

# RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2014*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason, which occurs this year on Thursday, May 1st.

As I see nations around the world in turmoil, among people of different religious faiths, we are moved to deeper appreciation for the Framers, who bequeathed us the Constitution, which requires the separation of church and state. We could not have built a vast nation of extraordinary religious and ethnic diversity were it not for our tolerance of the world's great religions, all of which exist among us in our nation today, and of Americans who claim no religion. I hope that all Americans—religious, non-religious and secular alike—will join in observing the National Day of Reason, today, May 1, 2014. This day provides an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the positive impacts on humanity of reason, critical thought and the scientific method, which have always been acknowledged to be consistent with religious faith, and to reaffirm that the line between religion and government must remain indelible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason.

# RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID SKORTON

## HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2014*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. David Skorton on his recent appointment as Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Skorton, who currently serves as the 12th President of Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York, will begin his tenure as the 13th Secretary of the Smithsonian in July 2015.

Dr. Skorton was chosen for this position based on his outstanding merit and impressive leadership record. He has extensive experience as an administrator, cardiologist, and biomedical researcher. Dr. Skorton brings his unique talent and knowledge base to his new position, where he will be the first physician to lead the Smithsonian.

A staunch advocate of the arts, sciences, and humanities, Dr. Skorton will effectively promote the Smithsonian Institution's mission of supporting the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." I am confident that his skills, experience, and expertise will serve Dr. Skorton well in his efforts to oversee the immense collection of museums and research centers that comprise the Smithsonian Institution.

I commend Dr. Skorton on earning this remarkable opportunity and I look forward to the new heights that the Smithsonian Institution will reach under his leadership.

# COMMENDING STUDENTS ON RE- CEIVING MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

## HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2014*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 10 students from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas who received appointments to America's military academies. The students who receive appointments to our nation's prestigious military academies are some of the best and brightest students in America. They bring enormous pride to our communities. It's an honor to recognize these young leaders who have committed to protect and defend our nation through service in our military academies.

The students selected to represent our district include: Joshua Xu of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Naval Academy), Cy Payne of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Naval Academy), David Hernandez, III of Pearland High School in Pearland (U.S. Military Academy), William Waters of Cinco Ranch High School in Katy (U.S. Military Academy), Morgan Landers of Strake Jesuit College Preparatory from Houston (U.S. Military Academy), Brittany Scofield of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Military Academy), Chad Cleary of Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugar Land (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), Drake Dentry of Pearland High School in Pearland (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), Nicholas Supry of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy) and Jonah Sanjay Bhide of American Embassy School, New Delhi, India (U.S. Air Force Academy).

As a former Navy pilot, I know that these students are about to embark on a tremendous citizenship experience. On behalf of all of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I'm thrilled to congratulate these young leaders. I'm confident they will honorably serve our nation with pride and distinction.

# RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH- MENTS OF PATIENT SERVICES INCORPORATED

## HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2014*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the accomplishments of Patient Services Incorporated (PSI) and to congratulate the organization on its 25 years of assisting Americans obtain the treatments and therapies they need. PSI is a national non-profit patient assistance charitable organization, headquartered in my Congressional district in Midlothian, Virginia. PSI has provided assistance to countless Americans in all 50 states and serves as a vital safety-net charity to help meet the needs of Americans suffering from expensive rare and chronic diseases.

Through PSI's leadership and determination, our nation's most vulnerable seniors are now able to access the treatments and care they need with the financial help of non-profit chari-

table organizations. I have visited with the devoted staff at PSI in the past, toured their campus, and I am proud to have PSI headquartered in my district.

PSI was founded out of the professional and personal experience of Dana Kuhn, a former Presbyterian Minister from Jackson, Tennessee. While employed as a clinical counselor at now VCU Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, Dana Kuhn encountered families devastated by chronic illnesses. Dr. Kuhn founded PSI in an effort to help this underserved community, and since then PSI has focused on finding solutions to the challenges facing the chronically ill.

Today I would like to congratulate PSI on its 25 years of helping Americans access medical treatments and therapies. In particular, I commend its Founder and President, Dana Kuhn, on his service to our country and his fellow man by creating this charitable organization.

# RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR PETER AMMON

## HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Peter Ammon as he leaves his post as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States. His hard work and dedication to strengthening the economic and cultural relationship between Germany and the United States must be commended.

In his role as Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Ammon strengthened the strong ties that bind Germany and the United States. Within the U.S., he visited 45 states and met with ordinary Americans, Governors, State Legislators, Members of Congress, and local elected officials. He also helped establish the German residence as an icon of German culture by featuring art crafted by U.S. and German artists on a rotating basis. The National Day parties hosted at the residence drew more than 3,500 guests, who enjoyed German art and food.

Dr. Ammon has championed the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership both as German Ambassador and for nearly 20 years prior because he knows this groundbreaking trade agreement will create jobs and growth on both sides of the Atlantic. Dr. Ammon leaves his post in Washington with the United States and Europe taking great strides toward finishing these tough, but necessary negotiations.

Dr. Ammon has served as German Ambassador to the United States since 2011. Previously, he served as Ambassador to Paris, France, and various other roles in the German government, including Director General for Economics at the German Foreign Office from 2001 to 2007 and Head of Policy Planning from 1996 to 1999. Prior to his service in these roles, Dr. Ammon served as a career diplomat in London, Senegal, and New Delhi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my good friend Dr. Peter Ammon for his great service and commitment to the special relationship between Germany and the United States. We thank Dr. Ammon for his leadership and send him our very best

wishes for his next post in the United Kingdom.

# REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST AND HONORING THE SURVIVORS

## HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2014*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the Holocaust survivors in our community. Communities around the world this week commemorated Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. As these individuals, who were small children and teenagers during World War II, are no longer with us, it is vital that we hear and record their personal stories of what happened in the ghettos and concentration camps in Nazi-occupied Europe. We must not forget what they have to say, and we must do everything in our power to ensure that these atrocities never occur anywhere in the world.

I submit the following article from The Washington Post on first-hand accounts of those who survived.

[From the Washington Post]

WASHINGTON AREA HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS  
SHARE HISTORIES IN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

(By Katherine Shaver)

Blanche Porway remembers the guard tearing her from her mother's hand as they stood in line at the Auschwitz concentration camp with hundreds of Jews and other prisoners. Her mother was led off to the gas chambers while Porway and her older sister were spared, only because the guards deemed them fit enough to work.

Porway, then 19, had already survived the ghetto in Lodz, Poland, where her father and brother had starved to death.

"My sister said, 'I can't take this,'" Porway recalled tearfully Sunday. "But I said, 'We have to. We have to live to tell people.'"

Now 90, Porway shared her story at a brunch in Rockville to honor Holocaust survivors. The event, attended by about 40 survivors and their families, coincided with Monday's Holocaust—Remembrance Day, or Yom HaShoah, in Israel. Most of the survivors were residents at the Charles E. Smith Life Communities senior facilities in Rockville, where officials say they have one of the largest groups of Holocaust survivors in the Washington area.

They came with their adult children, who had grown up hearing their painful stories, and with grandchildren, who they hoped would learn more. They told of fathers being arrested in the night after an abrupt knock on the door. They told of their synagogues burning, of being boarded onto trains with other Jewish children fleeing the Nazis, of the nuns who hid them in convents. They showed scars on their hands from being forced to work in German factories and cried as they recalled being forced to shovel dirt at gunpoint during years in a labor camp.

Many broke into tears as they told their stories, their accents still carrying traces of their native German, French and Polish.

"It's hard to accept what happened, even now," Porway, who lives in Chevy Chase, said in a Polish accent, as her voice shook and her eyes teared up. A few moments later, she added quietly, "I sometimes question if people want to hear it, or if they'll get too upset."

Joel Appelbaum said he organized the brunch—this was the fourth—to honor Holo-

caust survivors in memory of his late father, who had stayed at one of the Charles E. Smith facilities. Appelbaum is vice president of the Progress Club, a Rockville social group that paid for the brunch through its charitable foundation.

He noted survivors' ages—those at the brunch were between 75 and 100—and the fact that their first-person accounts would soon be left to books and video archives.

"We have a limited window to do this," Appelbaum said as younger family members helped their parents and grandparents get seated, often after parking walkers and wheelchairs along the walls. "Ten years from now," Appelbaum said, "this will not be an event."

Charles E. Smith community officials said the survivors benefit from sharing their stories, too. Some had spoken little about the Holocaust during their younger years, after they had started new lives in the United States.

"I think at this stage in their lives, they want to talk, and it helps them," spokeswoman Emily Tiperma said. "They feel it's safe for them now to talk, and they understand that they lived through this period of history."

Yetti Sinnreich said her father, Ben! Sinnreich, who is 99, had one question for her as they sat down to eat: "Can I speak?"

Yetti Sinnreich, of Potomac, said she grew up hearing about the Holocaust from both parents, who met after the war in a "displaced persons" camp in Romania. Her mother, Klara Sinnreich, 97, worked as a seamstress in a labor camp.

While growing up, Yetti Sinnreich said, "I remember my father screaming with nightmares and waking up the house."

Klara Sinnreich no longer speaks much. But when the microphone came around, Beril Sinnreich raised his hand. He broke into tears as he recalled being forced to march to a work camp. He was 26 when Romanian soldiers came to his home, he said. He lost his entire family in the Holocaust.

"For three days and three nights, I didn't see water," Beril Sinnreich said. "We slept in train wagons. Every night, frozen people were thrown out like garbage."

They marched for six weeks, he said, and his father died of a heart attack. "He couldn't walk anymore," he said.

Beril Sinnreich, stooped with age and wearing a white cap, appeared exhausted as he spoke before the crowd.

"Three years, I was in a concentration camp," he said through tears. "I survived."

When asked after the brunch what he wanted the children and teenagers in the audience to take away from his story and others, Sinnreich had a short answer: "It shouldn't happen again."

## TIM CARPENTER: A FIGHTER FOR JUSTICE

## HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2014*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to join today with so many who are remembering the life of Tim Carpenter, a life-long advocate for social, economic and environmental justice.

Tim was a believer and an activist. He believed that we could create a world where every person has the right to quality health care, to a clean environment, to a good job, and to peace. And he knew the only way to achieve that just society is to empower people to take action.

Tim's activism took many forms. As co-founder of Progressive Democrats of America, he helped design and implement an "inside-outside" strategy that allowed people around the country to advocate with their elected officials and gave members of Congress real insight into the daily challenges facing our constituents. He didn't just talk about problems, he pushed for solutions—expanding voting rights, winning health care for all, and investing in people.

Tim made the most of his too-short life. There wasn't a progressive fight where you couldn't find Tim—strategizing, organizing, and mentoring new recruits to the cause. Tim was tough as nails when it came to pushing for results, but he was also a gentle and kind soul who connected personally to each person he met.

Tim will be greatly missed, but he has left us a powerful legacy by teaching us never to stop pushing our progressive principles through practical and effective organizing.

I offer my deep condolences to Tim's family, friends and fellow organizers.

## HONORING THE 133 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE BY THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY TO CENTRAL INDIANA

## HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2014*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 133 Years of Faithful Service by the Daughters of Charity to Central Indiana.

In 1633, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul were co-founded by Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac in Paris, France, to "Serve Jesus Christ corporally and spiritually in the person of the poor." Over time, their work expanded worldwide with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton founding the Daughters of Charity community in the United States before the Civil War.

The Daughters of Charity in the United States were quickly recognized for their faithful ministry to people in need in the areas of health care, social services, education and spiritual care. Noting this, Bishop Francis Silas Chatard of Indianapolis worked with the Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to begin a ministry of health care available for all people in need living in the growing city of Indianapolis.

With \$34.77 in their pockets, four Daughters of Charity arrived in Indianapolis on April 26, 1881, to start a healing ministry—today known as the St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital.

The Sisters brought with them a mission that is lived and celebrated by the St. Vincent Health ministry to this day: "We have a mission, a reason for being here, to keep health care human; human for our patients, human for our families, human for our doctors and human for all associates. The poor will come and the rich will come, if they know they are going to be treated as people."

Two hundred ninety-five Daughters of Charity have served in the St. Vincent ministry over the past 133 years, in whatever ways they were most needed. They have been an inspiration to St. Vincent associates, physicians,