

won recognition from the American Association for State and Local History and by The New Jersey Center for the Book.

I am pleased to join all those in attendance at the opening of the exhibition, in wishing the Director and Board of Trustees of The Newark Public Library, and Dr. Sibyl E. Moses, continued success for the work they are doing to preserve and promote an awareness of African American history in New Jersey.

HONORING PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL
OF FREEDOM RECIPIENT MRS.
RUTH COLVIN

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mrs. Ruth Colvin, a 2006 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work as the founder of Literacy Volunteers of America.

Literacy Volunteers of America is a national, educational, non-profit organization that trains volunteers to teach Adult Basic Literacy (ABL) and English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). In 2002 Literacy Volunteers of America merged with Laubach Literacy International to become ProLiteracy Worldwide, and now has 1200 affiliates across the United States and over 50 partners worldwide. Her work has made Syracuse, NY, the center of global literacy efforts.

Ruth Colvin is a literacy pioneer and one of our Nation's most effective ambassadors to the world on the importance of education. The founder of Literacy Volunteers of America, she has dedicated her life to helping the less fortunate gain the reading and language skills they need to succeed. Her work has inspired others to lead lives of service and devote their time and talents to combating illiteracy. The United States honors Ruth Johnson Colvin for her extraordinary efforts to provide hope and opportunity to people everywhere.

REMEMBERING THE 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN
UPRISING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this past October, Hungary celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising. As President Bush said in his October 18 Presidential Proclamation, "the story of Hungarian democracy represents the triumph of liberty over tyranny." Like the President, I honor the men and women who struggled—not only in 1956 but for many years thereafter—for democracy in Hungary.

The following remarks were made by Istvan Gereben, a man who came to this country after the 1956 revolution, but who never forgot his homeland. They were delivered by Mr. Gereben in San Francisco on October 22, 2006, at the Remember Hungary 1956 Commemoration, at the California State Building.

REVOLUTION, REBIRTH, FREEDOM: HUNGARY
1956

From the shadows of blood, iron bars, gal- lows and simple wooden crosses we step today into the sunshine of remembrance, hope, duty and responsibility. During the past sixteen years the ideas, guiding principles, heroes and martyrs of 1956 gained amends. The moral and political legacy of the Hungarian Revolution, however, still, even today, is misunderstood, misrepresented and waiting to be fully appreciated.

We remember . . . our friends, the Kids of Pest, the colleagues, the relatives, the familiar strangers. The brave Hungarians. Let's remember the dead here, thousands of miles away from their graves but close to their soul, grieving woefully, but full with hope. We pray for those who in their defeat became triumphant. "For what they have done has been to expose the brutal hypocrisy of Communism for all mankind"—declared Archibald McLeish in the Special Report of Life Magazine in 1957.

Why did it happen? The best answer can be found in Sandor Marai's poem: Christmas 1956. Angel from Heaven.

The whole world is talking about the mir- acle.

Priests talk about bravery in their sermons. A politician says the case is closed.

The Pope blesses the Hungarian people.

And each group, each class, everybody

Asks why it happened this way.

Why didn't they die out as expected?

Why didn't they meekly accept their fate?

Why was the sky torn apart?

Because a people said, "Enough!"

They who were born free do not understand, They do not understand that

"Freedom is so important, so important!"

The fight waged by Hungarians in 1956 was inspired by a burning desire for freedom of the individual and the nation, by want for national independence, by thirst for full national and individual sovereignty and by hunger for inner democracy. This Revolution against the Soviet occupiers was a defining moment in Hungarian history and in the nation's political culture. 1956 was one of the most powerful nails driven into the coffin of an evil and fraudulent tyranny.

Then and continuously since we witness the expression of praise, admiration of and support for the aims of this miracle that is called the Hungarian Revolution.

Let's refresh our memory with some of the more striking observations by our friends here in America and elsewhere in the World:

President John F. Kennedy: "October 23, 1956 is a day that will forever live in the annals of free men and free nations. It was a day of courage, conscience and triumph. No other day since history began has shown more clearly the eternal unquenchability of man's desire to be free, whatever the odds against success, whatever the sacrifice required." (Statement, October 23, 1960)

President Ronald Reagan: "The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was a true revolution of, by and for the people. Its motivations were humanity's universal longings to live, worship, and work in peace and to determine one's own destiny. The Hungarian Revolution forever gave the lie to communism's claim to represent the people, and told the world that brave hearts still exist to challenge injustice." (Excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation issued on October 20, 1986.)

President George W. Bush: "On the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution, we celebrate the Hungarians who defied an empire to demand their liberty; we recognize the friendship between the United States and Hungary; and we reaffirm our shared desire to spread freedom to people around the

world." (Excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation issued on October 18, 2006.)

Milovan Djilas: "The changes in Poland mean the triumph of national Communism, which in a different form we have seen in Yugoslavia. The Hungarian uprising is something more, a new phenomenon, perhaps no less meaningful than the French or Russian Revolutions . . . The revolution in Hungary means the beginning of the end of Communism." (Excerpt from "The Storm in Eastern Europe," "The New Leader," No. 19, 1956.)

The New York Times: "We accuse the Soviet Government of murder. We accuse it of the foulest treachery and the basest deceit known to man. We accuse it of having committed so monstrous crime against the Hungarian people yesterday that its infamy can never be forgiven or forgotten." (In an editorial in the paper's November 1956 issue.)

I could continue with Statements made by Albert Camus, President Richard Nixon, Sir Leslie Munroe, Henry Kissinger, Leo Chern, Pablo Picasso, Nehru and I could read hundreds and hundreds of pages from the Congressional Record listing the praising remarks of hundreds and hundreds lawmakers uttered in the past 50 years. All the words were saved for posterity, everyone can find and savor them.

October 23, 1956 happened when two powerful ideas—tyrannical communism and the eternal human principles of democracy—met and clashed in the middle of Europe, in the small and defenseless Hungary. In this inherently uneven conflict blood was shed and lives were lost. Imre Nagy and his colleagues were arrested, tried and most of them along with countless Freedom Fighters were executed on June 16, 1958.

Since their death, the political and human challenge has been to find the rationale for their supreme sacrifice. This rationale is the indestructible dignity of every human being. By refusing to beg for his life, Imre Nagy repudiated his personal past for a more hopeful future of Hungary and the world at large.

The significance of his and countless other Hungarians' sacrifice is etched onto the political map of the 21st century. The invented hope of the Hungarian Revolution is taking shape in the recent developments throughout the world. That is the real miracle of the events of 1956 and the subsequent human sacrifices of Imre Nagy and his fellow Freedom Fighters.

The Revolution was brutally and unavoidably defeated.

Why was the fate of the Revolution predetermined? Why did it happen so that when we in the last days of October and the early days of November in 1956 enthusiastically and full with hope sensing victory strolled the streets of Budapest and the cities and villages of Hungary not suspecting that our fate, independently from us, already has been determined. The deadly sentence was delivered by the powers of the world? And if it is so why was the verdict such as it was?

Even after 50 years there is still no answer.

The questions are not new. The lack of answer frustrated many historians, political scientists but none had the determination, the skill, the objectivity and patience to provide an authentic answer.

Robert Murphy, who, in the absence of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles from Washington, attended to the day to day business of the State Department during the Hungarian Revolution, summarized his frustration caused by not being able to find a satisfactory answer to Hungary's demands in his autobiography, *Diplomat Among Warriors*, published in 1964 this way:

"In retrospect, world acceptance of the Russian aggression in Hungary is still incredible. For sheer perfidy and relentless