

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 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