

TRIBUTE TO THE MAKE-A-WISH
FOUNDATION ON ITS 20TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its founding. A non-profit organization that has 82 chapters nationwide, the Foundation is the oldest, largest and most-respected wish-granting organization in the world. Since its founding, it has fulfilled the wishes of 60,000 children between the ages of 2 and 18 who suffer from life-threatening illnesses.

The Mid-Atlantic chapter was established in 1983 by concerned Maryland citizens who had heard about how the Foundation began with the granting of a wish of a 7-year-old boy with leukemia in Arizona. Since then, the Mid-Atlantic chapter has fulfilled the wishes of more than 3,000 children from Maryland, Delaware, Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Now one of the four largest chapters based on the number of wishes granted, the Mid-Atlantic chapter has grown from granting only three wishes its first year, to more than 300 in the fiscal year 1998.

Deeply committed to granting the wishes of each approved child, the Foundation depends on not only the service of more than 13,000 volunteers, but also the support of individual and group donations, corporate and small business contributions, foundation grants, community events, and Wish Friends Inc., a non-profit organization that produces events and other developmental programs to benefit the Foundation.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting the Make-A-Wish Foundation for its efforts and success on the behalf of children over the past 20 years, and congratulating Ralph A. Nappi, Jr., President of the Mid-Atlantic chapter of the Foundation, and the entire chapter for their tireless work in ensuring the fulfillment of each child's wish.

SALUTE TO COMMANDER AL
BERNARD

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a man of outstanding accomplishment, Commander Al Bernard.

Commander Bernard is retiring from the United States Coast Guard this week, and I would like to call attention to his extraordinary and meritorious service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Coast Guard is an invaluable branch of the United States military. The men and women of our Coast Guard keep our waters free of narcotics and illegal aliens, perform almost all of the search and rescue missions for the United States and provide security and safety in our waterways.

This is just a small sampling of the duties performed by the Coast Guard. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude for the services they provide.

For 24 years, Commander Bernard has faithfully performed these and other duties in service to our great country. Prior to donning the Coast Guard uniform, Commander Bernard was also a proud U.S. Marine, where he served as an infantryman in Southeast Asia. He has spent more than half of his life in service to this nation and today, we are a grateful nation for his sacrifice.

From his humble beginnings operating small boats as a coxswain to his assignment as liaison officer to the House of Representatives in Washington, Commander Bernard has performed each and every job as a true patriot.

He quickly rose through the ranks of the Coast Guard and in 1979, he was accepted to Officer Candidate School. After receiving his commission, Al's first assignment was as a security officer at Training Center New York, Governors Island. Just a year later, he was promoted to First Lieutenant and deck watch officer on the USCGC Courageous, in Cape Canaveral, Florida. He was then chosen to be executive officer of the USCGC Shearwater in Key West, Florida. In addition, he was made the senior controller at the Pacific Area/Twelfth USCG District Rescue Coordination Center.

From there, Al Bernard's military career skyrocketed. He received command of his first ship, the USCGC Nantucket, in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. It should be noted that Al is the first American of Puerto Rican descent to command his own ship.

Due to his exceptional abilities, Commander Bernard was relocated to Washington to serve his country at USCG Headquarters. He later received command of another cutter, the USCGC Citrus, which was homeported in Coos Bay, OR. After finishing another productive tour, he was made chief, Cutter Management Branch, Coast Guard Pacific Area in Alameda, California.

While on duty in California, he was selected to attend the U.S. Naval War College, where he graduated with distinction, earning a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Upon graduation, Commander Bernard was given his third command, the USCGC Decisive in St. Petersburg, Florida; he later crossdecked to the USCGC Resolute.

Most recently, he was selected in 1998 to become the liaison officer to the House of Representatives in Washington, where I can personally attest he has served every man and woman who wears the Coast Guard uniform with great distinction.

Over the course of his 24 years of service to the United States, Commander Bernard has demonstrated his versatility by serving brilliantly in both the military and legislative arenas. Al Bernard has been recognized for his achievements with numerous awards, such as the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor, the Purple Heart, and Meritorious Service Medal with an "O" device. He has also received seven Coast Guard Commendation Medals with "O" device, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and various other awards.

He was also selected as the 1989 recipient of the U.S. Navy League's Captain David Jar-

vis award for professional competence and inspirational leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Commander Al Bernard on an illustrious military career. Likewise, we salute his wonderful wife, Ann, and their two children, Jason and Bernadette, who made the many sacrifices military families make in supporting their husband and father all these years. We wish Al the best of luck in all his future endeavors, for he is truly a fine example for all Americans.

56TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of our colleagues that today, June 6th, marks the 56th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, known as Operation Overlord.

It was 56 years ago today that a miracle of liberation began. On that morning, democracy's forces landed to end the enslavement of Europe. This miracle took place on the shores of Normandy, as 150,000 troops engaged in the largest amphibious invasion in history. Some historians have gone so far as to acclaim the liberation effort as the greatest military invasion in the history of mankind. Regardless of the label placed on the invasion, the D-Day invasion unarguably represents a noble effort to uphold democracy and free mankind from the evils of oppression and tyranny.

Operation Overlord did not represent the selfish interests of one nation. Rather, it was a humanitarian effort that required the unification of soldiers from many nations. American, British, French, and Canadian soldiers united in a fight for freedom and liberation of not only a nation but of a multicultural, diverse continent. Rallied by this universal goal, General Dwight D. Eisenhower told his troops: "We will accept nothing less than full victory." Victory for Eisenhower and the allied troops was not just to win, it was to uphold and give back the unalienable rights that Nazi tyranny stole from the people.

The attainment of such a goal did not come without sacrifice. 6,600 Americans were killed and many more wounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that all Americans should join in honoring the lives that were sacrificed in that noble battle to facilitate an environment in which oppression and tyranny do not prevail.

Accordingly, I urge all of our colleagues to join in paying tribute to this red letter day in history.

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE G. ANTON

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Cathy

Anton, the Executive Director of the Safety Council of Western Massachusetts, who is leaving the Pioneer Valley to accept a new position in Florida. For over 25 years, in both the human resources and safety fields, she has consistently worked to improve the quality of life of others. As she begins the next chapter of her life, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her, her husband Dennis, and son Geoffrey continued success.

The mission of the Safety Council is to educate and train people in business and the community in the prevention of accident and related losses, and to influence the formulation and application of safety and health policies and procedures in the region. Under the dedicated leadership of Cathy Anton, the Safety Council has done that and more. It has become the region's leading voice on health and safety issues in the workplace.

Preventing unintentional injuries on the job should be a top priority for all Americans. Safety and health are serious issues that affect every person who goes to work each day. In both the public and private sector, we have a unique responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of safety protection. With millions of workers being injured or killed each year, the need for increased education and training cannot be minimized.

Mr. Speaker, during her tenure with the Safety Council, Cathy Anton lead the effort to make western Massachusetts a safer place to live and work. She has made a real difference on behalf of working men and women in Springfield and its surrounding communities. As she prepares for her next professional challenge, I would like to express my personal gratitude for all her efforts.

REMARKS OF SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER GÖRAN PERSSON AT THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 4, Members of Congress joined with representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials and hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the Days of Remembrance in the Great Rotunda of the United States Capitol. The theme of this year's commemoration was "The Holocaust and the New Century: The Imperative to Remember."

After more than half a century, Mr. Speaker, we must still commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust in order to honor the memory of those victims of Hitler's twisted tyranny. At the same time, we must mark this catastrophe because mankind still has not learned the lessons of this horror, as evidenced most recently by the mass killings in Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, the keynote speaker at this impressive event was His Excellency Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden. The selection of Prime Minister Persson was particularly appropriate since he has led Sweden in its commitment to furthering Holocaust edu-

cation and remembrance, both in Sweden and internationally. Under his leadership, Sweden hosted the 44-nation International Forum on the Holocaust in Stockholm last January. In his address at the closing session of the Stockholm Forum the Prime Minister issued a very appropriate call to remembrance: "It is the end of the silence, and the beginning of a new millennium . . . Although we have left the century in which the Holocaust occurred, we must continue to study it in all its dimensions, at all times. We must add more pieces to the puzzle, foster greater awareness of the causes, acquire more knowledge about the consequences."

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Persson has had a distinguished political career in Sweden. Since 1996, he has served as Prime Minister and Chairman of the Swedish Social Democratic Party. He previously served as Minister of Finance, Minister at the Ministry of Education, a Member of the Riksdag (Parliament), and a local government official in Katrineholm. He is married to Annika Persson, and he has two daughters.

Prime Minister Persson's remarks at this year's Day of Remembrance ceremony were moving and particularly meaningful. I ask that Prime Minister Persson's remarks be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give them thoughtful consideration.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OBSERVANCE, CAPITOL ROTUNDA, WASHINGTON, MAY 4, 2000

Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Meed, Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, Honourable Members of the U.S. Congress, Holocaust Survivors. Dear Friends: Today, we meet in the Capitol Roundtable, in the very heart of the American democracy.

Here we meet to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and to honour survivors and liberators.

We meet to demonstrate our strong commitment to make the lessons of the past a living exhortation for the future.

Let me begin by telling you a story handed down to posterity by a teacher in the ghetto of Lodz.

A little boy, whose entire family had been deported, was dawdling in the street, talking loudly to himself. In one fist he clutched a handful of small stones.

First he dropped three small stones. They hit the ground with a faint sound, then two more, followed by another three. Then the little boy quickly closed his fist. In his lively eyes the shiny black pupils stopped racing for a moment. He said:

"Nine brothers like these stones we were once, all close together. Then came the first deportation and three of the brothers didn't return, two were shot at the barbed wire fence and three died of hunger. Can you guess how many brother-stones are still left in my hand?"

As all children do, this boy played games to help him understand the world around him. Only his world was a world of incomprehensible evil. Only his was the world of the Holocaust.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Holocaust was no accident of history. The systematic murder of the Jews did not happen by chance. Nor did the genocide of the Roma, the mass murder of disabled persons or the persecution and murder of homosexuals, dissidents and Jehovah's Witnesses.

It occurred because people willed it, planned it and carried it through. It occurred because people made choices which allowed

it to happen. It occurred, not least, because people remained silent. As the 21st century dawns we must ask ourselves: Can we be sure that the societies we build on today do not house the very same mechanisms that made the Holocaust possible?

Dear friends, the answer is no. We cannot be sure. We have good reason to be fearful. Look around you. Today, well-organized Nazi groups form international networks where they help each other to recruit and train new members and learn how to exploit the weaknesses of democracies, how to use terror and frighten witnesses.

Nazis and revisionists make full and effective use of the new information technology to spread their lies, to sell white power music and to reach potential new members among young people in all parts of the world. Even today, Nazis march in our streets, persecute, assault and murder people because of their ethnic affiliation, sexual preferences or beliefs. The risk we face, is that anti-democratic forces continue to gain support. The danger lies in our failure to learn from history, in our failure to see the connections.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me use the words of a survivor, a well-known Swede, the late Professor Jerzy Eihorn, who passed away less than a week ago. At the Stockholm Forum on the Holocaust in January he said: "To remember the Holocaust is a fragile defence but still the best one against the development of Nazism in our countries—a reminder of Nazism's ruthless cruelty, a reminder that we must never lower our guard, never accept Nazism as a necessary evil within a democracy."

This was his message—a message for all of us. He wanted us to take it with us. Because then, he said: "our suffering has not been entirely in vain. Then we and all those that did not survive, will have contributed to a better world for coming generations." We have to take this message.

We must fight Nazism, racism, anti-semitism and xenophobia wherever and whenever they rear their ugly heads. We must fight them with the lessons of our past, but also with our visions for tomorrow. It will not be easy. But we have no other choice.

The future is not sealed by fate, no more than the bitter history of the past. It is our actions today—the ones we take and the ones we fail to take—that will shape the future. It is you and I, all of us, united in determination to remember, that are the only guarantees we have against the recurrence of an evil past.

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is good reason to be fearful, but surely also to feel hope. People want to know, people want to discuss values and ideas, people want to take responsibility and learn from history.

This is the encouraging conclusion we draw from the national project initiated by the Swedish Government in 1997—Living History. The idea was to spread knowledge about the Holocaust to young people in Sweden, but also to generate an active dialogue between generations on values in general.

To support parents, teachers and students in this task we launched a number of projects. One of these was a book entitled Tell ye your children. The response to the project in general and the book in particular exceeded anything we could have dreamed of. In every second Swedish home with schoolchildren you will find a copy of the book. It was not just sent there. It was ordered by the families who wanted to have a base for the important discussion on democratic and humanistic values. I became convinced that