

First, the St. Louis, with more than 900 Jews, including children. We are told that little children on board played a game: they formed a barricade from the deck chairs. Two children served as guards and other children sought permission to pass.

"Are you a Jew?" asked the child guard.

"Yes," was the other child's reply.

"Jews are not allowed to pass," the guard responded.

"Oh please let me in. I am only a very little Jew."

Little or big, Jews on that ship never disembarked in Cuba or America.

A few years later, another ship was fitted up in the Baltimore harbor. Ultimately it became known as the Exodus. Loaded with 4,500 survivors, this boat could not deliver its human cargo to the shores of Eretz Yisrael in 1947. Like the passengers on the St. Louis, they too were forced to return to the countries from which they had fled. Thank God, for their sake, the Nazis had been defeated, but anti-Semitism was not. Jews could still not disembark from a sinking ghost ship called Europe. Pogroms were still taking place.

Finally in May 1948, safe haven was secured when Israel was founded.

I am reminded of another boat. Some 30 years later, another ship full of refugees was floundering in the China Sea. Vietnamese refugees, starving and thirsty, they were picked up by an Israeli ship. In his first official act in office, Prime Minister Menachem Begin ordered that they be given haven in Israel.

And other ships come to mind: Small boats smuggling the precious cargo of Jews from North Africa. Some never made it. Missile boats of the Israeli Navy quietly sailing up to the shores of Africa in the dead of night to take the Jews of Ethiopia home, a journey of hundreds of miles and hundreds of years of culture. Later, the air ships would fly the Ethiopians to Israel by the thousands as they did their Yemenite brothers and sisters 40 years earlier.

Today, the ships of the air continue to fly, loaded with Jews from Moscow and Minsk, Bucharest and Bukhara, Kiev and St. Petersburg. In recent weeks, they have been arriving from Belgrade and Kosovo, too. As Israel has been a haven to Jews, so it has also been, in its small way, a haven to Moslem refugees from Bosnia and Kosovo.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am reminded of one other boat. The ship's log is found in the Tanach, the Jewish Bible, "The Lord then hurled a furious wind upon the sea; there was a heavy storm at sea, and the ship was about to be broken up. The sailors were frightened, each cried to his own god and they threw overboard the cargo that was in the ship in order to lighten it; but Jonah had gone down below deck and was lying fast asleep." Later, when they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah, the ship's crew turned to Jonah and asked, "What have you done? They knew that Jonah was running away from the Lord's presence."

Friends, Jonah could not run away from his duties, and he realized after experiencing the dark and dank belly of the great fish, that you could try to run from your responsibilities even to the depths of the ocean, but you cannot hide. That is why the book of Jonah is traditionally read in synagogues on Yom Kippur.

The late contemporary sage, Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, would quote his grandfather, Rabbi Chaim of Brisk: "The function of the halachic (righteous) man is to redress the grievances of those who are abandoned

and alone, to protect the dignity of the poor and to save the oppressed from the hands of his oppressor."

Yes, that is how we can and must avoid the moral shipwreck caused by apathy and indifference, and bring humankind to safe port. Thank you.

BENJAMIN MEED SPEECH ON THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the remarks of Mr. Benjamin Meed who recently gave an exceptionally moving speech about Yom Hashoah, The Days of Remembrance, at Congregation Emanu-El in my district in New York City. Mr. Meed is Chairman of both The Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WAGRO) and The Days of Remembrance Committee, United States Holocaust Memorial Council. He is also the President of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. Mr. Meed is a champion of humanitarian causes around the world.

TRIBUTE TO THE SIX MILLION JEWISH MARTYRS—56TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

Today, Jews gather to pay tribute to the memory of our Six Million brothers and sisters murdered only because they were Jewish; We gather to honor the fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto; to grieve; and to continue asking the questions: Why did it happen? How could the civilized world allow it to happen? Why were we so abandoned? Six million times, why?

This year's national Days of Remembrance theme is dedicated to the voyage of the SS St. Louis. It is a story of refuge denied; it is a tale of international abandonment and betrayal. Why were they refused entry into this country? How can we ever understand why this was allowed to happen? Today, it is inconceivable to us just how that ship in those days was turned away.

Today 54 years ago the American soldiers came across Nazi Germany slave labor camps and liberated Buchenwald and saved many of us who are here present today. Our gratitude will remain with us forever. We will always remain grateful to these soldiers for their kindness and generosity, and we will always remember those young soldiers who sacrificed their lives to bring us liberty.

Today, wherever Jews live—from Antwerp to Melbourne, from Jerusalem to Buenos Aires, from New York to Budapest—we come together to remember to say Kadish collectively.

Remembering the Holocaust is now a part of the Jewish calendar. We are together in our dedication to Memory and our aspiration for peace and brotherhood. Yom Hashoah, the Days of Remembrance, time to collectively bear witness as a community.

And what lessons did we derive from these horrible experiences? The most important lesson is obvious—it can happen again the impossible is possible again. Ethnic cleansing, genocide, is happening as I speak. It can happen to any one or any group of people. The slaughter in Kosovo and in other places must be brought to an end.

Should there be another Holocaust, it may be on a cosmic scale. How can we prevent it? All of us must remain vigilant—always aware, always on guard against those who are determined to destroy innocent human life for no other reason than birthright.

It is vital that we remember; it is our commitment to those who perished, and to each other; a commitment taken up by our children and, hopefully, by the generations to come. What we remember is gruesome and painful. But remember we must. Over the years, we have tried to make certain that what happened to us was communicated and continues to be told, and retold, until it becomes an inseparable part of the world's conscience.

And yet, some fifty years after the Holocaust, we continue to be repulsed by revelations about the enormity of the crimes against our people. And we are shocked to learn of the behavior of those who could have helped us, or at least, not hurt us, but who, instead, actually helped those whose goal was to wipe us out. Sadly, many of those who claimed they were neutral were actually involved with the German Nazis. They were anything but not neutral.

The world has now learned that the Holocaust was not only the greatest murder of humanity, the greatest crime against humanity, but also the greatest robbery in the history of mankind. Driven from our homes, stripped of family heirlooms—indeed of all our possessions—the German Nazis and their collaborators took anything that was or could be of value for recycling. They stole from the living and even defiled the Jewish dead, tearing out gold fillings and cutting off fingers to recover wedding bands from our loved ones who they had murdered.

But the German Nazis did not—could not—do it alone. The same people who now offer reasonable sounding justifications for their conduct during the Holocaust were, in those darkest of times, more than eager to profit from the German war against the Jews.

None of the so-called "neutral" nations has fully assumed responsibility for its conduct during the Holocaust. The bankers, brokers, and business people who helped Nazi Germany now offer some money to survivors, but they say little about their collaboration. They utter not a word about how they sent fleeing Jews back to the German Nazi's machinery of destruction, nor about how they supported the Nazis in other ways—no admission of guilt; no regret; no expression of moral responsibility.

We must guard against dangerous, unintended consequences arising from all that is going on now. Hopefully, family properties and other valuables will be returned to their rightful owners. But the blinding glitter of gold—the unrealistic expectations created by all the international publicity—has diverted attention from the evil which was the Holocaust.

For five decades, we survivors vowed that what happened to our loved ones would be remembered and that our experiences would serve as a warning to future generations. We must continue to make sure that the images of gold bars wrapped in yellow Stars of David do not overshadow the impressions of a mother protecting her daughter with her coat, upon which a Star of David is sewn, or of a young boy desperately clutching his father's hand at Auschwitz/Birkenau before entering the gas chambers.

The search for lost and stolen Jewish-owned assets has generated enormous publicity and excitement, but it also has created serious concerns. Gold, bank accounts, insurance policies and other assets have become

the focal point of the Holocaust. That somehow minimizes Germany's murderous role.

Great care must be taken to find a balance. The various investigations must continue to uncover the hidden or little publicized truths about the so-called neutral countries that collaborated, and to recover what rightfully belongs to the victims, survivors and their families.

The focus should never be shifted from the moral and financial responsibility of Germany for the slaughter of our people—acts for which there is no statute of limitations, acts for which Germany remains eternally responsible. Our books should not and cannot be closed.

Let us Remember.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall vote No. 97 and subsequent votes due to a bout with pneumonia that resulted in a stay in the hospital. I have listed each missed vote below and how I would have voted on each measure had I been present.

Rollcall votes: No. 97 "yes"; No. 98 "yes"; No. 99 "no"; No. 100 "no"; No. 101 "no"; No. 102 "no"; No. 103 "yes"; No. 104 "yes"; No. 105 "yes"; No. 106 "yes"; No. 107 "yes"; No. 108 "yes"; No. 109 "yes"; No. 110 "no"; No. 111 "yes"; No. 112 "no"; No. 113 "yes"; No. 114 "no"; No. 115 "yes"; No. 116 "no"; No. 117 "no"; No. 118 "yes"; No. 119 "no"; No. 120 "yes".

26TH ANNUAL HANK STRAM-TONY ZALE SPORTS AWARD BANQUET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Silver Bell Club, Lodge 2365 of the Polish National Alliance of the United States, will be hosting the 26th Annual Hank Stram-Tony Zale Sports Award Banquet on May 17, 1999, at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana. Twenty outstanding Northwest Indiana High School athletes will be honored at this notable event for their dedication and hard work. These outstanding students were chosen to receive the award by their respective schools on the basis of academic and athletic achievement. All proceeds from this event will go toward a scholarship fund to be awarded to local students.

This year's Hank Stram-Tony Zale Award recipients include: Tiffany Crawford of Chesterton High School; Analisa Dziedziejko of Valparaiso High School; Dana Gombus of Merrillville High School; Laura Jelski of Highland High School; Kevin Krajewski of Crown Point High School; Matt Kubiak of Wheeler High School; Andrius Malinauskas of Hammond High School; Mike McGinley of Lake Station High School; Troy Mezera of River Forest High School; Karen Saliga of Ham-

mond Clark High School; Mary Samreta of Hobart High School; Todd Smolinski of Lake Central High School; Jeremy Stockwell of Andrean High School; Christopher Trojnar of Bishop Noll High School; Justin Valentine of Lowell High School; David Verta of Whiting High School; Joshua Wyant of Boone Grove High School; Robert Yamtich of Munster High School; Laura Zagrocki of Griffith High School; and Jeff Zeha of Portage High School.

The featured speaker at this gala event will be Mr. Paul Hornung. Mr. Hornung is a former football player from Notre Dame University and is known as the original "Golden Boy." He received the Heisman Trophy in 1956 and is a former NFL player for the Green Bay Packers. He was a star player for the Packers in a variety of positions for many years.

Hank Stram, one of the most successful coaches in professional football history, will also be in attendance at this memorable event. Hank was raised in Gary, Indiana, and graduated from Lew Wallace High School where he played football, basketball, baseball, and ran track. While attending college at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Hank won four letters in baseball and three letters in football. During his senior year he received the Big Ten Medal, which is awarded to the conference athlete who best combines athletic and academic success. After college Hank entered the NFL, where he became best noted for coaching the Kansas City Chiefs to a Super Bowl victory in 1970.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Silver Bell Club, Lodge 2365 of the Polish National Alliance of the United States, for hosting this celebration of success in sports and academics. The effort of all those involved in planning this worthwhile event is indicative of their devotion to the very gifted young people in Indiana's First Congressional District.

CONGRATULATING NORTHWEST BERGEN CENTRAL DISPATCH ON ACCREDITATION

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Northwest Bergen Central Dispatch center on becoming the first public safety communications facility in the nation to receive the prestigious new Certificate of Public Safety Communications Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. This accreditation is national recognition of the highly professional standards employed at NBCD. The fact that it is the first facility in the nation to receive this rating is a special honor for this team of life-saving public safety professionals.

Police, fire and ambulance services—the life-saving assistance they bring—are an essential part of our daily lives. And when those services are needed, they are always needed immediately. That is why it is vitally important that public safety agencies have communications facilities that are efficient and reliable. When a citizen makes a 911 call in

an emergency, that call absolutely must go through, be answered and be responded to appropriately—with exceptions or excuses. With a facility like NBCD, residents of northwestern Bergen County can rest assured that will be the case.

Established in 1994, NBCD provides 911 and general public safety communications services for the municipalities of Ridgewood, Glen Rock, Franklin Lakes, Ramsey and Oakland in Bergen County, New Jersey. The communications center is located in Ridgewood and features a computer-aided dispatch system, touch-screen radios and an enhanced 911 system. Laptop computers are being installed in police, fire and ambulance vehicles to better link them with dispatchers. The nine full-time and 15 part-time employees work in a modern, four-position communications room. Administrative offices, training and meeting areas, equipment rooms and support facilities complete the center. The entire facility is equipped with emergency electrical generators to keep it operating in the event of power failure. The center currently handles more than 125,000 telephone calls annually. It was designed with expansion in mind and could be enlarged to handle additional services or municipalities.

The goal of accreditation is to improve the delivery of public safety services, to improve the communications services that assist public safety officers, and to offer standards by which organizations' effectiveness and efficiency can be objectively reviewed and improved. To receive accreditation, NBCD had to comply with more than 200 standards set by the commission. A team of commission officials visited the site to verify compliance. In the team's report, officials said, "Northwest Bergen Central Dispatch has set the benchmark by which communications centers across the United States * * * must now be measured."

Special recognition is in order for NBCD Manager Robert Greenlaw and his dispatchers for their dedication and hard work. Public safety dispatchers are the public's first contact with the police, fire department or ambulance service in time of emergency. They must possess the ability to remain calm and reassuring while rapidly evaluating the situation and directing help.

Police officers, firefighters and ambulance workers are justifiably known to and given credit by the public. But almost every emergency call begins with a 911 call to a communications dispatch center. Without these hard-working, highly trained and dedicated men and women, our streets would not be as safe as they are today. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Northwestern Bergen Central Dispatch on achieving this accreditation, and on the hard work it took to meet the standards involved.

RECOGNIZING KIM PEEK

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kim Peek. Kim was the inspiration for screen writer Barry Morrow's