

result of the work of Per Anger. His memoir, *With Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest*, provides essential documentation of many of the events during that tempestuous time. Without this published recollection, our knowledge of Wallenberg's incredible struggle against the Nazi terror would be considerably diminished.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Anger was also a champion within the Swedish Foreign Ministry, urging bolder and more aggressive action by the Swedish government to secure the release of Raoul Wallenberg after he was seized and imprisoned in the Soviet Union in January of 1945. Because Sweden was reluctant to take any action that might antagonize its huge neighbor to the east, it officially pursued a cautious and pusillanimous policy in seeking the release of Wallenberg. Within the Swedish Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Anger was a strong voice for bolder action.

After his retirement from the diplomatic service, Per has continued his efforts. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, he was in Moscow on a number of occasions, at times with members of Raoul Wallenberg's family, in the continuing effort to determine the truth of what really happened after Wallenberg was seized by Red Army troops in Eastern Hungary.

Ambassador Anger has been one of the leaders in keeping alive the memory of Raoul Wallenberg during the fifty years since Raoul Wallenberg disappeared. I remember well many occasions when Anger paid eloquent tribute to the heroism of Raoul Wallenberg. One of his most memorable and moving tributes was given at the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Wallenberg's disappearance which was held at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., on January 17, 1995.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Anger was honored appropriately for his humanitarian contribution to saving the lives of Hungarian Jews. In 1982 he was named one of the "Righteous Among Nations" by Israel's Yad Vashem memorial and museum. The government of Hungary awarded him the Order of Merit in 1995, and in 2000 he was granted honorary Israeli citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on the unspeakable horrors that were unleashed upon the world by the Nazi regime a half-century ago, it is important that we not only remember the atrocities and violence and murder and terror of that time, but that we also consider the sparks of humanity that glowed in the midst of that darkest of midnights. Per Anger was one of those radiant sparks of light. Per Anger had the decency, dedication, courage and the motivation to do great good against incredible odds.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. CLAUDE BURPEE

### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2002*

Mr. DUCAN. Mr. Speaker, very few people alive today can say they knew someone who met President Abraham Lincoln. However, Mr. Claude Burpee of Maryville, Tennessee can. In fact, he can even say he shook the same hand that shook the hand of President Lincoln.

When Mr. Burpee was in elementary school, he had the opportunity to meet a Civil War veteran who was honored by Mr. Lincoln during the war.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Burpee for his unique connection to arguably our Nation's most admired President.

I have included a copy of a story written in the *Maryville Daily Times* that further explains Mr. Burpee's story that I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the *Maryville Daily Times*, Feb. 13, 1991]

#### MARYVILLE MAN RECALLS HANDY LINK TO LINCOLN

(By Adele McKenzie)

An event of 53 years ago is alive today in the memory of Claude Burpee of Maryville. The happening was a reward as a student for making good grades and the privilege of shaking a hand that had many years earlier shaken the hand of President Abraham Lincoln.

Elijah Sanborn, who was then in his early 90's, had served in the Union Army as a youth of 16 or 17 during the Civil War. For a heroic deed, he received a citation which was presented by President Lincoln, who also shook his hand.

Sanborn lived in Acton, Maine, where Burpee was one of 25 to 30 students, grades 1 through 8, attending a one-room school taught by one male teacher. "One of our incentives for making good grades was the great honor of being able to shake the hand of this hero—Elijah Sanborn," remembers Burpee.

As far as Brupee knows, he is the last person living who attended Acton School and had this honor.

Children of today probably would not consider this event of any significance, but 53 years ago it was something to be proud of says Burpee.

He also remembers the old soldier quoting Lincoln as having said: "Don't let your schooling get in the way of your learning."

Two years ago, Burpee visited Maine and was delighted to find his old school, well taken care of and serving another role. Built in 1814, it is now the town library.

After serving in the Pacific Theater with the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II, Burpee spent 25 years in California following his career as a locksmith.

Advancing years and declining health of the parents of his wife, Wanda Joy, brought the Burpees to Tennessee 14 years ago to assist with their care. Burpee said he learned that Blount County was in need of a locksmith and so they chose Maryville as their home to be near their relatives who live at Mascot.

"Maryville has treated me well, and I've made a good living here. One couldn't find a nicer place to live," he said.

Selling his business two years ago, Burpee has devoted much of his time to work with Disabled American Veterans (DAV) serving presently as commander of Blount County DAV Chapter 76 and as alternate commander of the East Tennessee Division of DAV. Burpee is also a member of Blount County Memorial Post 5154 Veterans of Foreign Wars and Capt. Emerson J. Lones Post 13 American Legion.