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**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: OCTOBER 24, 2007**  
**HONORING THE AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FEDERATION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

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HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

of illinois

in the House of Representatives

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Hungarian Federation on their 100th anniversary. This group, formed in 1906 as a vehicle to advance and protect the interests of Hungarian-Americans, is one of the oldest ethnic organizations in the United States.

Hungarians have been outstanding contributors to our republic since the days of its inception, when Col. Commandant Mihaly Kovats, the Hungarian officer who led the first American cavalry into battle, died fighting the British at Charleston, S.C. in 1779. Their exceptional service and patriotism were again exemplified in 1906 when Hungarian-Americans raised funds for the erection of a statue of George Washington in Budapest, one of the first acts of the newly-formed American Hungarian Federation.

Since its creation, the Federation's noble mission has expanded greatly to assist Hungarians on both sides of the Atlantic as well as advance worldwide the causes of freedom and democracy. They have worked tirelessly to unite those of Hungarian descent, celebrate their shared culture, assist the needy members of their community, and provide relief and shelter to victims of Communist oppression.

In a powerful expression of solidarity with those all over the world who have suffered under Stalinist regimes, the American Hungarian Federation played a pivotal role in the creation of the Victims of Communism Memorial. This monument was dedicated on June 12th by the President of the United States and it honors the more than 100 million people killed worldwide by totalitarian communist regimes.

It is my privilege to honor the American Hungarian Federation on their 100th anniversary and extraordinary contributions to America. Their efforts and labors ensure a brighter future for Hungarians, at home and abroad, as well as for all those who yearn for freedom in our world.

The American Hungarian Federation® (AHF), is a non-profit 501(c)(3), non-partisan, independent organization, founded in 1906 in Cleveland, Ohio. It was incorporated in 1907 and its headquarters were moved to Washington, DC. AHF is the oldest and largest Hungarian-American umbrella organization in the United States. It was established as an association of Hungarian societies, institutions and churches to "defend the interest of Americans of Hungarian origin in the United States." Some of the key founding organizations, such as the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America and the William Penn Association are here with us today.

Over the past 100 years, with the wars and tragedies that befell Hungary, AHF's mission broadened to include support of people of Hungarian descent on both sides of the Atlantic and in the successor states of the Carpathian Basin.

AHF's first major action was a "Statue Committee." In 1902 a movement started to build a Kossuth statue in Cleveland spearheaded by the "Szabadsag" newspaper and its editor Kohanyi Tihamer. Some 60,000 people attended the unveiling, but there were no representatives from Hungary. As a sign of Hungarian and American unity leaders conceived an idea to place a statue of George Washington in Budapest. Construction began on a site in Budapest's beautiful City Park (Város Liget). In 1906, several hundred American Hungarians traveled to Hungary for the unveiling led by AHF's first President, Kohanyi Tihamer.

In 1929, the American Hungarian Federation organized the 1st Hungarian American National Congress, a grand assembly of all Hungarian organizations in Buffalo, New York. AHF was recognized by the United States government as the official spokesman of Hungarian-Americans. AHF worked to extricate Hungary from the grips of Nazi Germany and then from Soviet oppression. It raised millions to aid the relief efforts after WWII, 1956, and recently, Hurricane Katrina.

Today AHF continues to support scholarships for outstanding students beyond the borders, educates decision makers and the public on key issues, ensures the memory of Hungarian contributions is preserved, and remains a watchdog on Human Rights for the Hungarian community and all peoples of Central and Eastern Europe.

In Kohanyi's appeal (Szozat) he wrote:

“Amerika egy millio magyarja, nemcsak hogy koveteljuk, de keresztul is vissuk azt, hogy Magyarorszag nepenek ugyanabban a szabadsagban, ugyanabban az igazsagban, ugyanabban a joletben legyen resze, mint a mely szabadsag, igazsag, es jolet abban az Amerikaban van amelynek lakosai, polgarai vagyunk.”

“We, America's 1 million Hungarians, not just demand, but will work to ensure that the people of Hungary may partake in the same freedom, the same justice, the same prosperity as we, citizens of America, partake.” He envisioned every Hungarian-American wearing the AHF pin.

Our work is not done.

Today, as we commemorate AHF's 100 years of service, we stand ready once again to help ensure our children's children of this great nation remember the sacrifices of their predecessors and the Spirit of Freedom brought with them. I am proud to unveil our plans for a National Memorial to the Heroes of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. The “Spirit of 1956” by Gyuri Hollosy, here with us today, reminds us not only of the deaths of so many brave freedom fighters as they fought impossible odds, but of their bravery and noble cause, as they were carried by Angels in their faith and hope of a better future.

We ask for your support, we ask you to pray for and work for unity. Most vagy Soha!