

The Miami-based artist is also an attorney and a community leader who is able to express his concerns for social and political issues while exploring topics such as community development, racism, violence, poverty, political freedom, AIDS, and Cuba.

Prestigious accomplishments achieved by Xavier include having been commissioned to create public art for organizations such as Nike, HBO, MADD and Indiana's Governor's office. He has been commissioned to create community murals by museums such as the Lowe Art Museum, the Wolfsonian and the Miami Youth Museum.

In Cubaba, this talented painter and social voice has reaffirmed the existence of biculturalism through his celebration of oil colors on canvas and expression of Cuban nostalgia and American reality.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES McSHANE

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 1998*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James McShane on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Mr. McShane was born in County Donegal in Ireland on April 26, 1908. Named for his grandfather and one of ten children, he immigrated to the United States in 1929 and proudly became an American citizen. Mr. McShane patriotically defended his adopted homeland during World War II, enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1941 and serving as a Master Sergeant until October 1, 1945. During the conflict, he found time to marry Marie Stirn, with whom he had three children: Dennis James, Margaret Mary, and Kathleen Bridget. Dennis James has gone on to become an outstanding doctor for the people of California's 14th Congressional District and a long-term partner for Richard Gordon, who serves on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James McShane on his 90th birthday and in honoring his service to our nation and the legacy he has provided us through his loving family.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FOR CORA AND WALTER THARP

### HON. JIM BUNNING

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 1998*

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. Speaker, all of us like to talk about "family values." But all too often we, and particularly the media, focus our attention on "family failures"—neglected children, broken homes, spouse abuse. We should not forget that we need also to headline the success stories of "family values". There are lots of them and they should not be ignored.

One of these success stories is about to be celebrated in my congressional district—the 50th wedding anniversary of Cora and Walter Tharp of Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

The Tharps' 50th anniversary may be an overlooked event in terms of international poli-

tics, and it certainly won't make the national news. But it is a major achievement nonetheless in the lives of two people, their family and the people whom they have touched. And it illustrates very clearly that "family values" can work and that when they do, it is a real treasure.

On August 7, 1998, the family and friends of Cora and Walter Tharp will celebrate 50 years of a couple who understand and live "family values".

It is definitely an event worth celebrating.

#### TRIBUTE TO SIGI ZIERING

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today representatives of the Congress, the Administration, and the Supreme Court gathered in the Great Rotunda of this historic building for the National Civic Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust. This annual national memorial service pays tribute to the six million Jews who died through senseless and systematic Nazi terror and brutality. At this somber commemoration, we also honored those heroic American and other Allied forces who liberated the Nazi concentration camps over half a century ago.

Mr. Speaker, this past week Fortune Magazine (April 13, 1998) devoted several pages to an article entitled "Everything in History was Against Them," which profiles five survivors of Nazi savagery who came to the United States penniless and built fortunes here in their adopted homeland. It is significant, Mr. Speaker, that four of these five are residents of my home state of California. Mr. Sigi Ziering of Los Angeles was one of the five that Fortune Magazine selected to highlight in this extraordinary article, and I want to pay tribute to him today.

Sigi Ziering, like the other four singled out by Fortune Magazine, has a unique story, but there are common threads to these five tales of personal success. The story of the penniless immigrant who succeeds in America is a familiar theme in our nation's lore, but these stories involve a degree of courage and determination unmatched in the most inspiring of Horatio Alger's stories.

These men were, in the words of author Carol J. Loomis, "Holocaust survivors in the most rigorous sense," they "actually experienced the most awful horrors of the Holocaust, enduring a Nazi death camp or a concentration camp or one of the ghettos that were essentially holding pens for those camps."

They picked themselves up "from the very cruelest of circumstances, they traveled to America and prospered as businessmen. They did it, to borrow a phrase from Elie Wiesel, when everything in history was against them." They were teenagers or younger when World War II began. They lost six years of their youth and six years of education. "They were deprived of liberty and shorn of dignity. All lost relatives, and most lost one or both parents. Each . . . was forced to live constantly with the threat of death and the knowledge that next time he might be 'thumbed' not into a line of prisoners allowed to live, but into another

line headed for the gas chambers." Through luck and the sheer will to survive, these were some of the very fortunate who lived to tell the story of that horror.

The second part of their stories is also similar—a variant of the American dream. These courageous men came to the United States with "little English and less money." Despite their lack of friends and mentors, they found the drive to succeed. As Loomis notes, "many millions who were unencumbered by the heavy, exhausting baggage of the Holocaust had the same opportunities and never reached out to seize them as these men did." Their success in view of the immense obstacles that impeded their path makes their stories all the more remarkable.

One other element that is also common to these five outstanding business leaders—they are "Founders" of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington, D.C. They have shown a strong commitment to remembering the brutal horrors of the Holocaust, paying honor to its victims, and working to prevent the repetition of this vicious inhumanity.

Mr. Speaker, Sigi Ziering is one of the five Holocaust survivors and leading American entrepreneurs highlighted in this article. Sigi is the Chairman of Diagnostic Products Corporation in Los Angeles. As we here in the Congress mark the annual Days of Remembrance in honor of the victims of Nazi terror, I am inserting the profile of Sigi Ziering from Fortune Magazine to be placed in the RECORD.

SIGI ZIERING, LOS ANGELES, CHAIRMAN,  
DIAGNOSTIC PRODUCTS CORP.

Holocaust survivors, the saying goes, are conditioned not to cry. But on May 8, 1997, when the founders of the Holocaust Memorial Museum met for a reunion—and when the flags of 32 U.S. Army divisions that had liberated the concentration camps were paraded into the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol—Sigi Ziering, today a serious, reflective man of 70, wept. He spoke of this moment in a speech: "Today I cried because the worst memory of the ghetto and the camps was the feeling of total isolation and total abandonment by the rest of the world. This feeling of utter despair and hopelessness weighed more heavily on us than the constant hunger, the beatings, and the imminent death facing us every minute." His tears, he said, were for the millions who never got to see the flags.

His own ordeal began in Kassel, Germany, where his father, a Polish citizen, was a clothing merchant. In 1939 the father fled to England, expecting his wife and two children—Sigi (then officially Siegfried), 11, and Herman, 12—to follow as soon as they, too, could get visas. Instead, they became trapped in Germany.

The three scraped by until late 1941, when the Germans summarily transported 1,000 Jews, the Zierings included, to Riga, Latvia. Some of the adult men in the group were sent directly to a nearby death camp, and the rest of the Jews were installed in a ghetto bloodstained from murders just carried out. Of the entire 1,000, Sigi Ziering believes that only 16 survived the war, among them, besides himself, his mother and brother.

In Riga the boys actually went to school for a while. But their mother, wanting the Germans to think them useful, required them to drop out and work. Once Sigi had a plum job in a "fish hall," from which he was able to smuggle food back to the ghetto. As he sneaked in with the food, he would sometimes pass dead Jews who had been caught doing the same and been hanged in the streets as an example.