

Royal made sure their home was a safe and loving place.

Carolyn was a stay-at-home mother until her youngest started first grade. At that time, she began to prepare for her second career, a tutor for children with learning disabilities. Carolyn worked for many years at the Potomac School in McLean, VA.

As she raised her family, Carolyn held a number of stake and ward leadership positions in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including Relief Society president and Young Women's president. Her faith has always been an integral part of Carolyn's life. For many years, Carolyn and Royal have served in the Bella Vista Spanish Ward, where they are dearly loved. Carolyn also served with Royal as area humanitarian missionaries in Colombia and Venezuela. Carolyn continues her service as a worker in the Washington, DC, temple.

As a mother and a grandmother, Carolyn has worked to create family memories and traditions. She decorates her home for all the holidays and takes great pride in having fresh flowers, candles, lovely dishes, and table arrangements. Every Christmas, her grandchildren put on a Christmas program. Every Easter features an egg hunt at her home. Birthdays and other milestones are always celebrated with a special family dinner.

Most years, Carolyn and Royal host the entire family for a weekly trip to the Outer Banks, NC. The family cherishes this time as it has contributed to lasting memories and close ties between siblings and cousins alike.

People are the treasures of Carolyn's life. She relishes the company of her friends in her book club and her social group, "The Times Club." She travels to Utah regularly to reconnect with her high school and college friends.

Her 12 grandchildren are the lights of her life. She regularly attends school and church function featuring her grandchildren. She never misses a single one of her grandchildren's plays or concerts, and she travels regularly to Kansas to see her grandchildren participate in student government activities, cheerleading, and playing sports. Carolyn helps her grandchildren as they make the transition into adulthood by supporting them on their LDS missions, foreign travel, career development, and assisting with wedding preparations.

Carolyn Lucile McDonald Shipp is the embodiment of service, love, and compassion. It is a privilege to help her celebrate her 80th birthday.

#### WORLD WAR II HEROES AND HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on Tuesday, November 11, Americans across the country will gather to honor those who have fought for our freedom and thank them for a debt we can never fully repay.

This year marks the 97th anniversary of the end of World War I. Our victory

in that "war to end all wars" showed us that we could not ignore the rest of the world. And as President Clinton said, "while that war proved our strength, it did not prove our wisdom. . . . We turned our backs on the rest of the world. We ignored the signs of danger. Soon we had a Great Depression, and soon that depression led to aggression and then to another world war—one that would claim a half million American lives."

Whenever freedom is threatened, our brave men and women have answered the call to serve. Today, I would like to highlight our debt to the heroes and survivors of World War II. Earlier this year, we commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day and paid tribute to the nearly 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazi regime. This year marks the 70th anniversary that Allied Forces entered concentration camps—like Auschwitz-Birkenau—and liberated thousands of prisoners.

On the eve of this Veterans Day, nine American heroes and Holocaust survivors are being honored in my home State of Illinois. Today, I want to share their remarkable stories. As the memory of the Holocaust passes from those who were there to the generations that weren't we can't forget the importance of remembrance.

GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme commander of Allied Forces in Europe, understood this and documented what he saw. After visiting a liberated Nazi camp, he urged Washington to send congressional delegations to witness Nazi crimes firsthand so that in the future there could be no attempt to dismiss these allegations as "propaganda."

With the remaining eyewitnesses in their twilight years, the responsibility to ensure that future generations never forget these atrocities falls to us. I want to commend these men and women for their brave actions and quiet courage. Today, we honor their sacrifice by remembering the horrors they witnessed and proclaiming in one unified voice: "Never again." I am privileged to honor them and remember their stories. They are true heroes.

I would like to acknowledge Dr. George Brent, Edith Stern, Margie Oppenheimer, Hannah Messinger, Walter Reed, Joseph Dobryman, Lewis Pazoles, Harry Nichols, and Anthony Gargano. But behind every name is a story. I ask unanimous consent to have their stories printed in the RECORD.

Our hearts break for these men and women who mourn their families. But while their stories agonize, they also inspire. Their lives are not just stories of survival; they are stories of triumph and grace in the face of unspeakable evil. I want to thank each of them for the courage to share their stories.

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

DR. GEORGE BRENT

When George was 14 years old, he and his entire family were transported by cattle car

to Auschwitz-Birkenau with thousands of other Hungarian Jews. When they arrived at the camp, those who were still alive were dragged off the cars and forced into one of two lines. An SS soldier decided whether they would go left or right. George and his father were sent one direction—to live; his mother and ten year-old brother were sent the other direction—to die.

As the Allied Forces advanced, George was sent on a death march from Auschwitz and then on a coal train to Mauthausen-Ebensee Concentration Camp in Austria. On May 6, 1945, General Patton's 3rd Army Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron liberated the camp. Here's how one of General Patton's tank commanders described what he saw: "thousands of skeleton-like figures who were skin and bones. The living laying side by side, often times indistinguishable, from the dead." George was one of the prisoners that survived. He was moved to a displaced persons camp and learned how to be a dental technician. In 1949, George came to America. He learned a new language and started a new life.

In 1950, he joined the United States Air Force and served as a dental assistant during the Korean War. Following his service, he attended dental school at the University of Illinois—and has practiced dentistry until 2011—when he retired at the age of 81. Dr. Brent not only survived these horrors, he thrived. George Brent may not have been born in America, but he is an American hero.

EDITH STERN

In February 1942, when Edith, 21 years old, and her parents were deported to the Theresienstadt Ghetto. She met and married her husband, Otto Rebenwurzel, at Theresienstadt. In 1944, not long after the wedding, Edith and her mother were sent to Auschwitz where a sign mockingly read, "Work makes you free." At Auschwitz, Josef Mengele stood before them to decide their fate. Left meant survival, for a few weeks at least. Right meant death in the gas chamber. Edith's mother was sent to her right. She was 55 years old when she died. Edith was sent to a forced labor camp.

In 1944, while Edith was in the Theresienstadt Ghetto with her husband, she became pregnant. By early 1945, her pregnancy began to show and she was transferred to the Grossschoenau labor camp. Edith was liberated from Grossschoenau when she was nine months pregnant. Still dressed in her striped blue prison uniform, she immediately went into labor. Three days after giving birth, the baby she named Peter, died.

Edith moved to the United States in 1964 and became an administrator at the Self Help Home on the South Side of Chicago. After living through the horrors of war, Edith's belief in the goodness of mankind was unshakable. She devoted her life to helping others rebuild their lives. What an inspiration.

MARGIE OPPENHEIMER

Seventy-seven years ago, Margie awoke to a Nazi soldier pointing a rifle at her face—she was 14 years old. It was November 9, 1938, Kristallnacht—the night of broken glass—when Nazi soldiers coordinated attacks all over Jewish communities in Germany and Austria. Windows were smashed. Synagogues burned. Homes and Jewish-owned stores ransacked and looted. Margie's family apartment and small department store were destroyed. This night began seven years of terror for Margie and her family. She was sent to five concentration camps: Sloka, Riga-Kaiserwald, Bruss-Sophienwalde, Stutthof and Goddentow. As a prisoner of these camps, she hauled backbreaking cement bags, was beaten with clubs, broke concrete, laid bricks, fought hunger . . . fear . . . and

typhus. Through it all, she repeated the words: "I WILL be strong. I want to live."

One day at the Stutthof concentration camp, Margie was emaciated and unable to work. She was placed into new barracks and had the Roman numeral II scrawled on her forearm—it was a death sentence. That night, two of her friends did the unimaginable. Without saying a word, they pulled a helpless Margie under an electric fence to another side of the camp and they scrubbed off the number on her arm. She was no longer marked for death.

On March 10, 1945, Margie was liberated. She was 21 years old. In 1953, Margie and her husband came to the United States. She became a nurse. And just as her friends helped her at the Stutthof camp on that fateful night, she devoted her life to helping those who couldn't help themselves.

#### HANNAH MESSINGER

In 1938, Hannah and her family were forced to abandon their home and business. A few months before her twentieth birthday, Hannah married Karl Kohorn. In 1941, Carl was deported to the Theresienstadt Ghetto. Two weeks later, so was Hannah. Hannah worked as a hairdresser—an occupation in high demand—because the Germans wouldn't allow women to have long hair. In 1942, Hannah's parents and sister arrived at Theresienstadt, but stayed only three days before being deported to Auschwitz.

Hannah is one of the last living witnesses to the International Red Cross visit to Theresienstadt on June 23, 1944. The Nazis created an elaborate hoax to show how well Jews were being treated under the "benevolent" Third Reich. It was lie. More than 33,000 inmates died as a result of malnutrition, disease, or the sadistic treatment by the Nazis at Theresienstadt.

On May 8, 1945, Allied Forces liberated the Merzdorf labor camp—where Hannah was moved to. But when she returned to Prague she learned that all her family members were murdered.

After the war, Hannah began corresponding with an Aunt in Budapest—her last surviving relative in Europe. In the letters, Hannah poured her heart out sharing Holocaust experiences and losses and recounting the suffering she and her loved ones endured. When her aunt read the letters out loud, a friend of the family, Imre, was listening and fell in love with her writings. Imre began to correspond with Hannah directly. Through those letters, they fell in love. Hannah moved to the United States in 1946. Eventually, Imre joined her. They married the following year and moved to Chicago. Hannah has created pencil drawings based on her experiences as a prisoner in several concentration and labor camps from 1941–1945. A number of her pieces can be seen at the United States Holocaust Museum in 2010 and in the Smithsonian. Hannah's work allows future generations to better understand her experience and see it through her own eyes.

#### WALTER REED

On Kristallnacht, Walter was jailed by Nazi soldiers for 3 days—he was 14 years old. In 1939, his parents put him on a Kindertransport (children's transport) to Belgium. This decision saved his life. Walter lived in a boys home near Brussels until the Germans invaded in 1940. Walter and more than 90 other children escaped to southern France, where they lived in a barn and later in an abandoned chateau—they became known as the "Children of La Hille."

In 1941, Walter was able to leave France for New York. He became a U.S. citizen in 1943 and returned to Europe in 1944 as a soldier in the United States Army. Walter served in the 95th Infantry Division under General George Patton. His team was charged with

interrogating German prisoners and civilians near the front lines. Walter first arrived in the United States as a survivor of the war and he returned as an American hero.

#### JOSEPH DOBRYMAN

In 1941, Joseph was 18 years old and forced into the Bialystock Ghetto with his parents and two brothers. The Ghetto was liquidated in 1943 and everyone was sent to camps. Joseph and his brother Henry were separated from the rest of their family. In 1943, they sent to the Lomza Ghetto and then to the Danzig, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen Belsen concentration camps for the rest of the war. Joseph and Henry were liberated from Bergen Belsen by Allied Forces in 1945. They were the only members of their family that survived.

In 1949, Joseph married Nettie Goldberg and they made their way to the United States. They had no family waiting for them, but Joseph found work as a plumber and went to school at night to learn English. Joseph and Nettie settled and raised their family in Skokie, Illinois, where he still lives today.

#### LEWIS PAZOLES

Lewis was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, the son of Greek immigrants. Immediately after graduating high school, Lewis was drafted into the U.S. Army. On April 6, 1944, Lewis joined a medical battalion attached to the 83rd infantry and shipped out in a convoy to England to prepare for the Normandy invasion. Corporal Lewis Pazoles and his unit, followed General Patton's Army to Omaha Beach on June 11, 1944—five days after D-day. His unit proceeded to fight in the Battle of the Bulge—and moved through the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe toward Germany.

On April 11, 2045, the 83rd liberated Langenstein—a sub camp of Buchenwald—where they found about 1,100 malnourished and emaciated prisoners. The prisoners were forced to work 16 hour days in nearby mines and were shot if they were too weak to work. Corporal Pazoles' unit reported that the death rate at the camp was about 500 a month. The 83rd Infantry also recovered Nazi documents later used by war crime investigators.

In 1946, Corporal Pazoles was honorably discharged—he was 20 years old. He returned to the United States and became a partner in his family's grocery store business in Chicago. Today, Lewis and his wife reside in Palos Hills, Illinois.

Here are some of the honors that Corporal Pazoles received during his service: The Victory Medal, The European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with 1 Silver Battle Star, 3 Overseas Service Bars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Purple Heart, and a Bronze Star. Lewis Pazoles is an American hero.

#### HARRY NICHOLS

Harry was born in Alliance, Ohio, and was drafted in the U.S. Army in 1942. On June 6, 1944, Harry was in the third wave of U.S. forces who stormed Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. Known as Operation Neptune, it was the largest amphibious operation ever attempted. More than 160,000 Allied troops landed along the 50-mile stretch of heavily fortified French coastline to fight the Nazis. Afterward, Harry fought in the battle of St.-Lô and the Battle of the Bulge. He helped liberate the French cities of Laval, LeMans, Orleans and Nance. Harry also fought through Luxembourg and Holland, crossed the Rhine River into Germany and up the Elbe River before May 7, 1945—V-E Day.

In 1945, while training with his unit to fight in the invasion of Japan—the Japanese surrendered. Harry returned home to Ohio

and began working in a bakery. In the late 1940s, he made his way to Chicago where he worked as a waiter, a grocer and florist. Harry Nichols is an American hero.

#### ANTHONY GARGANO

On December 7, 1941, Tony's 22nd birthday, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Less than six weeks later, Tony enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to one of three ships masquerading as merchant vessels. In 1942, he and his shipmates were captured by the Japanese and taken to Hakodate prison camp on an island just north of mainland Japan. Tony remained a POW for three years and was set free the day the Japanese surrendered and abandoned the camp. He returned to America, married the love of his life—Julia—and worked six days a week as a maître d' at Elliot's Pine Log Restaurant.

For nearly 70 years, Tony has kept the details of war and the horrors of his imprisonment to himself, but has recently began to share his story. Tony will tell you, he is not a hero, his brothers lost in battle are the heroes. What an inspiration.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

MR. LEAHY. Mr. President, after finally scheduling a few confirmation votes on Federal judges last month, Senate Republicans have reverted back to holding up the confirmation process for no good reason. The American people and the entire Federal justice system depend on the Members of this body to fulfill our constitutional duty of providing advice and consent on judicial nominees. This senatorial duty is one we cannot neglect. However, that is exactly what has happened since Senate Republicans took over the majority this year.

I had hoped that last month's judicial confirmation votes were an indication that Senate Republicans were finally ready to make progress on the backlog of well-qualified and uncontroversial nominees awaiting their confirmation vote. But again, this week, there is no sign of when the next judicial nominee will receive a vote. This is no way to lead the Senate. When Senate Democrats were in the majority during the last 2 years of the Bush Presidency, we had already confirmed 34 judges by this same time. I have heard Republicans trying to justify their slowdown on judicial nominations by claiming they should somehow receive credit for 11 judges confirmed at the end of the last Congress. That excuse holds no water. It is well-established Senate precedent that all pending consensus nominees should be confirmed before the end of a year. And even if we added those 11 judges to the 9 confirmed this year, that would still bring us to only 20—which is a far cry from the 34 Democrats confirmed in the last 2 years of the Bush administration.

The process of confirming judges is about ensuring that the American people have a fully functioning judiciary. Instead, because of Republican obstruction, judicial vacancies have increased by more than 50 percent since they took over the majority, and caseloads are piling up in courts throughout the