

has certainly upheld the high standards of our Capitol Police force throughout his 20 years. I know that his integrity and fortitude are characteristics that have helped to influence other officers in carrying out their jobs with unwavering allegiance to the law.

Truly, Buck is one of our unsung heroes on Capitol Hill who performed his duties, day after day on weekends, and holidays loyally and responsibly. Buck is retiring to Florida to spend more time with his children, grandchildren, and to enjoy his favorite sport of hunting. I know he is proud of his excellent and honorable record with the Capitol Hill Police. I bid Buck farewell with mixed emotions, and I am sure that my colleagues join me in wishing him much good fortune as he begins this new chapter in his life.

REMARKS BY MILES LERMAN AT
THE NATIONAL DAYS OF RE-
MEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on April 16, Members of Congress, members of the Diplomatic Corps and hundreds of survivors of the Holocaust and their friends gathered here in the Capitol Rotunda for the National Days of Remembrance commemoration. The United States Holocaust Memorial Council was established by Congress to preserve the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. I commend the Council and the members of the Days of Remembrance Committee, chaired by my good friend Benjamin Meed, for their vigilant and genuine adherence to their extraordinarily important task.

One of the first acts of the Council was to establish the annual Days of Remembrance commemoration to mirror similar observances held in Israel and throughout our Nation and elsewhere in the world. This year, the commemoration centered on the 50th anniversary of the Nuremberg trials. The observance was a reminder of the difficult process of first coping and then healing that all survivors and their families and loved ones had to endure.

I commend my colleagues' attention to the insightful comments of my good friend Miles Lerman. Miles was instrumental in bringing the dream of the Holocaust Memorial Museum to reality, an immense project that is universally regarded as a resounding success. As Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, Miles is appointed by the President to coordinate our national effort to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust and to teach all Americans its many lessons. His words at the National Days of Remembrance commemoration are a demonstration of his outstanding ability to carry out this important task.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

(By Miles Lerman)

Distinguished Dignitaries, Honorable Members of Congress, ladies and gentlemen.

The theme of this year's days of remembrance is the 50th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials. What makes these trials so significant is the fact that the Allied Forces after victory did not pursue vengeance. Instead they chose to implement a due process of law to hold the German political and military leaders personally accountable for the

heinous crimes they committed against humanity.

We will hear more of those trial proceedings from Justice Breyer, who will analyze the uniqueness of the Nuremberg trials and place them in the proper historic perspective.

I will, therefore, concentrate my remarks on the importance of remembrance.

Remembrance serves many purposes. It helps us look back and wonder how different the fate of Holocaust victims would have been if the Western leaders of those days would have had the stamina at the outset to stand up to Adolph Hitler—a political megalomaniac whose appetite for territorial expansion was unsatiated; whose wild dream of developing a Deutsche heren rasse—a German super race which would enslave all nations he would conquer and create a Third Reich that would last a thousand years.

This insanity could have been stopped in time but it was not. The leaders of Britain and France wanted to believe that they could reason with Adolph Hitler and thus continued to give in to his constantly escalating demands until they finally came to realize that they were dealing with a monster that must be subdued at any price.

By this time, however, Hitler had managed to build a powerful war machine which took enormous sacrifices on the part of all Allied Armies who waged battles from the deserts of Africa to Leningrad and Normandy to defeat the Nazi monster.

It took 6 years of bloody battles with millions of casualties and billions of dollars of military equipment to put an end to the Nazi nightmare that could have been stopped at a much earlier stage.

It is a myth—it is a falsehood to believe that only Hitler and his SS henchmen were the ones who were responsible for the mass murder.

In the Archives of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, we have documents proving that the entire industrial complex of Nazi Germany was involved in the process of mass annihilation. We have documents of German engineering firms praising the efficiency of the crematories they are offering for sale.

We have copies of authentic bids from German chemical companies soliciting the orders for the Cyclone B gas enucleating the economic efficiency of their product for the mass killing of women and children.

We dwell on this past not to inflame fury, but because we believe that in the ashes of this tragic past lies an all important lesson essential to our collective future as a democratic and free society where human differences are respected and human rights are protected.

This is what the Holocaust Memorial Museum is all about.

When the Nazi nightmare was finally brought to an end, the world chose to believe that the lessons of this horrible period would once and for all put an end to hatred and bigotry.

Today, 50 years later, we must admit that we were naively optimistic. The sad facts are, the world has not learned its lesson. Once again, we are confronted with savagery of the worst kind all over the world.

Futile ethnic cleansings and senseless carnage are still rampant. Not only in the distant places such as former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, but the venom of hatred and bigotry has embedded itself even in the heartland of America. This phenomena should be of great concern to all of us.

There are, however, those who argue not to pay too much attention to these crackpots because they are only a marginal fringe of our democratic society. So permit me to invoke memory and remind you that the same

arguments were heard in Germany in the early 30's when Hitler began his quest for power.

Today we are beginning to see more and more blatant disregard and lack of respect for the sanctity of martyrdom.

Let me cite to you just two examples. Only recently have we learned that Franjo Tudjman, the President of Croatia, has announced plans to bring to Jasenovac the bones of the Croatian Ustasias. The Ustasias were Hitler's most willing collaborators.

Today, President Tudjman wants to mingle the bones of the Ustasias killers with the bones of victims whom they have murdered in Jasenovac.

Jasenovac is the largest death camp of Yugoslavia where tens of thousands of victims are buried in mass graves.

This proposed callous desecration of the Jasenovac Memorial cannot be permitted to happen.

I have conveyed to President Tudjman our outrage over this defilement and have advised him that the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council will not remain silent until these evil plans are scrapped.

Another example is Auschwitz. In Auschwitz, plans were in the making to build a shopping center only 100 yards away from the camp perimeter. Again, we expressed our dismay, we intervened and protested—this time successfully. I am pleased to inform you that I have received written confirmation from Polish Ambassador, Jerzy Kozminsky, that the development of the shopping center within the confines of Auschwitz has been canceled.

The Polish authorities are to be commended for putting a stop to what would have been a painful desecration of memory.

The Nuremberg trials teach us that we cannot remain indifferent; we cannot look the other way when evil plans are in the making; when atrocities take place and the truth is distorted. We must always be ready to speak out against evil no matter where it takes place—and no matter who the victims are.

The victims of the Nazi inferno deserve the dignity of being left in peace and we at the Holocaust Memorial Council are determined to do all that is in our power to make sure that the ashes of the victims remain undefiled and undisturbed. This is our sacred task that we must fulfill today, tomorrow and in years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RAMESH TANDON,
M.D.

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Ramesh Tandon, M.D., on his completion of service as president of the Passaic County, NJ, Medical Society. Dr. Tandon is a dedicated and talented physician whose skill is well respected by colleagues and patients alike. He is also a committed civic leader who has supported our schools, police, and civic organizations.

Dr. Tandon, who holds undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Allahabad in his native India, began his career in India in 1968 as an intern at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi. In 1972, he emigrated to New York, where he did a residency in general surgery at the Hospital of Joint Disease. He later became an emergency room physician in New York before moving to New Jersey in 1977 to work as an emergency room