

time. These lessons are critical, especially in light of the use, in recent years, of genocide for political and tactical purposes by regimes in Europe and Africa.

As an aside, I would like to take this time to also recognize the Holocaust Museum of Houston. Since its opening in 1996, the Holocaust Museum of Houston, like its national counterpart in Washington, has installed exhibits that not only remind visitors of those who died and survived the tragedy of the Holocaust, but also to educate the public, specifically school-age children, about the dangers of racial intolerance.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4115 and urge my colleagues to join me in authorizing appropriations for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to join my colleagues today in support of H.R. 4115, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Authorization. This bill builds upon and continues the legacy of my predecessor Representative Sidney Yates whose hard work led to the passage of legislation establishing the Holocaust Memorial Council in the 96th Congress.

The vision of Congressman Yates and so many others has translated into a powerful, successful, and beautiful testament to the lives that were lost to the Holocaust, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. And what a testament the Museum is. Without about 12 million visitors every year, the museum has served as an incredible teaching tool, as well as a place of peace where people can go to remember those who were lost. Along with the great success of the facility here in Washington, the Museum does substantial outreach to schools and communities throughout the nation. The traveling exhibits of the Museum have brought the lessons of the Holocaust to those who are unable to visit the nation's Capital. The Museum also provides materials for teachers who devote class time to Holocaust commemoration. Anyone, who has visited the Museum or one of its traveling exhibits understands the important role they play and the important lessons they can teach to all Americans.

The Holocaust Memorial Council has also helped guide this body in observance of the Days of Remembrance every year when we take time in the nation's Capital to commemorate the Holocaust.

The bill we are considering today makes permanent the authorization of such sums as necessary for the Museum to continue to operate. Besides going through the formality of making this funding permanent today, we are making an important statement. With passage of this legislation, the members of this body are saying to the nation and to the world that we will never forget and that we will continue to teach our children and our children's children that what happened during one of the world's darkest and most tragic chapters in history must never again be tolerated.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I join my colleagues in supporting this legislation and I thank all members who worked to bring this measure to the floor. I urge all members to vote in support of H.R. 4115.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in hesitant opposition to H.R. 4115, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Authorization Act. We as vigilant Americans must never forget the horrific lessons of the past and those at-

tendant consequences of corporatism, fascism, and tyrannical government; that is, governmental deprivation of individual rights. A government which operates beyond its proper limits of preserving liberty never bodes well for individual rights to life, liberty and property. Particularly, Adolph Hitler's tyrannical regime is most indicative of the necessary consequences of a government dominated by so-called "government-business" partnerships, gun-confiscation schemes, protectionism, and abandonment of speech and religious freedom in the name of "compelling government interests."

Ironically, this measure's language permanently authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; a purpose which propels our very own federal government beyond its constitutionally enumerated limits. This nation's founders were careful to limit the scope of our federal government to those enumerated powers within Article One, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. These limits were further instilled within the bill of rights' tenth amendment which reserves to States and private parties those powers not specifically given to the federal government.

Evidence that such private contributions can properly memorialize this most important historical abhorration can be found given that this museum receives approximately \$20 million in private donations annually.

Mr. Chairman, while I agree it is most important to remember and memorialize with a heavy heart the consequences of tyrannical governments operating beyond their proper limits, ignoring our own government's limits of power and, thus, choosing a means incompatible with its ends to do so must not be tolerated. Hence, I must oppose H.R. 4115.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. The Holocaust Memorial Museum is a powerful tool to educate about the horrors of the Holocaust, to preserve the memory of the millions who suffered, and to teach its visitors how hate and intolerance can lead to tragedy. Over the last 7 years, almost 15 million people have visited the Museum and witnessed firsthand the truth about what happened during the Holocaust. Thousands more have toured the traveling exhibits the Museum coordinates and conferences around the country. In Washington, DC alone, a record 1.5-million visitors have toured the museum this year.

It is critical that a sensitivity to the Holocaust be instilled in our society. Even today there are establishments that are teaching that the Holocaust never happened or avoid it altogether.

I recently heard from a woman that was taught in her high school history class to appreciate the leadership Hitler brought to Germany. In fact, her only assignment on World War II was to write a paper praising Hitler's regime.

Unfortunately, it wasn't twenty years ago that this happened. In fact, there are organizations out there today with the sole purpose of denying that the Holocaust ever happened. This makes the role of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum that much more necessary.

Educating about past wrongs and teaching tolerance instead of hate is the only means we have to help prevent future tragedies.

I urge my colleagues to continue to support the United States Holocaust Memorial Mu-

seum and in doing so, honor the memory of all those who suffered at the hands of hate.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of legislation the House is considering today, H.R. 4115, which authorizes appropriations for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In so doing, this legislation also commends the vital, ongoing work of the Museum in speaking the truth against those who would deny that the Holocaust ever took place or who attempt to negate that the Holocaust specifically targeted Jews for extinction.

I especially commend the sponsor of this measure, Mr. CANNON of Utah, who serves with me on the Holocaust Memorial Council. I wish as well to thank the Chairman of the Resources Committee, Mr. YOUNG, and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Mr. HANSEN, for their great support and commitment to the Museum and this subsequent authorizing legislation.

In its seven year history, the Holocaust Memorial Museum has had 14 million visitors, of which 3.7 million have been children. In addition, 61 heads of state have visited, along with 2,000 foreign officials from 130 nations.

The Museum has sent traveling exhibits to over 27 cities in the past few years. Its teacher program serves 25,000 educators across the United States annually, and its website has received over 1.5 million visits per year since its inception.

The Museum is recognized internationally as a major center for Holocaust research and memory. It contains more than 35,000 artifacts, 12 million pages of archived documents, 65,000 photographic images, oral histories from over 6,000 individuals, a library of over 30,000 volumes in 18 languages, and a renowned registry of Holocaust survivors and their families with a total of 165,000 listings.

The museum has become an invaluable reference for the public, and over 18,000 requests for information are fulfilled each year.

The House Resource Committee's report notes that, "H.R. 4115 reauthorizes and establishes the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as an independent entity of the federal government with the responsibility of maintaining and operating the Museum. This bill assures the continued presence and function of the (Holocaust Memorial) Council by establishing it as the board of trustees of the Museum with overall governance responsibility for the Museum. This bill authorizes necessary appropriations to more effectively operate and maintain the Museum . . . Federal appropriations have averaged around \$31 million annually for the last five years. The budget request for Fiscal Year 2001 is \$34.6 million. Donated funds have averaged approximately \$21 million for the last three years with expected donations of \$21.4 million for 2001.

Mr. Chairman, as a member of the Museum's Holocaust Memorial Council I am pleased to cosponsor this legislation. I also wish to express my support and gratitude for the hard work and dedication shown by the Museum's director, Sara Bloomfield, and its chairman, Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg. I have no doubt that under their guidance, the Holocaust Memorial Museum will continue to be regarded as the pre-eminent Holocaust related institution in the United States.

Accordingly, Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge my colleagues to join in expressing their support for the critically important work of the Holocaust Memorial Museum by adopting H.R. 4115.