

aired on the Public Broadcasting Service this past Monday, January 21, 2008, focuses on Shriver's visionary devotion to activism. By highlighting his role in the civil rights movement and the war on poverty, this powerful film will help spread Sargent Shriver's message of patriotic service.

In closing, I extend my most sincere gratitude to Robert Sargent Shriver. As a result of this film, his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of Americans.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize one of America's most respected and distinguished lawmakers: chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, TOM LANTOS of California.

The story of Congressman LANTOS is unique in American history, and one that serves as an inspiration to each of us. Born in Budapest, Hungary, on February 1, 1928, this young man displayed the type of intellectual precociousness characteristic of our great statesmen of the past. It was during his youth in Central Europe that Congressman LANTOS experienced great joys but also endured a most terrible tragedy.

By the time he was 16 years old, the Nazis had occupied his native Hungary, and as a result of being born into a Jewish family, Congressman LANTOS was soon taken to a forced labor camp. Through unimaginable perseverance and resolve, he survived long enough to escape and then complete the 22-mile trek to a safe house run by Swedish humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg. Sadly, like so many other Jewish families torn apart by the Holocaust, Congressman LANTOS lost his family in the ordeal.

A bright moment during these darkest of times in human history was the reunification of two childhood sweethearts. TOM and his lovely wife Annette first met as children growing up in Budapest, and they have now entered their 58th year of devoted marriage to one another.

Two years after the last shots of World War II were fired, Congressman LANTOS won a scholarship to study in the United States. Arriving in America with nothing more than a piece Hungarian salami, he began his studies at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he received a B.A. and M.A. in economics. This young academic then moved to San Francisco in 1950, where he began graduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley, eventually receiving his Ph.D. in economics.

Following three decades as a college professor in economics, TOM was elected to Congress in 1980 from the State of California. Ever since, Congressman LANTOS has enjoyed as fine a career in public service as any lawmaker of his generation. Perhaps his greatest single contribution to our cherished branch of

government was his founding, along with Congressman John Edward Porter of Illinois, of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1983. In the intervening quarter-century, the caucus has brought much-needed attention to the most pressing human rights crises around the world. In 1987, the caucus became the first official U.S. entity to welcome recent Congressional Gold Medal recipient, his Holiness the Dalai Lama, to the United States.

Considering Congressman LANTOS' wealth of intellect and wisdom in the field of foreign policy, the United States has been privileged to have him serve as chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for the past 12 months, where he previously served as ranking member. From demanding tougher sanctions on the Iranian government to standing up for democracy and human rights in Burma, his chairmanship has been nothing short of masterful in these most difficult of times. I can stand up here today, with the full confidence of my colleagues in the Senate, and say that American foreign policy has been greatly enriched by the contributions of Congressman LANTOS throughout his tenure in the House of Representatives.

I met TOM before I came to Washington in 1982. He is terrific in so many ways and he is devoted to his wife, children, and grandchildren. His No. 1 priority is his two beautiful daughters, 17 fantastic grandchildren, and two wonderful great-grandchildren. He loves them and loves to talk about them.

I served with Chairman LANTOS during my years as a Member of the House of Representatives and consider him a friend, as well as a leader. I shared the sadness of my fellow Senators and House Members, when Chairman LANTOS announced that he will leave the House at the end of this year. On behalf of all my friends in the Senate, I wish you and your family all the best as you continue your public service in other ways following this congressional session.

RETIREMENT OF BILL GAINER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Bill Gainer for his many professional contributions to my home State and to wish him well as he begins a new chapter in his life. I have known Bill and his wife Gerry for over 20 years. Bill is a proud son of the southside of Chicago. He was born in Roseland to Dorothy Quinn and William Gainer, a second generation Chicago police officer. He and his six brothers and sisters went to St. Wilabroad grammar school and Bill graduated from St. Ignatius in 1958—at 16 years of age. Bill found his calling and started with Illinois Bell in 1960. The next year he joined the Army where he ran phone lines through southern Texas in the 261st Signal Construction Corps.

Starting at the top—of a telephone pole as a lineman—Bill has worked his

way through every operation of Illinois Bell—construction/operations, installation/repair, marketing, network coordination—planning, and business relations. He ended up at the crossroads in a job that combined his depth of knowledge and love for the phone company with his devotion to Chicago and the labor and civic organizations that make it the greatest city in the world.

Leveraging his place in the business community with his Irish heritage, Bill became an active member in the city of Chicago and Cook County Irish Trade Missions. Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Bill as the chairman of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program—Galway Committee in October of 2001. He has hosted mayors, Members of the Irish Parliament and business leaders to promote trade and business development between Chicago and Ireland. Bill is also the chairman of the Business Development Committee for the Cook County Irish Trade Mission to County Down and County Cork. The ever-expanding success of the South Side Irish Parade owes much to Bill. He is the Parade's emeritus chair.

Bill also has been active in many civic and nonprofit organizations. Closest to his heart are his involvement on the advisory board for Misericordia Heart of Mercy and the executive board of the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. Bill was awarded the Misericordia Heart of Mercy Award in 2001 for his dedication and devotion to the Misericordia Home where his sister Rosemary lived many happy years. He is also the past president of the Illinois Veterans Leadership Program, an executive board member of the Irish Fellowship Club, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Tourism Bureau, as well as the Irish American Alliance. As a result of his deep respect for law enforcement and the fact that there has been a Gainer serving continuously on the Chicago Police Department for over 100 years, Bill is an active member and strong supporter of the Hundred Club of Cook County.

Bill is the first to admit that behind all these wonderful accomplishments is his great wife Gerry, a registered nurse and his six children, Bill, Bridget, Nora, Maureen, Mary, and Shelia and four grandchildren. Since they met at Duffy's Tavern in 1964, Bill and Gerry have not only been a great team, but also a lot of fun and a wonderful example of marriage and family. I congratulate him and his family and wish them the very best.

REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, on January 21, the Nation recognized the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is important that we honor this day and that we do not let the significance of Dr. King fade from our memories, as individuals and as a nation.