

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, today is Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom Hoshoa.

Today is a day of reflection and remembrance, not just for Jews, but for everyone who needs to learn from the world's injustices in order not to repeat them. Today we need not just say, "never again." We must live our lives by this mantra.

A few weeks ago, I attended a solemn ceremony to remember the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. As I reflected upon the horror of the death camps where at least 1.5 million innocent people from many different nations died, 90 percent of whom were Jews, I asked myself the following question: how far have we come as a civil society and a world in the last 60 years? How much have we learned? Have we honored their memory by not allowing these atrocities to be repeated?

Unfortunately, my answer had to be not far enough. In the last 15 years, we have seen genocide raise its ugly head in Bosnia, Rwanda and, most recently, in the Darfur region in Sudan, where at least 180,000 people are dead and over 2 million people displaced from their homes.

On Yom Hoshoa, let us recommit and reaffirm our vigilance against acts of horrific inhumanity. Let us make sure that the lost souls from the Holocaust did not die in vain.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the annual observance of the mass genocide perpetrated in the mid-twentieth century by Nazi Germany, the most evil tyranny in the annals of human history.

On Sunday, May 8th, we mark the sixtieth anniversary of V-E Day, when the combined might of the Allied Forces finally ended forever the murderous regime of Adolf Hitler and his brutal henchmen and brought the curtain down on the European theater of World War II. Nevertheless, the Nazi dictatorship already had succeeded in deliberately murdering more than six million Jews and countless other people, in particular gypsies, persons with mental or physical disabilities, and those perceived to have a different sexual orientation or set of political beliefs. They achieved this terrible end through a nefarious network of secret police, a perverted legal process, a barbarous system

of concentration camps that doubled as human extermination factories—and the tacit and often active participation of many, many others from a wide variety of backgrounds and national origins.

We observe Holocaust Remembrance Day in part to honor the memory of those men, women, and children who perished in this tragedy unparalleled in the course of human events. We observe Holocaust Remembrance Day to pay tribute to the courage and suffering of so many who lost their lives. But we also observe Holocaust Remembrance Day for an all too practical, and unfortunately still necessary, purpose: because we must never forget.

The six decades that have intervened since the Nazi regime was forcibly ended may make the Holocaust seem like a chapter in history from a bygone era. Yet each succeeding generation has a moral obligation to remember the Holocaust and its lessons for humanity; that mankind has an enormous capacity for evil; that, if left unchecked, evil can and will prevail; and that in order to overcome a massive concentration of power in the hands of those who would achieve evil ends, we have a moral obligation to act and to intervene on behalf of those without the capacity to resist such evil. These lessons, we must never forget.

For the unfortunate truth is that each succeeding generation in the decades following the Holocaust has been obliged to grapple with mass murder on a geopolitical scale. From the tyranny of Josef Stalin's Gulag Archipelago; to the Cultural Revolution of Communist China; to the killing fields of Cambodia; to the "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia and Kosovo; to the senseless slaughters in Rwanda, the Sudan, and Darfur; to the tumbling twin towers at Ground Zero; and in countless other corners of the earth, man's capacity to inflict grievous harm on his fellow man continues to rage on, all too often unchecked.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, that is why we must never forget. We must never forget the more than 6 million victims, their grievous suffering, and the tremendous loss experienced not only by their loved ones who survived them, but by all of mankind. We must never forget the names associated with that greatest of all human tragedies, names which still to this day all too readily roll off the tongue, drenched in a thousand tears: Auschwitz, Dachau, Treblinka, Babi Yar—the Shoah.

But above all, we must never forget, because we must continue to look forward, as well as behind us. Man must never again allow his fellow man to stand by while the wholesale extermination of entire peoples is attempted under our very noses. We must never forget the maxim offered by Edmund Burke centuries before the Holocaust: that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah.

This is the day that not only the Jewish people should mourn the loss of the six million people stolen from this earth, but a day recognized by all.

We must never forget the attempted extermination of the Jewish people but we must also never forget so we can ensure that it never happens again.

We still see these mass slaughters around the world whether it's in Sudan or what we saw in the 1990's in Rwanda.

The world community must take immediate action so the murder of so many Jews never happens again to any of our brothers and sisters around the world.

This day has a bit more of a special meaning to me this year; 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the concentration camps that stole the lives of six million innocent human beings in ways that are still unfathomable to me.

I had the unique opportunity this year to attend the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of the Nazi Death Camps.

It was a very emotional day listening to the speeches made by many of the world's leaders who were in attendance.

Also this was the first time that I know of that the United Nations convened to commemorate the Holocaust, and the first time that the United Nations convened a special session at the request of Israel.

Along with many of my colleagues, I contacted foreign embassies I have close relationships with to urge them to encourage their home governments to write a letter to Secretary General Annan to allow the general assembly to hold the special session.

Over 135 countries responded to make sure that the special session got underway.

My day at the U.N. also brought me to a special breakout session sponsored by B'nai B'rith International with several Holocaust survivors to talk about their experiences and how they survived the death camps.

One of the speakers was my good friend from California, Mr. LANTOS. When we speak about Yom Hashoah in Congress we should remember that we have a survivor among us and should listen and respect his words when he speaks about the current humanitarian crisis like he has done most recently with Sudan.

At the end of the day a special exhibit was held by the Vad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority about the Auschwitz death camps.

It's impossible to describe the overwhelming feeling you get when you see the visuals of the condition the victims of the concentration camps were in. It still troubles my heart that one human could do this to another.

We must never forget and never allow this to happen again in the world to any group of people.

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent and friend of mine who has visited hundreds of classrooms and spoken to thousands of students about his life in German concentration camps during the Holocaust. Sam Harris—born Szlamek Rzeznik—has taken his remarkable life story and made it a driving force in his effort to help America's children learn the value of tolerance.

In September 1939, when Sam was 4 years old, he and his siblings were taken from their home and confined in the Deblin Ghetto in Poland. Three years later, they were sent to the concentration camp at Deblin and then at Czechochowa until that camp was liberated by Soviet troops in 1945. Only Sam and 2 of his sisters survived their time in the camps, and Sam is among the youngest remaining survivors of the Holocaust.

Currently, Sam volunteers with the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois, discussing genocide and the Holocaust with elementary, middle and high school students to