

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

world over. The memory of the atrocities committed at Auschwitz and throughout Europe must steel our resolve to fight every form of intolerance and inhumanity.

The Holocaust proves many sad truths. One is that modernity is not an inoculation against genocide.

The pillars of modernity—science and technology—are powerful forces. Perverted for evil by the Nazis, but also sources of unlimited hope, opportunity and transformative change.

My father, who eventually came to the United States to study engineering, taught me about the power of technology to transform lives for the better.

Let us fight so that technology is deployed to spread knowledge, to educate, to ensure that people in all corners of the world know of death-camp victims, survivors, and liberators.

Let us fight so that technology is used to shine a light on oppression and intolerance, to illuminate persecution and dehumanization, to take oppression and mass murder out of the shadows.

We know that the Nazis sought to shut off from the rest of the world the unspeakable killing that went on here. We know that for the Nazis control of the flow of information was an imperative, an SS boot on the free flow of news.

Let us fight for freedom. For fundamental freedoms disregarded too often and tragically in the 20th century, fundamental freedoms that, as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has urged, we must enshrine as core principles in the 21st century—freedom of expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom to connect.

The freedom of information is essential, while also no substitute for the power of actual places to teach and instruct. It is a moral imperative to preserve Auschwitz and other physical sites of remembrance, because they shock us into an understanding that ideas alone cannot.

As the survivors continue to leave us, places like this take on an even greater importance. Because places like Auschwitz aren't really mute. In their unspeaking way, they tell us of the unspeakable.

The former prisoners who first proposed a memorial and museum at Auschwitz-Birkenau knew this. This place, and others like it, stands as a refutation of those who insist the Holocaust never happened—a denial of the truth that is baseless, ignorant, and driven by hatred.

The great American writer Mark Twain said: "A lie travels halfway around the world before the truth puts its shoes on." Today's haters are using old and new tools to foster Holocaust denial and mass murder. Let us come together to counter those efforts. Let us work together to make sure the facts of the Holocaust and its lessons remain fresh for each new generation.

My daughter, Lilah, is five years old—the same age as my father when he and his parents made their escape from Nazi-occupied Belgium.

My son, Aaron, is three years old—the same age as his mom's father in Nazi-occupied Holland when his parents handed him over to be hidden by righteous non-Jewish heroes who risked their lives to save people they didn't know.

We preserve Auschwitz-Birkenau so that children all over the world like Lilah, Aaron, and their older brother Jake can visit and absorb the full dimensions of the unthinkable tragedy that occurred here.

Bella Rabinovitch is gone, but her spirit lives on in eight grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 45 great-great-grandchildren, each a living legacy to the victory

over Nazi oppression. In Israel and throughout the world, Jews and other groups singled out by the Nazis for extermination survive and thrive.

Bella's spirit also lives on in those who liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau three years after her death; and in those here participating 65 years later in this multi-national, multi-generational recognition that the horrors she and so many others witnessed and suffered must never be permitted to recur.

We are humbled by the survivors. We honor the liberators. We mourn the victims.

In their name, we say: Yitgadal Vaytkadash Shme Raba.

In their name, we pledge to remember.

In their name, we pledge: Never Again.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,360,943,989,345.48.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,722,518,243,051.68 so far this Congress.

Last week, the Congressional Budget Office released their Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2010–2020. They estimate a deficit of \$1.3 trillion for fiscal year 2010. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

COMMEMORATING 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

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. 1044, a resolution commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration and extermination camp. Honoring the victims of the Holocaust, and expressing commitment to strengthen the fight against bigotry and intolerance are integral parts of this resolution. I would like to thank Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for introducing this piece of legislation.

Before Allied forces arrived in Poland to liberate Auschwitz, on January 27, 1945, approximately 6 million Jews and other targeted groups were murdered by Nazi soldiers across Europe.

Auschwitz was the largest concentration camp in Poland. Between 1940 and 1945, 1.3 million Jews were deported by Nazi authorities to this extermination camp. Over 85 percent of the people sent there were tortured, starved and then systematically murdered in gas chambers.

This camp symbolizes a place of terror, for Jews, prisoners of war, people who were caught hiding the Jews and even those who

had different political views from the Nazi Regime during the Holocaust.

America stands with the Jewish people, and has dedicated the Holocaust Memorial Museum, to recognize the people who lost their lives, as well as those who survived the Holocaust. Their strong resilience against the Nazi's inexorable plan of genocide and their dedication to their ideals in spite of great adversity was remarkable.

The Department of State Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, along with several United States embassies and consulates has done an exceptional job at tracking anti-Semitism, bigotry, racism and intolerance. America and our partnering departments stand together with the Jewish people in solidarity to ensure the safety of all people and prevent our future from mirroring the atrocities of our past.

I urge my colleagues to continue their strong support of H. Res. 1044, commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland.

COMMEMORATING 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1044, Commemorating 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz.

January 27, 2010 marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, where at least 1.1 million were murdered from 1940–1945. Last week, the United Nations, which is located in my district, commemorated the liberation with events designed to carry on the stories and lessons that Holocaust survivors have made their legacy.

Here in Congress, the resolution we pass today honors the victims of Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps. It also reaffirms Congress's commitment to enhance Holocaust education to ensure that what happened in Auschwitz is never allowed to happen again.

To that end, I have introduced separate legislation, the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act (H.R. 2089), which would provide federal grants to educational organizations to teach students about the Holocaust: The legislation is named after the renowned survivor of the Nazi death camps who dedicated his life to documenting the crimes of the Holocaust.

Unfortunately, many students across the country have not learned about the Holocaust because their schools do not have the necessary funds or tools to teach them about this horrific event in humanity's history. It is imperative that students learn about the consequences of intolerance and hatred, so that we can truly say, "Never again."

As the numbers of Holocaust survivors dwindle, we must make sure their stories live on forever and that those who would deny the Holocaust never have the ability to rewrite history.