

Mr. Speaker, in her youth, she faced the problems and challenges of a time when women were not encouraged to pursue the goal of entering medical school. She was once told by a high school counselor that she could not be both a doctor and a mother. I experienced the same subtle discouragement which actually steered me toward a nursing degree and not into medical school. However, Dr. Dickey chose to ignore the discouragement and focused even more on her goal and task at hand; entering medical school and successfully pursue a career in medicine. Those times for both of us have changed for the better, but she continues today to inspire other young women to enter the field.

Mr. Speaker, as a Registered Nurse who encourages young women to pursue a career in medicine, I am appreciative of Dr. Dickey's efforts in heightening the self-esteem of young women and encouraging them to pursue careers as doctors or any other profession.

Mr. Speaker, I believe her future as president, as well as the AMA's future, will be bright and successful. As she assumes leadership of the AMA, I am convinced that her tenacity, energy, expertise and sincere concern for her profession will benefit that organization, America's doctors and their patients. I congratulate her in advance as she prepares to take office in June, and I wish her the best of luck.

ANNETTE LANTOS PAYS TRIBUTE
TO RAUL WALLENBERG

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Annette Lantos, the wife of our colleague Congressman TOM LANTOS of California has been a leading advocate for the Hungarian Holocaust hero, Raoul Wallenberg. Well before her husband was elected to Congress, Annette had established the International Free Wallenberg Committee to press Soviet authorities to release the Swedish humanitarian from prison. Much of the credit for bringing the tragic plight of Wallenberg to international and particularly to American consciousness has been the result of her work.

On February 8, Mr. Speaker, Annette Lantos delivered a Tribute to Raoul Wallenberg at a special meeting of the Sydney Australia, chapter of WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization), the non-party voluntary charitable women's organization which is similar to the organization Hadassah here in the United States. I have received reports of her exceptional presentation, and I ask that her recent address be placed in the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO RAUL WALLENBERG

(By Annette Lantos)

Fifty-four years ago, on March 19, 1944, as the Nazi's campaign of terror and genocide finally overtook our native land of Hungary, a young idealistic Swede made his way to Budapest to interpose his own frail body between the Nazi war machine and the persecuted, unarmed thousands facing deportation and annihilation in Auschwitz.

By the time Raoul Wallenberg arrived to Budapest, 500,000 Jews from the Hungarian countryside had already been taken to Auschwitz where most perished. But Raoul

Wallenberg's arrival to Budapest delayed the execution of the death sentence upon the remaining 300,000 Jews of the cities long enough to enable some 100,000 of them—including my husband Tom and myself—to survive. It is on their behalf, and behalf of their children and their grandchildren that my husband, Tom, and I have dedicated many years of our lives to make Wallenberg's story known, and to honor this great man.

When I began my work for Wallenberg in 1975, I had two goals in mind. First and foremost, I wanted to free him from the horrors of the Gulag where he was languishing—by that time for over 30 years. The second goal was to make Raoul Wallenberg's life and accomplishments penetrate the consciousness of mankind and to inspire all those who are touched by his story to become better, more unselfish, more caring human beings, willing to transcend the barriers of race, religion, or nationality in their concern for others.

Raoul Wallenberg taught us two major things. First, he taught us that a single individual committed to a noble goal can achieve miracles. Second, he taught us that human rights are indivisible, that it is not enough just to be concerned simply with our own human rights.

As Jews or Catholics, Australians or Hungarians or Americans, the only relevant concern for human rights that deserves respect is a concern that transcends religion and race and color and national origin. Raoul Wallenberg did not go to Budapest in 1944 to save Lutheran Swedes. He went there to save Hungarian Jews, with whom he had nothing in common except his common humanity. Raoul Wallenberg not only fought evil, but he also fought indifference, and indifference is the twin of evil. Those who kill are murderers, but those who stand by and do nothing in the face of murder share a complicity in crime. Wallenberg's message was loud and clear. We must fight evil, but just as hard we must fight indifference.

Most of you have heard the story of Wallenberg. He started out issuing Swedish passports to all who managed to reach him at the Swedish legation in Budapest. He brilliantly negotiated with the Nazis and later the Arrow Cross gangsters (Hungarian Fascists) who ran Hungary in the final few months of the German occupation, until they recognized the validity of these fictional documents and exempted their owners from deportation and having to wear the yellow star.

He bought or leased 32 large apartment houses and succeeded in declaring them Swedish territory in Hungary. Thousands of people were crowded into these protected houses, many of whom he brought back personally from the forced marches heading toward the death camps. He rushed the saved persons to the protected Swedish houses in Budapest. He even brought people back from the railroad cars, pulling them out of deportation trains, and from the banks of the Danube river. He interposed his own body between the fallen victims and the machine guns that were leveled at them by the Arrow Cross guards.

When the Russians finally liberated Budapest in January 1945, he believed he was finally safe, and went to their headquarters to report and ask for food and medicine for the surviving victims. The Soviets didn't believe his story. They were convinced that he was an American spy. They kidnaped him on January 17, 1945, and he languished in the Soviet Gulag until 1981, when I personally believe that he finally died still in a Soviet prison.

Even today, people ask me whether I think Raoul Wallenberg still lives. I personally do not believe that he is physically alive anymore, but I do believe that in the spiritual

sense Wallenberg is more alive than most of us who are still around living our ordinary, day-to-day lives.

He is more alive than most of us, because of what he has done. He not only saved lives, but he saved our faith in humanity. He continues every day to touch the lives of thousands of young people the world over, who, hearing or reading his story, testify that they have been inspired to become better human beings and to dedicate themselves to fight for the right of others who are still persecuted and oppressed all over the world.

I would like to share with you tonight the writing of one of these young people who has been inspired by Wallenberg. The letter I am about to read to you was written by my granddaughter Chelsea Swett at age 10, on the occasion of the dedication of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. This truly magnificent museum, a considerable portion of which was paid for by successful Holocaust survivors in America, is not only a memorial to honor those who were consumed in the flames of the Holocaust, but it is intended as a warning to future generations of Americans of the consequences of unbridled racism, religious intolerance and national hatreds.

The exhibits at the Holocaust Museum not only highlight the brutality and callous disregard for human life, but they also reflect the occasional heroic willingness of non-Jews to risk their lives in order to save another fellow human being. I am also very grateful that we succeeded in passing an Act of Congress to rename the street upon which the U.S. Holocaust Museum is located as Raoul Wallenberg Place.

It is most significant that in addition to the permanent exhibition at the museum there is a special exhibit entitled "Remember the Children," which commemorates the more than one million children who died in the Holocaust. This special exhibit also provides a presentation aimed at children so that they can understand the experience of children who suffered in the Holocaust. It is in connection with the special exhibit "Remember the Children" on the occasion of the dedication of the U.S. Holocaust Museum that my granddaughter Chelsea read the following letter:

DEAR MR. RAUL WALLENBERG: I have wanted to write you a letter for a long time. My grandparents told about you all the time. They tell me stories about how you saved hundreds of thousands of people in Hungary from the Nazis and their concentration camps.

You are a hero. Sometimes I think and wonder what happened to you. Grandfather says that it has been almost fifty years since anyone has heard from you. Still, no one can forget what you did and how brave you were.

My grandparents told me that you were very shy and modest. I can't believe that you were ever shy. My grandparents have told me how tough and strong you were against the Nazis. They said that, representing Sweden, you would walk up to people on their way to the camps and with a handful of fake passports, you would hand them out and say, "Of course you're Swedish. Here's your passport," and you'd take them away to safety. You had houses where you would hide these people and they were safe because you flew the Swedish flag over the homes. My grandparents said that you even went onto the death trains and pulled people into safety. Most of all you are my hero because you saved my grandparents. You gave my grandfather a passport so he could escape the Nazis in Hungary. My grandfather is now a Congressman in the United States and he will never forget what you did for him and thousands of others. He worked to pass a law

in Congress saying that you are an honorary citizen of the United States. My grandmother also escaped from Hungary with a Portuguese passport. She, along with my mom, organized a committee to find you after you disappeared. After a long time of looking hard, they still could not find you.

That is why you are a hero to me. That is why you are a hero to so many others. You stood up to the Nazis and did what was right. You saved thousands of lives because you were brave and courageous. Now, a museum for the Holocaust is being dedicated in Washington, DC and it is on a street named for you, Raoul Wallenberg Drive.

There are so many of us who owe so much to you. For all of us, I say thank you for all you did. Thank you.

Your friend,

Chelsea Swett

Some rescuers risked their lives for an hour, some for the duration of the war. Some save one life, others saved thousands. What all the rescuers have in common, and what their message and legacy is to all of us was their inability to avert their eyes to the tragedy of others.

Tom and I have tried personally to carry on this legacy of Wallenberg through the creation of an organization called the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. It is a totally non-partisan organization. Democrats and Republicans work shoulder to shoulder to accomplish its purposes. It has one single goal, to make Wallenberg's message a reality globally. The congressional Human Rights Caucus fights for human rights, wherever human rights are abused.

We try to implement daily Wallenberg's message that human rights are indivisible. We fight for the right of Christians to practice their religion in China and Africa; we fight for the Jews in Syria; we fight for the rights of Tibetans to retain their culture and religion in Tibet; we fought for the rights of ethnic Hungarians in Transylvania; we fight for the Ba'hai in Iran so that the Ayatollah cannot succeed in crushing that peaceful, gentle people.

It is not an accident that in the entire history of the United States that the two men have been honored by the U.S. Congress with honorary American Citizenship—Sir Winston Churchill and Raoul Wallenberg. These two men represent the two great ideals of our century. Churchill, the champion of freedom and democracy, and Wallenberg, the champion of human rights.

I suspect that as time goes on the scope, the heroism and the depth of these two giants will increasingly penetrate the world, and future generations will see their timeless ideals fulfilled in their own lives. Long after all of us here in this room are gone, long after the sound and fury of this twentieth century have been relegated to the garbage heaps of history, the ideals and the memory of Raoul Wallenberg will live on. He will live on to teach future generations what I think is the single most important lesson of human history—that in order to survive, in order to create more livable condition in this world, we must accept the responsibility of becoming our brothers' and our sisters' keepers. This is the meaning of Wallenberg's legacy, and this is the meaning of our struggle for human rights across the globe.

TRIBUTE TO ANNA DEMARTINO

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and honor Anna DeMartino of

Melverne, New York who received The 1998 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Anna attained her exemplary recognition for her fundraising campaign at school for a family affected by domestic violence. With the money raised, Anna purchased winter gloves, hats, toys and stuffed animals, and wrapped them herself. She delivered the goods to a local domestic violence coalition who, in turn, distributed the contributions to a family adversely touched by domestic violence.

Despite statistics that indicate Americans are less involved in their communities now than previously, it is vital we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions such as Anna DeMartino. We must all think how we can ensure the health and vitality of our communities. Young volunteers like Anna provide inspiring examples.

Anna DeMartino should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Anna for her selfless initiative and contribution to the community. She demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Anna demonstrates that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S OBJECTION TO THE TAX CODE SUNSET

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton announced his objection to Congress' proposal to terminate the tax code by the end of the year 2001. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my disappointment in the President's decision to reject our legislation.

The tax code represents governmental arrogance at its highest level—in it punishes the right things and rewards the wrong things. We need to enact tax reform and put more money back into the hands of taxpayers.

Improving the quality of life in America begins with letting families keep more of what they earn. In the last half-century alone, the federal government's take from families has skyrocketed from only five percent to over twenty-four. Add taxes at the state and local level, and nearly half a family's take home pay is spent just to keep government bureaucracies running. Mr. Speaker, lowering taxes returns power to where it rightfully belongs—out of the hands of government and into the homes of families.

In his decision to object to the solution that we put on the table, President Clinton defied the status quo, a 10,000 page tax code that few can decipher and many agree is unfair. This code must be replaced, and setting a deadline on the current system is the right place to start. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand strong in the wake of the President's objection to our plan to sunset the tax code.

ASIAN AMERICANS—A STRENGTH FOR AMERICA

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my disapproval with the unfair and inaccurate references and implications that certain politicians and members of the media have made regarding the Asian-American community's involvement in our political system. Specifically, I take issue with the manner in which some elected officials and members of the press have created a climate of suspicion surrounding the role that Asian-Americans played during the 1996 election cycle.

As an elected official, I am troubled by the reports of potentially unlawful fundraising activities that may have been conducted during the 1996 presidential campaign. Congress must thoroughly review the allegations that have surfaced concerning the alleged fundraising violations, but in a manner that neither questions nor attacks the integrity of any ethnic, racial or religious group living in this country. If Congress finds that an individual or individuals broke federal campaign laws, then the offender or offenders should be punished. But neither Congress nor the media should suggest, nor allow for it to be implied, that an entire community of people is responsible for the improprieties of a few individuals.

With the publicity surrounding those contributors alleged to have given money improperly, the legitimate, appropriate and positive political activity of the Asian-American community has become obscured. The many Asian-Americans that I know and consider to be my friends are active in their communities and are as committed to improving the quality of life for their families and their children as any other group of Americans. In fact, the 1996 campaign proved that the Asian-American community's participation in the political process is growing. Asian-American civil rights and community groups organized an unprecedented nationwide naturalization drive to ensure that eligible individuals became citizens and exercised their full contributory rights. Community leaders encouraged people to speak out about important issues, vote in record numbers, and run for office. This is the kind of participation that, as Americans, we should welcome and encourage, particularly from a community that was effectively silenced by one of this country's most ignoble acts of legislation, the 1884 Chinese Exclusion Act.

Unfortunately, the racial accusations that have come to eclipse the genuine issue of campaign finance reform have created an atmosphere of fear and anxiety among politically active Asian-Americans. We cannot afford, Mr. Speaker, to again silence the voice of this still underrepresented community. Nor can we afford to ignore the positive contributions and electoral accomplishments of Asian-Americans in this country. Advances are being made in science, education and government thanks to the efforts of this community. And just last year in Washington state, Gary Locke, the son of Chinese immigrants, became the first person of Asian descent to win a governorship on the continental United States.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge members of the media, the political arena and the public