year later, he was tapped to run Leahy's campaign for the U.S. Senate.

"That, obviously, was an amazing experience. I went down to Washington and served as his chief of staff for four years. I was 27, and fortunately lots of people took me under their wing and helped me through the intricacies of the operation of the Senate."

Bruhn planned on staying two years, but lasted four, during which his interest in historic preservation grew.

Returning to Vermont in 1978, he went into consulting, first helping to organize the restoration of the Round Church in Richmond. In Washington, he had worked with Leahy on obtaining federal funding for the development of the Church Street Marketplace. Back home, he helped put together the campaign for the required local 10 percent match.

When a group he had encountered during the Round Church project—the Vermont Council of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities—decided to start a statewide preservation organization, Bruhn was hired to run it, "because I was available and inexpensive," he says with typical humility.

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation had provided a good infrastructure for preservation work in the state, having worked since the early 1970s on the state survey of historic places. More than 30,000 buildings and numerous historic districts are on the state register in Vermont, and 10,000 of those are also on the national register.

Grant-making has been a piece of the organization's work since the early days, starting with small seed grants of \$250 to \$500. Funding comes from various sources. In the late 1980s, the organization started the Fund for Vermont's Third Century to encourage people to celebrate the bicentennial in ways that would last. It ran for four years leading up to and through Vermont's bicentennial in 1991.

In 1994, a special partnership was developed with the Freeman Foundation. "It would be impossible to overstate how important it's been," Bruhn says. "We're the nudge, the supporter, the enabler—and are lucky to have partnerships like this." Funding from the Freeman Foundation has provided grants to more than 300 projects and played a key role in over \$115 million worth of rehabilitation work, he says.

Bruhn's lively, creative mind, good sense of humor, and ability to inspire affinity have

served him well in his chosen career. James Maxwell, a Brattleboro attorney and a member of the board of the Brattleboro Arts Initiative, has seen this first-hand. He was president of the board in 2000-2001, when the BAI became involved in buying the Latchis hotel and theater complex.

"Paul is a man of wide comprehension as to the needs of downtowns in Vermont, and I would venture to say in the country as a whole," says Maxwell. "Not only is his knowledge comprehensive, but he is a feeling human being, someone who resonates with groups that he works with and is of incredible assistance, not only in the nuts and bolts of how you go putting together a deal, but also how you move things along."

"He is a congregator. Without getting up on the pulpit and giving a sermon, he is able to congregate people in a situation."

This talent and Bruhn's understanding of the benefit of being willing to change with the times have helped keep the organization strong.

He inspired change 10 years ago, when the organization entered a nationwide competition sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Mellon Foundation, seeking ideas on how to improve the delivery of services and the effectiveness of the historic preservation movement nationally.

Vermont was one of two states whose submissions were chosen, says Bruhn. "We were selected for developing a program for providing field services, so instead of providing support to local organizations via telephone calls and some visiting in the field, we would hire two part-time people who would spend the vast majority of their time in the field working with local organizations helping them move their projects along."

The Preservation Trust of Vermont received a significant grant "It was \$170,000, and that was 10 years ago," says Bruhn—which provided full funding the first year, 70 percent the second year, and 30 percent the final year.

The program so impressed the National Trust, it recently dedicated a \$5 million grant it received to helping other statewide organizations establish their own field service programs.

Another big change came, says Bruhn, when Robert Hoehl, the co-founder of IDX, and his wife, Cindy, purchased the former Camp Marycrest from the Sisters of Mercy, then donated it to the Preservation Trust in 1997. "We had not owned property prior to that—hadn't dreamed of owning property—but this was an amazing opportunity."

The organization gratefully accepted and formed a partnership with caterer and former restaurateur and innkeeper Beverly Watson, who leases the property. "We use it largely for weddings on weekends during the summer. During the week, it's used for retreats and training."

A big turning point was in 1993, when Vermont was named an endangered state by the National Trust. This brought the issue of sprawl to the fore. "We became a much more visible organization," he says, and work very closely with citizen groups and partners like the Vermont Natural Resources Council and Smart Growth Vermont on the issue of sprawl and the negative impact that big-box retailing can have on our downtowns and village centers and how they change downtowns. In 2004, the National Trust again named Vermont one of the 11 most endangered places in the nation.

Bruhn was the only staff person early on, and even today, the staff is small, with the equivalent of four full-time employees.

The other full-timers are Elise Seraus, the office manager/administrative assistant, and