

has been awarded an honorary Doctorate of Sacred Literature from Logos Christian College and an honorary Doctorate of Christian Counseling by Rhema University.

His tenure at Editorial Vida saw into fruition the Spanish language version of several important Christian texts, the most notable of which is La Biblia Nueva Version Internacional. Dr. Fernandez also organized the translation and publication of Rick Warren's A Purpose Driven Life.

He was also recognized as one of the ten best executives for his leadership at Editorial Vida in 2007. The great success that Dr. Esteban Fernandez has achieved is a result of his passionate devotion to his field and faith and I am truly grateful to call him a friend.

HONORING LIEUTENANT JOHN
FINN ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor I rise today to pay tribute to United States Navy veteran Lieutenant John Finn on his 100th birthday. Lt. Finn is the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient and the last living Medal of Honor recipient from the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. His actions in combat and life reflect bravery and courage of the highest level and I am proud to bring recognition to his accomplishments.

John Finn was born in Los Angeles, California on July 23, 1909, and at the age of 17, with the permission of his mother, he enlisted in the United States Navy. His Navy career started aboard American gunboats patrolling the rivers of Inland China, and in 1940 he was assigned to the Naval Air Station at Kaneohe Bay in Oahu. On December 7, 1941 came the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, and it was this event that presented Lt. Finn with an opportunity to display his extraordinary valor.

As the first attack on the harbor began, Lt. Finn managed to secure and man a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on an instruction stand on a completely exposed section of a parking ramp under intense enemy fire. Lt. Finn, with no regard for his own safety, vigorously fired upon Japanese aircraft with success. Although he was hit many times by enemy strafing fire, Lt. Finn refused to leave his post until the attack ended. It was only under a direct order that he left for the hospital to treat his 21 shrapnel and bullet wounds. However, after receiving medical attention, and despite a great deal of pain and difficulty moving, he returned to repair and rearm returning planes.

John Finn served through the rest of World War II with great distinction and retired from the United States Navy in 1956. He and wife Alice retired to their ranch in Southern California where he continues to live today.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Finn holds the Purple Heart, Navy Unit Commendation, Good Conduct with 2 bars, Yangtze Service Medal, American Defense, American Campaign, Pacific Campaign, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Madam Speaker, John Finn has never seen himself as a hero, but that's what he is; as his Medal of Honor inscription reads, John Finn

truly went above and beyond the call of duty. It was his tenacity and zeal that embodied the American resolve that set the tone for the rest of the war. Men and women like John Finn are responsible for the success of our Armed Forces. To John Finn, we are forever grateful for your heroism and service. You are truly a great American hero.

CONDEMNING SHOOTING AT U.S.
HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, when a crazed and racist gunman takes the life of an innocent museum guard there are no words to fully convey both our shock and sorrow. But disgust with this act of violence and great sympathy for the loved ones of Stephen Johns are nonetheless our nation's response to yesterday's senseless and ugly act of violence. While we cannot undo the despicable crime of a racist murderer, I want to express my deep condolences to the family and friends of Stephen Johns, the 39-year-old guard who gave his life in the line of duty at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum this past Wednesday.

The shots of an anti-Semitic gunman have tragically ended the life of Mr. Johns, but no gunman can silence the truth of history enshrined in the Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington, D.C. When Stephen Johns lost his life to the bullet of an anti-Semite on Wednesday he was joining the hallowed ranks of those before him who stood in the way of hatred and violence against Jews.

This nation will never tolerate the violence and hatred of anti-Semitism and we will preserve the memory of people like Stephen Johns who refused to give an inch to the forces of hatred. We must never allow the sort of racist misinformation and twisted, violent lies that apparently led a gunman down a violent path to gain credence here in America. I pray that this criminal is swiftly brought to justice for this senseless act.

Mr. Johns' fellow museum guards who prevented this tragedy from turning into an even deadlier event also deserve great praise. Their skill, bravery and professionalism no doubt saved lives during yesterday's shooting. My hope is that thanks to their bravery and the dedicated work of the many employees and volunteers at the Holocaust Museum that many millions of Americans will continue to be exposed to the story of the Holocaust. One gunman cannot stop the educational mission of this museum to ensure that acts of genocide like the Holocaust do not happen again.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that on June 11, 2009, I was attending the funeral of my father-in-law who recently passed away, and I therefore missed the six rollcall votes of the day.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote number 329, on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2346, the Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote number 330, on H.R. 1687, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, SW, Canton, OH, as the "Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote number 331, the Ros-Lehtinen substitute amendment to H.R. 1886, the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote number 332, the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1886, the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Act of 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote number 333, final passage of H.R. 1886, the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Act of 2009.

Lastly, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote number 334, on H. Res. 529, condemning the violent attack on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on June 10, 2009, and honoring the bravery and dedication of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum employees and security personnel.

HAPPY 234TH BIRTHDAY, U.S.
ARMY

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 234th birthday of the United States Army. As the oldest branch of the U.S. military, the United States Army has established the tradition of duty, honor and country that has been the standard of excellence, not only in the military but also in private industry.

Two hundred and thirty-four years ago, the United States Army was established to defend our Nation. From the Revolutionary War to our current challenges, Global War on Terror, our soldiers remain Army Strong with a deep commitment to our core values and beliefs. This 234th birthday commemorates America's Army—soldiers, families and civilians—who are achieving a level of excellence that is truly Army Strong both here and abroad. Their willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and to preserve our way of life is without a doubt, the strength of our Nation.

Additionally, in recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our Nation, the Secretary of the Army established 2009 as Year of the Non Commissioned Officer, NCO.

Since 1775, the Army has set apart its NCOs from other enlisted Soldiers by distinctive insignia of grade.

With more than 200 years of service, the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps has distinguished itself as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals. Historical and daily accounts of life as an NCO are exemplified by acts of courage and a dedication and a willingness to do whatever it

takes to complete the mission. NCOs have been celebrated for decorated service in military events ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to charges on Omaha Beach and battles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Today I wish to celebrate the strength of our Nation and the strength of our Army by saluting our Non Commissioned Officer Corps and the Army's soldiers, families and civilians by wishing them a happy 234th Birthday!

CONDEMNING SHOOTING AT U.S.
HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 529 and with deep regret that this measure is necessary. I am saddened deeply by the tragic events that took place yesterday at the United States Holocaust Museum. Especially upsetting was the loss of Mr. Stephen Tyrone Johns, who loyally served and protected those visiting the Holocaust Museum for six years. Mr. Johns was known as a warm, friendly individual who was well-respected by his colleagues. My sincerest condolences and my most heartfelt prayers are with his family and friends, whose lives have been devastated so unfairly.

While yesterday's violence appears to have been the act of single individual, similar actions rooted in hatred and intolerance are not unknown to our society or our local communities. I am distressed by a recent report from the Anti-Defamation League, which indicated that my own state of New Jersey experiences the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents in the country. The persistence of these unacceptable acts throughout our nation indicates that the sinister notions of anti-Semitism, racism, and intolerance continue to plague our society. The Holocaust Museum stands as a testament to the tragedy and suffering that can occur when hatred goes unchallenged and turns to violence. It is also a place to reflect upon tremendous bravery and heroism. Yesterday's events, and the sacrifices made by Mr. Johns and his loved ones, are a profound reminder that we cannot be complacent. We must remain vigilant against prejudice and work together to promote peace and tolerance in our hometowns, across the nation, and around the world.

Finally, I would note that yesterday's events bring to mind the stirring call to action by President Obama at the Holocaust Days of Remembrance Ceremony in April, and I ask that they be printed in the RECORD in their entirety.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY, UNITED STATES CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, DC.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you. Please be seated. Thank you very much. To Sara Bloomfield, for the wonderful introduction and the outstanding work she's doing; to Fred Zeidman; Joel Geiderman; Mr. Wiesel—thank you for your wisdom and your witness; Speaker Nancy Pelosi; Senator Dick Durbin; members of Congress; our good friend the Ambassador of Israel; members of the United

States Holocaust Memorial Council; and most importantly, the survivors and rescuers and their families who are here today. It is a great honor for me to be here, and I'm grateful that I have the opportunity to address you briefly.

We gather today to mourn the loss of so many lives, and celebrate those who saved them; honor those who survived, and contemplate the obligations of the living.

It is the grimmest of ironies that one of the most savage, barbaric acts of evil in history began in one of the most modernized societies of its time, where so many markers of human progress became tools of human depravity: science that can heal used to kill; education that can enlighten used to rationalize away basic moral impulses; the bureaucracy that sustains modern life used as the machinery of mass death—a ruthless, chillingly efficient system where many were responsible for the killing, but few got actual blood on their hands.

While the uniqueness of the Holocaust in scope and in method is truly astounding, the Holocaust was driven by many of the same forces that have fueled atrocities throughout history: the scapegoating that leads to hatred and blinds us to our common humanity; the justifications that replace conscience and allow cruelty to spread; the willingness of those who are neither perpetrators nor victims to accept the assigned role of bystander, believing the lie that, good people are ever powerless or alone, the fiction that we do not have a choice.

But while we are here today to bear witness to the human capacity to destroy, we are also here to pay tribute to the human impulse to save. In the moral accounting of the Holocaust, as we reckon with numbers like 6 million, as we recall the horror of numbers etched into arms, we also factor in numbers like these: 7,200—the number of Danish Jews ferried to safety, many of whom later returned home to find the neighbors who rescued them had also faithfully tended their homes and businesses and belongings while they were gone.

We remember the number five—the five righteous men and women who join us today from Poland. We are awed by your acts of courage and conscience. And your presence today compels each of us to ask ourselves whether we would have done what you did. We can only hope that the answer is yes.

We also remember the number 5,000—the number of Jews rescued by the villagers of Le Chambon, France—one life saved for each of its 5,000 residents. Not a single Jew who came there was turned away, or turned in. But it was not until decades later that the villagers spoke of what they had done—and even then, only reluctantly. The author of a book on the rescue found that those he interviewed were baffled by his interest. "How could you call us 'good'?" they said. "We were doing what had to be done."

That is the question of the righteous—those who would do extraordinary good at extraordinary risk not for affirmation or acclaim or to advance their own interests, but because it is what must be done. They remind us that no one is born a savior or a murderer—these are choices we each have the power to make. They teach us that no one can make us into bystanders without our consent, and that we are never truly alone—that if we have the courage to heed that "still, small voice" within us, we can form a minyan for righteousness that can span a village, even a nation.

Their legacy is our inheritance. And the question is, how do we honor and preserve it? How do we ensure that "never again" isn't an empty slogan, or merely an aspiration, but also a call to action?

I believe we start by doing what we are doing today—by bearing witness, by fighting

the silence that is evil's greatest co-conspirator.

In the face of horrors that defy comprehension, the impulse to silence is understandable. My own great uncle returned from his service in World War II in a state of shock, saying little, alone with painful memories that would not leave his head. He went up into the attic, according to the stories that I've heard, and wouldn't come down for six months. He was one of the liberators—someone who at a very tender age had seen the unimaginable. And so some of the liberators who are here today honor us with their presence—all of whom we honor for their extraordinary service. My great uncle was part of the 89th Infantry Division—the first Americans to reach a Nazi concentration camp. And they liberated Ohrdruf, part of Buchenwald, where tens of thousands had perished.

The story goes that when the Americans marched in, they discovered the starving survivors and the piles of dead bodies. And General Eisenhower made a decision. He ordered Germans from the nearby town to tour the camp, so they could see what had been done in their name. And he ordered American troops to tour the camp, so they could see the evil they were fighting against. Then he invited congressmen and journalists to bear witness. And he ordered that photographs and films be made. Some of us have seen those same images, whether in the Holocaust Museum or when I visited Yad Vashem, and they never leave you. Eisenhower said that he wanted "to be in a position to give firsthand evidence of these things, if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to propaganda."

Eisenhower understood the danger of silence. He understood that if no one knew what had happened, that would be yet another atrocity—and it would be the perpetrators' ultimate triumph.

What Eisenhower did to record these crimes for history is what we are doing here today. That's what Elie Wiesel and the survivors we honor here do by fighting to make their memories part of our collective memory. That's what the Holocaust Museum does every day on our National Mall, the place where we display for the world our triumphs and failures and the lessons we've learned from our history. It's the very opposite of silence.

But we must also remember that bearing witness is not the end of our obligation—it's just the beginning. We know that evil has yet to run its course on Earth. We've seen it in this century in the mass graves and the ashes of villages burned to the ground, and children used as soldiers and rape used as a weapon of war. To this day, there are those who insist the Holocaust never happened; who perpetrate every form of intolerance—racism and anti-Semitism, homophobia, xenophobia, sexism, and more—hatred that degrades its victim and diminishes us all.

Today, and every day, we have an opportunity, as well as an obligation, to confront these scourges—to fight the impulse to turn the channel when we see images that disturb us, or wrap ourselves in the false comfort that others' sufferings are not our own. Instead we have the opportunity to make a habit of empathy; to recognize ourselves in each other; to commit ourselves to resisting injustice and intolerance and indifference in whatever forms they may take—whether confronting those who tell lies about history, or doing everything we can to prevent and end atrocities like those that took place in Rwanda, those taking place in Darfur. That is my commitment as President. I hope that is yours, as well.

It will not be easy. At times, fulfilling these obligations require self-reflection. But