

colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN HONOR OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognition of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus as they celebrate 85 years of promoting Ukrainian arts and culture through their historic and significant musical achievement focused on the bandura—the ageless instrument and melodic voice of the Ukraine.

The bandura, an instrument that connects acoustic principles of the lute and harp, produces a sound that is both strong and fragile; it is a sound that has echoed the culture, spirit and people of Eastern Europe for thousands of years—a sound kept alive by the artistic talent of the bandurists—a sound that signifies a nation's struggle for freedom—a sound that is taught to every new generation—a sound that reaches across oceans and spans centuries.

The heart and soul of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus encompasses ideals of faith, freedom and the human spirit—reflecting the soul of the Ukraine. The Chorus also represents survival and renewal of a persecuted people. Like countless individuals and groups seeking freedom from the dark days of European oppression and war during the 1930's and 1940's—the artists and musicians of the Ukraine were persecuted for their art, faith, and love of country. But their music and heritage would survive and grow—in the Ukraine, and in communities across North America, as Ukrainian artists and musicians sought refuge in the United States and Canada.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the internationally reknowned Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, as they celebrate eighty-five years of Ukrainian culture and history by blending the ageless sound of the bandura with voices of song—resounding Ukrainian history, faith, and struggle for liberty. The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus symbolizes triumph over oppression and the bandura serves as a stark historical metaphor—lest we forget—the strength in our struggle for freedom, and the fragility in our struggle to preserve it—as fragile and strong as the melody of the bandura.

MEMORY AND ACTION: RUTH MANDEL'S REMARKS COMMEMORATING THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last month leaders and citizens from throughout America gathered in the Capitol Rotunda to commemorate the Days of Remembrance. This annual ceremony assumed special significance this year, as it took place during the 60th anniversary

of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, an event that epitomizes the true meaning of bravery and honor.

In April 1943, the Gestapo set out to liquidate the surviving Jews of Warsaw. Most ghetto residents—over 300,000—had been deported to Treblinka the previous year, where they faced immediate death in the gas chambers of the notorious extermination camp. Those left in Warsaw vowed not to meet a similar fate.

The Gestapo expected the clearing out of the ghetto to be a simple operation. How could a small number of Jews, poorly fed and with few arms, even think about fighting back against thousands of machine gun-toting storm troopers? When the Nazis entered the ghetto on the early morning of April 19th, this question met with an emphatic answer. Young Jewish fighters greeted the Gestapo with a hail of bullets and homemade Molotov cocktails, forcing the Nazis into a panicked retreat. "Juden haben waffen," they yelled at the top of their lungs. "Juden haben waffen." Translated literally: "The Jews have arms." The men and women of the ghetto would not die quietly.

For the next month, the Jews of Warsaw fought with a fierce determination that stunned the Nazi leaders and inspired the world. Few expected to survive, and few did. Nevertheless, the courageous men and women of the Warsaw Ghetto live on through the power of their heroism and the strength of their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, the Days of Remembrance ceremony included moving remarks on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising by Ruth B. Mandel, the Vice Chair of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council (USHMC) since 1993. Professor Mandel is the Director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics and Board of Governors Professor of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Her contributions to the USHMC have been extraordinary, and I'm honored to enter her remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE REMARKS

RUTH B. MANDEL, VICE CHAIR UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL APRIL 30, 2003—THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

*Memory and Action*

Honored guests, one and all: It is April 30, 2003. We gather to Remember and to pay our respects. To light a candle in memory.

The memory of a past we wish not to repeat is tantamount to a hope. Hope can be uplifting or comforting, an expectation that something positive might happen—I hope for good luck; I hope for a cure; I hope for happiness. Yet in itself, hope is a passive stance, a rather weak force.

For memory to be a strong force, it must be the fuel for action. An active stance can be inspired by memory, but it cannot linger in memory. It must move beyond memory.

Thus, as we observe this Day of Remembrance, as we recall our personal nightmares and once again revisit our losses, even as we honor those we memorialize—the millions in the human family, our families, annihilated by guns and gas in the unspeakably grotesque collapse of civilized society, let us each consider how to link memory to action.

In these frightening, worrisome times, the understandable question of despair—"But what can I do?"—is a perfectly rational individual response to the magnitude of pain and threat humanity visits on itself regularly. But it is not an adequate response.

Honoring memory as an active stance requires some effort to use it. Even in the smallest ways, use memory.

Honored guests, one and all: It is April 30, 2003, and we are here to memorialize children . . . and men . . . and women—millions annihilated by guns and gas in the grotesque collapse of civilized society.

Today we pay special tribute to some of those who defied evil with heroic action. Their actions offer lessons, warnings, and even inspiration for the issues we face in our own times. The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 60 years ago is just such an event. At the beginning of a new and, so far, troubled century, the uprising's power to inform, enlighten, and challenge our own choices remains strong.

On April 23, 1943, determined to uphold the honor of the Jewish people in the face of odds they knew they could not overcome, the Warsaw Ghetto fighters wrote:

Let it be known that every threshold in the ghetto has been and will continue to be a fortress, that we may all persist in this struggle, but we will not surrender; that, like you, we breathe with desire for revenge for the crimes of our common foe. A battle is being waged for your freedom as well as ours. For your and our human, civic, and national honor and dignity.

That battle was waged not only in Warsaw. Although Warsaw is most well known, throughout occupied Europe there were many brave individuals who took up arms against their oppressors in order to affirm their humanity, and ours.

These brave fighters bequeathed the memory of heroic action to a people. Reflecting on the future of the Jewish people, they realized that the memory of their efforts would be as important as the struggle itself.

The Warsaw revolt began in desperation; ultimately, it was an act of inspiration. They spoke about fighting for their freedom and ours; they taught us a lesson for their time and for ours. In lighting a candle to remember those who stood against the Nazis, we honor those who perished and are in turn reminded that the moral conscience of the individual can be a great weapon against evil. This was a lesson of the last century; this is a warning for the present one.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA ROCKWELL

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Virginia Rockwell of Swink, Colorado. Virginia has devoted more than twenty years of her life to mentoring and guiding many of Colorado's children. From kindergarten to their senior year of high school—and often times beyond—Virginia has performed her duties as a school counselor in the Swink schools admirably. Virginia's devotion to our youth is remarkable and it is fitting that she be recognized here before this body of Congress and this nation upon her retirement.

In the early nineties, Virginia was State Multi-Level Counselor of the Year, as well as a runner-up nationally. She has worked not only with children but also with their parents and their teachers in order to provide them the support and guidance they need to flourish in school and in life. Even after college, former students have not hesitated to come back and seek help from Virginia, whose door is always open.