

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE KAWNEER
COMPANY'S BLOOMSBURG PLANT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Kawneer Company's Bloomsburg plant. The plant is an essential manufacturing center in my district, and provides necessary materials for the construction of a multitude of education facilities, healthcare centers, public buildings, and retail stores across America. With close to 400 employees, the Bloomsburg facility provides work to many of my constituents.

Since 1965, the Kawneer Company has enjoyed tremendous success as a crucial manufacturing facility in the heartland of Pennsylvania. The company has helped fuel the inspiration of architects and building teams for more than 100 years, and has continuously implemented new manufacturing capabilities in order to improve efficiency and quality. Alcoa purchased the facility in 1998, and today, Kawneer Company's Bloomsburg plant is an integral part of Alcoa's Global Business and Construction Systems business.

Built on the Susquehanna River, the plant has persevered numerous times through devastating floods. Most recently, a flood nearly destroyed the facility, filling the shop floor with over five feet of water. Kawneer employees, in conjunction with Alcoa and the state of Pennsylvania, were able to reinvigorate the plant with new life and used the rebuilding opportunity to learn and grow. The plant's recent incorporation of a flexible robotic line is a symbol of Kawneer's commitment to development, efficiency, and progress.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Kawneer Company's Bloomsburg plant as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. I am incredibly grateful for the presence of this productive manufacturing facility which continues to bring prosperity and employment opportunities to my constituents. I look forward to the plant's continued success and innovation in the years to come.

HUNGARY AND THE HARD WAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, 59 years ago today, the Hungarian people rose up against the Soviet-installed communist dictatorship—a revolution that remains a model of patriotism, heroism, and resistance against tyranny today. I submit the following remarks delivered last evening at an event commemorating this momentous anniversary by Louis S. Segesvary, Ph.D., of the American Hungarian Federation.

[From American Hungarian Federation]

HUNGARY AND THE HARD WAY

(By Louis S. Segesvary, Ph.D.)

It was in the month of October, on the twenty-third day in 1956, that the small Eastern European nation of Hungary rose up

in a revolution against the Soviet Union that represented the first major challenge to its military dominion since World War II.

Nearly six decades have passed since then, yet it would be a mistake to discount the significance of this revolution merely because of the passage of time. This was David facing down Goliath in the modern era, and as such it remains and will remain an inspiration to freedom loving people everywhere.

Historians have explained to us the cause of the Hungarian uprising against the mighty Soviet empire as one of chafing under the weight of totalitarian occupation. But this explanation is hardly enough. Many peoples have suffered similar fates without risking the human costs associated with revolution. Those that have been willing to pay the price have been far fewer, and the more formidable the force of the occupier, the even fewer number. Bravery has always been the difference.

In this respect, Hungary and the United States share a similar past. Both risked revolutions against the greatest powers of their times. Only the American patriots were successful while Hungarians were seemingly not.

But it is just at this point that we must be the most careful in assessing the significance of Hungary's revolt against the Soviet Union, which pitted a nation of only ten million against the armed forces of a world superpower. For the sheer courage displayed in this uprising against the most hopeless of odds not only stunned the world but inspired it. As the French writer and Nobel Laureate Albert Camus put it at the time,

"Hungary conquered and in chains has done more for freedom and justice than any people for twenty years. . . . Those Hungarian workers and intellectuals, beside whom we stand today with such impotent sorrow, understood this and have made us the better to understand it. That is why their hope is also ours. In spite of their misery, their chains, their exile, they have left us a glorious heritage which we must preserve: freedom, which they not only chose, but which in a single day they gave back to us."

Practical consequences as well were to follow the Hungarian revolution even as it was crushed by columns of Soviet tanks, for the sacrifices of the freedom fighters helped lead eventually to a crescendo of falling dominos and the dissolution of the entire Soviet Union itself. The seven days of freedom Hungarians had achieved in 1956 meant that Goliath had been mortally wounded, his aura of invincibility shattered. It was just a matter of time before he collapsed into the dust once again just as in biblical times.

Today Hungary is a fledgling democracy experiencing the kind of attacks that don't come from the muzzles of AK-47s or the cannons of Soviet era tanks. Caught in the whirlwind of the migrant crisis enveloping Europe, with nearly 400,000 political and economic migrants transiting the country so far this year on their way to Austria and Germany, it has been subject to harsh public criticism for not being accommodating enough to this flood of humanity.

Regrettably, the fact that Hungary has faithfully adhered to the very protocol established by the European Union to deal with asylum seekers in requiring their registration on entry is generally ignored. But even more fundamentally, the civilizational issues associated with nation states are just as often disregarded. Whatever one thinks of Hungary's insistence on protecting its borders, one also has to consider the broader implications of what chaos will do to Europe's cultural distinctiveness.

Albert Camus' stirring words on the Hungarian revolution are well known. Not as well-known are his prophetic words, just as

profound, about the dangers associated with the breakdown of civilizational rules. While the pitfalls of anarchy meant the unpleasant task of having to make order, he wrote, there had to be order, because without order, he would die, "scattered to the winds."

He could have been speaking here once again about Hungary as well. Only this time it was about a people seeking to preserve the national identity they had secured for themselves with their own blood six decades earlier. It is a stand that not everyone will agree with, it is a stand that can be debated, but it is a stand that is once again resonating throughout the world.

The stakes in this debate are not to be taken lightly because we should never forget that how this migrant crisis is resolved will affect not only this generation of Europeans but generation after generation to come. In a very real sense, these future generations are fated to live with the consequences of the choices made today with no other recourse to them. That means the decisions by all of us affected by this crisis need to be as wise as we can make them and our consciences as clear as we can keep them.

The choices Hungary has taken so far in upholding the asylum precepts of the European Union and safeguarding its borders represent the hard way, a path of thorns on which Hungary has so often found itself in its brilliant but tragic history. It has risked its reputation on these choices, and only time can tell us how sagacious they have been. In the meanwhile, let us hold our rush to judgement. Especially on a day in which we honor Hungary for its great sacrifices for freedom.

**RECOGNIZING THE CONGREGACIÓN
MITA CHURCH ON ITS 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY**

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Congregación Mita Church on its 75th anniversary and recognize their contributions to the community.

The Congregación Mita Church was founded in 1940 in the town of Arcibo, Puerto Rico, by Juanita "Mita" García Peraza. At a time when women were not allowed to officiate in church, Juanita became a trailblazer, founding her congregation with a message of love, freedom, and unity.

The church began with a small group of only 11 members. In this founding group was Teófilo "Aarón" Vargas Sein, current President and Spiritual Leader of the church. In 1943, the congregation opened its first church in the humble community of Las Monjas in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In 1947, the church relocated to the Hato Rey sector of San Juan, where it is currently headquartered. A year later, in 1948, the congregation opened its first church outside Puerto Rico in New York City. As membership grew, Juanita saw the need for a new place of worship and in 1960 the congregation built a new church in Hato Rey.

As part of her missionary work, Juanita established several ministries, social institutions, and music groups. Some of these include: the Ministry of Preachers and Deacons (1941), a ministry of volunteer neighborhood watchmen called "Guardas" (1947), the Strings Band (1950), and a bible school for children called