

2000, with an idea in mind, Mr. Assemi returned to Fresno with a vision for creating a thriving arts community in downtown Fresno. With his father as a financial partner, Mr. Assemi purchased the former Red Cross Building and in sixteen months the Pearl Building was up and running as a true multi-use building. The Pearl Building now serves as a place for artists to live, work and show their work to the public. It also has a community space with plenty of room to bring in guest artists and show their work without opening the doors to private living spaces.

Shortly after developing the Pearl Building, Mr. Assemi took on a redevelopment project for the Vagabond Motel, also located in downtown Fresno. The building is about a block away from the Pearl Building, making the site perfect for creating a community and helping the area grow. This is also a mixed use project; the site also serves as a commercial space, affordable housing, and artist spaces at market rate rent. Since then, Mr. Assemi has completed one project after another.

In the ten years since moving back to Fresno, Mr. Assemi has brought nearly two hundred residential units to downtown Fresno. His most recent project, the Iron Bird Lofts, was completed December 1, 2009. He has already begun looking to his next project, restoring a historic downtown Fresno building to create twenty-three residential lofts. His vision for establishing a viable, economically stable neighborhood and thriving arts community has made Mr. Assemi a pioneer in the downtown development of Fresno.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Reza Assemi for his tremendous contributions to the revitalization of downtown Fresno and upon being awarded the "You Get It Award." Invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Assemi many years of continued success.

MEDIA GIVE OBAMA BETTER COVERAGE THAN BUSH

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the national media gave President Obama about twice as much favorable news coverage as they gave former President George W. Bush during the first year of their presidencies, according to a study by the Center for Media and Public Affairs.

The analysis revealed that while around half the stories about President Obama were positive, just 25 percent of stories about President Bush were favorable.

Not surprisingly, the New York Times gave President Obama the most favorable coverage, followed by Time Magazine and Newsweek.

It's no wonder seven out of ten Americans say the national media are promoting the Obama presidency, according to a recent public opinion poll.

The national media should give Americans the facts, not tell them what to think.

HONORING MEDGAR EVERS

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 1022, a resolution honoring the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evers and congratulating the United States Navy for naming a supply ship after him.

I would like to thank my colleague, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, for introducing this significant piece of legislation.

On October 9, 2009, the United States Navy announced that the Lewis and Clark dry cargo and ammunition ship would be named. United States Navy Ship *Medgar Evers*.

The U.S. Navy's dedication to Medgar Evers recognizes the slain civil rights pioneer who led efforts to secure the right to vote for all African-Americans and to integrate public facilities, schools, and restaurants.

Medgar Evers rose to prominence in the civil rights movement in his home state of Mississippi. He discovered his passion for activism while working for the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, which he began in 1951 upon graduating from Alcorn University.

Appointed Mississippi's first field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Evers established local chapters of the NAACP throughout the Delta region.

As an NAACP worker, Medgar Evers fought against segregation and Jim Crow laws by organizing boycotts on gasoline stations that refused to allow blacks to use their restrooms. His boycott of Jackson, Mississippi merchants in the early 1960's attracted national attention, and his effort to have James Meredith admitted to the University of Mississippi in 1962 brought much needed federal assistance.

In 1963, Evers met an untimely death when he was assassinated in his driveway. He was murdered just hours after President John F. Kennedy's speech on national television in support of civil rights. However, Medgar Evers' sacrifice and legacy of challenging racism and segregation endures today.

I join my colleagues in honoring Medgar Evers and applaud the U.S. Navy for recognizing him by naming one of its vessels after such a great American activist.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION TAX ACT 2010

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, since the recession began in December 2007, 8 million jobs have been lost in America. The unemployment rate has more than doubled since then to 10% and the underemployment rate is at 17%. To keep pace with population growth, 127,000 jobs must be created each month just to keep unemployment from rising. Historically, small business has generated 64 percent of net new jobs over the past 15 years, according to the Small Business Administration.

That is why today, along with Congressman GENE GREEN, I am introducing the Small Business Job Creation Tax Act 2010. This bill will provide tax cuts to employers who increase their payroll over one year based on a percentage of that increase.

This legislation will provide businesses a tax cut worth 15 percent of the cost of a new job. Small businesses would receive an additional 5%, allowing them to deduct 20% of their increased payroll costs. The tax cut would be structured based on a firm's quarterly payroll increase over the previous year, meaning companies would also have an incentive to expand part-time workers to full-time, or eliminate salary cuts instituted during the downturn. This would also provide protection against fraud by preventing employers from firing and re-hiring employees to claim the tax cut. The legislation would also contain additional protections against abuse by including a limit on the tax cut claimed by any one firm to \$500,000 and excluding mergers or acquisitions where no new jobs are actually created.

In his State of the Union Address, President Obama stressed the importance of creating jobs. I cannot think of a more important action we can take as a Congress than creating incentives for businesses to grow their job force. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

COMMEMORATING 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this year we remember the 65th Anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp by U.S. Armed Forces. After Auschwitz opened in 1940 the Nazi army wasted little time in rounding up Polish prisoners for imprisonment at this killing field.

Auschwitz-Birkenau, also known as Auschwitz II, was the largest killing center of all. SS authorities established it in the spring of 1942. It was not subordinated to the regional SS, but was part of the SS Economic-Administration Main Office.

"Block 10" was where the Nazis, including Mengele, the "Angel of Death," conducted unspeakable medical experiments on prisoners and "Block 11" was where people were lined up against a wall and shot.

Before the death camp's liberation on January 27, 1945, almost a million Jews from Poland and adjoining nations died there along with 21,000 Roma (gypsies) and countless homosexuals, communists and Soviet and Ukrainian POWs. At least 75,000 Poles were summarily executed. When all acts of horror ceased, the Nazis had murdered 1.1 million people at this site.

Mr. Marian Wojciechowski, a constituent and lifelong friend of mine, is a survivor of Auschwitz and Block 11. He served as an officer in the Polish cavalry and bravely fought Nazi tanks as they rolled into his homeland of Poland near the Czech border as World War II began on September 1, 1939.

He and colleagues in his unit fought with such valor against the invaders they were

awarded Poland's highest military medal, the *Virtuti Militari*. On September 17, 1939, while in battle on the eastern front against the Soviet Army, he received a bullet wound to the head—but Marian survived.

For two years, Marian joined as a member of the Polish Underground Resistance (*Armia Krajowa*), which worked closely with British and Polish intelligence to defeat the Nazis. Their bravery and sacrifice made them a prime target for the German Gestapo. He was captured and taken to Auschwitz when a letter from a member of the Underground Resistance addressed to him was intercepted by the Germans.

While a prisoner at Radom and then Auschwitz, Marian was brutally beaten, tortured, and subjected to nightmarish conditions. He became very ill and survived serious illness, even typhus. At times, he was beaten so severely that he would lose consciousness. The Nazis would revive him by pouring buckets of water on his head, and once he regained his senses, the Nazis would beat him some more to gain information about the Underground—but miraculously Marian survived.

Marian, now 95 years of age and commissioned as Lieutenant in the Polish Cavalry this past August during WWII commemorative ceremonies at Mokra, Poland, has described some of the horrific acts that he witnessed in that horrible place.

Amazingly Mr. Wojciechowski did what 1.1 million innocents were unable to do—he survived Auschwitz. He has taken it upon himself to be a keeper of the flame of historical remembrance as contained in the book, “Seven Roads to Freedom”. His is a story of exceptional resilience, strength and the triumph of the human spirit, and love of liberty. As we reflect on the horrors of World War II, the Holocaust, and the Auschwitz concentration camp we honor and remember stories like his, mourn the stories which were never told, and reflect on the price of freedom.

THE BREWERS EXCISE AND ECONOMIC RELIEF ACT OF 2009

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have co-sponsored the Brewers Excise and Economic Relief Act of 2009, H.R. 836. I have been informed that it is highly unlikely that this bill will reach the floor of the House. Accordingly, it is highly unlikely that we will act to reduce the tax on beer.

I also have been informed that co-sponsorship of the Brewers Excise and Economic Relief Act is the best way to demonstrate to congressional leadership that there is not support in the House for any increase on the tax on beer. I am told that this is the intended message of some, and perhaps most, of the 242 cosponsors of the bill.

I am quite mindful of the large national debt. Still, I wish to be counted among those who are opposed to an increase in the tax on beer.

COMMEMORATING 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

SPEECH OF

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues the remarks recently made by Julius Genachowski, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and head of the Presidential delegation that visited Auschwitz on the 65th anniversary of its liberation.

Drawing upon his strong personal connection to the atrocities that occurred there, Chairman Genachowski's remarks captured the spirit of the anniversary of the Auschwitz liberation, and highlighted our obligation to fight hatred and intolerance by never forgetting the stories of the prisoners of Auschwitz and the forces who freed them.

I would like to ask unanimous consent to insert Chairman Genachowski's remarks into the RECORD.

AUSCHWITZ: REMEMBRANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

(Oswiecim, Poland, Jan. 27, 2010)

Thank you to the government and people of Poland for hosting this important event, and to the International Auschwitz Council and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

I'm grateful to President Obama for asking me to lead the delegation representing the United States on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. I'm privileged to be part of such a distinguished delegation, along with Assistant to the President Susan Sher, Ambassador Lee Feinstein, Special Envoy Hanna Rosenthal, and three extraordinary survivors of the Holocaust, each with powerful experiences and deeply noble lives: Mr. Roman Kent, Ms. Charlene Schiff, and Ms. Eda Sternberg-Powidzki.

I also welcome colleagues from the United States Department of Education, here to participate in the Education Ministers' Conference on “Auschwitz: Memory, Responsibility, Education”—Matthew Yale, who is the department's Deputy Chief of Staff, and Phil Rosenfelt, who is Deputy General Counsel and the Secretary of Education's designated representative to the council for the Holocaust Museum.

As head of this delegation to Auschwitz, I was sent to mourn, to remember, to testify—for I have a connection with this part of Europe, and with the solemn grounds on which we stand today. Genachowski is a name pronounced easily in this part of the world. My family has roots in Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, and other nearby countries.

Roots like Bella Rabinovitch and her family, a Jewish family.

Bella was a mother of four—three grown girls and a boy—living in Belgium in the first half of the last century. Her husband, Chaim Ben Zion, was the Cantor in Antwerp's main synagogue. His gift was his voice, which he used to lead the congregation in prayer and to sing his beloved operas. Bella's children were married; young grandchildren were part of the family mix. A nice life for a girl originally from a poor rural village in the Ukraine.

But as the German invasion of Europe spread into Belgium, Bella's world began to crumble. One daughter and son-in-law fled the country, fearing the worst. Then Bella's husband and son were arrested and sent to a

slave labor camp. Another son-in-law, Shimon, was picked up by the SS on a streetcar (his identity card checked; it was marked “J”). He brazenly escaped, and that night left the country with his wife, Bella's daughter Dina, and their five-year-old son Azriel.

Of course, the worst was yet to come.

Bella went into hiding with her remaining daughter, son-in-law, and grandson. Like so many others, they were eventually discovered. The Nazis gave Bella the choice to stay in Antwerp. She chose the gruesome transport with her family.

On April 19, 1942, Bella and what was left of her family in Belgium were packed onto a train along with 1,396 others. After three days in the cattle car, they arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The meticulous Nazi records are clear on the dates. But there is much we can only wonder about.

Did they see the sign “Arbeit Macht Frei” (so callously stolen recently, and fortunately recovered)? Did they know what was next? Did they recognize that smell in the air? When the train stopped they were unloaded into a line where fates were decided.

The records state that Bella Rabinovitch, along with Sara, Isaac and four-year-old Jacob were “Gazes a L'Arivee”—gassed on arrival. Over 1,000 of the 1,400 passengers on that train were gassed on arrival.

Bella is not famous, but you knew her story already, a story with millions of different beginnings but one tragic ending.

Bella Rabinovitch was my great-grandmother. I am the descendant of a victim whose ashes reside on these grounds.

My father, Azriel Genachowski, was the five-year-old boy I told you about. His path to freedom with his parents was harrowing, and at several key moments over many months non-Jews risked their lives to save his.

Azriel Genachowski and my mother Adele are here today, with the American delegation. They survived the Nazi onslaught of Europe. They taught me what I have told you. They taught me what Simon Weisenthal once said, “Survival is a privilege which entails obligations.”

Out of the ashes of the Nazi terror come many obligations.

As President Obama said last year upon visiting Buchenwald, a death camp his great uncle helped liberate as an army infantryman, “It is up to us to bear witness; to ensure that the world continues to note what happened here; to remember all those who survived and all those who perished, and to remember them not just as victims, but also as individuals who hoped and loved and dreamed just like us.”

We must remember them not only with our words and prayers, but with our deeds—working to ensure that the sacred phrase “Never Again,” never becomes mechanical language, never drains of meaning.

Elie Weisel teaches, “If we forget, we are guilty, we are accomplices.”

We must remember the courageous prisoners, soldiers, resistance fighters, and ordinary civilians—Soviets, Poles, Germans, Danes, Americans, and so many others—who risked their lives and sacrificed so much to save others, reminding us of the boundless human capacity for good.

Our burden is even greater as those who liberated the camps are now in their eighties, and only a handful of concentration camp survivors remain.

As death is taking those whom genocide spared, we must respond to what Czeslaw Milosz called “the command to participate actively in history.” We must renew our commitment to fight for freedom and against intolerance.

Anti-semitism, hatred, and racism remain deep and troubling facts of modern life, the