

fired even though he was exposed from the waist up. First, he killed the 10 soldiers arrayed around the tank. After the tank fired three shell blasts that knocked him over and left him concussed, Sgt. Lopez got to his feet again and cut down 25 more soldiers until he saw that the advancing Germans would soon outflank his position. He lugged his machine gun to a fall back spot and fired again. Officers witnessing the scene stopped counting when the death toll reached 100. After delaying the German onslaught for precious minutes, Sgt. Lopez dashed into the forest while dodging enemy fire until he rejoined the men he had saved. The American forces in Kriinke1t burrowed in and forced the Germans to bypass the town.

His Medal of Honor citation commended his "seemingly suicidal missions in which he killed at least 100 of the enemy . . . [and which] were almost solely responsible for allowing Company K to avoid being enveloped, to withdraw successfully and to give other forces coming up in support time to build a line which repelled the enemy drive." Despite his obvious valor, Sgt. Lopez remained a modest man who later told the San Antonio Express-News in 2001, "You learn to protect the line and do the best you can with the ammunition you have, and I did it."

Later, Sgt. Lopez served during the Korean War, and undertook a variety of jobs within the Army including overseeing a motor pool. He retired in 1973, yet continued to be physically active as he jogged until he was 88 and only gave up seeing a trainer three months ago. He was a committed family man whose beloved wife passed away in February of last year. As his son John Lopez said "He was a great hero, without being a hero around his family." He is survived by five children, 19 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

This quintessential American story reaffirms my belief in our nation as a beacon for those willing to work and sacrifice to improve their lot in life no matter how meager and humble one's beginning may have been.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN AND DIRECTOR, CHIP ST. CLAIR

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I join the people of the 9th Congressional District and the State of Michigan in announcing the opening of the Michigan Chapter of Justice for Children. JFC is the only nonprofit corporation formed to save at risk unprotected children who have been physically abused or neglected.

Justice for Children intervenes on behalf of abused children when child protection agencies and courts fail to protect them. They help children whose cases have been closed by Children's Protective Services before help has been provided and have no Court Appointed Special Advocate or who even with CASA support, are on the verge of being sent back to an abusive home.

Last year Mr. Chip St. Clair, a Rochester Hills resident, called the JFC National Office in

Houston and said he wanted to make something good arise from his childhood of abuse and violence. Becoming a regional director for JFC fulfills that desire and the abused children of Michigan now have an ardent advocate to save them from the life he had to endure as a child.

Mr. St. Clair was a victim of terrible abuse at the hands of his father—Michael Grant—who was a convicted child murderer. That murder took place in 1970 in Indiana. Grant escaped from the Indiana State Penitentiary in 1973 with the aid of the woman who would become Chip's mother. St. Clair was born in 1975 and did not discover that his father was a murderer until 1998 when he was 23 years old.

"I emptied the glass which was full of horror stories of my childhood and began filling that glass with nobility and honor. Joining JFC and helping abused children represents a major step in the Journey of Justice which began on that fateful day in 1998," said St. Clair.

Justice for Children has been acclaimed by the American Bar Association, jurists from around the country, national television networks, news programs, and bipartisan congressional leaders for its work on behalf of abused and neglected children. Today we honor the Michigan Chapter of Justice for Children and Director, Chip St. Clair for their dedication to help abused and neglected children.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF RUSSIAN CHESS CHAMPION GARRY KASPAROV

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to honor the world's greatest chess player, Garry Kasparov, on the occasion of his retirement.

To chess enthusiasts around the world, Garry Kasparov's announced retirement from professional chess comes as an enormous disappointment. By the standards of international chess he is the greatest chess player of all time. His retirement at the relatively youthful age of 41 raises questions about unfulfilled possibilities. But given his legendary achievements, we can only stand in profound admiration. He is a true champion.

Throughout his career, Garry Kasparov has been a champion of human rights as well. He has been resolutely committed to the freedom of Russia and all of her citizens, and to the replacement of the grisly legacy of Soviet communism with genuine democracy, free speech, freedom of the press, religious liberty, and the rule of law. As chairman of Committee 2008: Free Choice, Mr. Kasparov is leading a natural coalition of concerned Russians dedicated to safeguarding democratic institutions in that country. It is a task worthy of his considerable ability.

Mr. Speaker, for over a decade I have had the privilege of calling Garry Kasparov a good friend. I know that everyone in this chamber shares with me their good wishes for his continued success, of gratitude for all that he has given of himself and to make the world a better place.

HONORING JOHN REX DE VLAMING, JR.

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor the memory of John Rex de Vlaming, Jr. who passed away earlier this year at the age of 85. A distinguished Navy veteran of World War II, John was instrumental in organizing and planning the Kaufman County Veteran's Memorial Park currently under construction in Kaufman.

John was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion, serving as the Post Commander of the Kaufman VFW from 1976–1978, and later as Post Commander of the American Legion, Hamlet P. Jones Post #165 from 1981–1986. In 1990, John earned the Meritorious Service Award from the American Legion, and in 1997, he was recognized by the VFW for his 55 years of membership.

President Calvin Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." As a veteran, John understood that better than most Americans, and throughout his life he did his very best to ensure that our nation never forgets the sacrifices that our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen made to defend our freedom.

As the Congressional representative for the Fifth District of Texas, today I would like to honor the life of John Rex de Vlaming, Jr. and the outstanding work he did on behalf of our nation's veterans.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, later this week, the distinguished Swedish Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Jan Eliasson, will give a briefing to members of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus on the life-saving humanitarian work of Swedish citizen Raoul Wallenberg.

Mr. Speaker, this is a particularly appropriate time for us to recall Wallenberg's sacrifices to serve his fellow man. Earlier this month, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, and shortly before that we marked Yom HaShoah, the Day of Holocaust Remembrance. In January the United Nations General Assembly held an extraordinary session to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg. After courageously saving the lives of tens of thousands of people in Budapest during the Holocaust, Wallenberg was arrested by Soviet troops in January 1945 and disappeared into the Soviet gulag. His action during the Holocaust in Hungary led the Israeli Knesset to bestow upon him the title "Righteous Among the Nations" ("Righteous Gentile").