

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 248

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and work of Simon Wiesenthal
and reaffirming the commitment of Congress to
the fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance
in all forms, in all forums, and in all nations.

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Whereas Simon Wiesenthal, who was known as the “conscience of the Holocaust”, was born on December 31, 1908, in Buczacz, Austria-Hungary, and died in Vienna, Austria, on September 20, 2005, and he dedicated the last 60 years of his life to the pursuit of justice for the victims of the Holocaust;

Whereas, during World War II, Simon Wiesenthal worked with the Polish underground and was interned in 12 different concentration camps until his liberation by the United States Army in 1945 from the Mauthausen camp;

Whereas, after the war, Simon Wiesenthal worked for the War Crimes Section of the United States Army gathering documentation to be used in prosecuting the Nuremberg trials;

Whereas Simon Wiesenthal's investigative work and expansive research was instrumental in the capture and conviction of more than 1,000 Nazi war criminals, including Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the Nazi plan to annihilate European Jewry, and Karl Silberbauer, the Gestapo officer responsible for the arrest and deportation of Anne Frank;

Whereas numerous honors and awards were bestowed upon Simon Wiesenthal, including the Congressional Gold Medal, honorary British Knighthood, the Dutch Freedom Medal, the French Legion of Honor, the World Tolerance Award, and the Jerusalem Medal;

Whereas the Simon Wiesenthal Center was founded in 1977 in Los Angeles and named in honor of Simon Wiesenthal to promote awareness of anti-Semitism, monitor neo-Nazi and other extremist groups, and help bring surviving Nazi war criminals to justice;

Whereas, in 1978, inspired in part by the work of Simon Wiesenthal, the Congress enacted a law to deny citizenship and Federal benefits to former Nazis, and the Office of Special Investigations of the Department of Justice has since conducted more than 1,500 investigations, won

101 cases, and blocked the immigration of 170 individuals, and the work of the Office continues;

Whereas, in keeping with the efforts of Simon Wiesenthal, many governments have responded to the growing tide of anti-Semitism worldwide, elected leaders have spoken out against anti-Semitism, and law enforcement officials and prosecutors have aggressively pursued the perpetrators of anti-Semitic acts; and

Whereas Simon Wiesenthal's legacy teaches that the perpetrators of genocide cannot and will not be allowed to hide from their crimes: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) honors the life and work of Simon
4 Wiesenthal to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust
5 and to bring the perpetrators of crimes
6 against humanity to justice;

7 (2) reaffirms its commitment to the fight
8 against anti-Semitism and intolerance in all forms,
9 in all forums, and in all nations; and

10 (3) urges all members of the international community
11 to facilitate the investigation and prosecution
12 of surviving Nazi war criminals and to continue doc-

- 1 umenting and collecting information on Nazi war
- 2 crimes for archival and historical purposes.

Passed the House of Representatives October 7,
2005.

Attest:

Clerk.