

Tribute to Congressman Tom Lantos

“If there is to be a meaning to your trip, beyond seeing movies, visiting the museum and having discussions, it is a passionate commitment to act in the face of injustice because that, in the final analysis, is the one purpose and one meaning of our being here briefly on this planet.”

Excerpt from 2004 address by Congressman Tom Lantos to students of The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum ([click here to view address by Congressman Lantos](#)).

The Asper Foundation offers its heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Annette Lantos and the Lantos family on the untimely passing of Congressman Tom Lantos. Congressman Lantos was a man of true integrity, vision and justice. The Asper Foundation is forever indebted to him and Mrs. Lantos for their meetings in the past several years with hundreds of Canadian students participating in The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program. They have been great supporters of the program as well as the [Canadian Museum for Human Rights](#). The words of Congressman Lantos to program students have had a profound impact on their lives, particularly his message that human rights abuses are a clarion call to action, not an invitation to defeat.

In a 2004 interview with the media after one of his addresses to program students, Congressman Lantos was asked “What does it mean for you to talk to these students today?” His answer spoke volumes:

“Events like these are the highlights of my wife’s life and my life. We are Holocaust survivors so we are members of a passing generation. When we have an opportunity of attempting to transmit to coming generations the true meaning of the Holocaust, that we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, that our lives cannot be just private lives but our lives must be involved in a community, we must seek out problems, try to alleviate them and deal with human suffering... these are the ultimate rewards of a long and complicated life.” ([Click here to see interview of Congressman Lantos](#))

The above two comments by Congressman Lantos capture the essence of his life. An exemplar of these noble ideals, his was a life well-lived that continues to inspire countless others to forge ahead with his good works and to fight the good fight against injustice and tyranny.

The recently established Tom Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice is dedicated to carrying on the remarkable legacy of Congressman Lantos. He worked tirelessly to advance the role of human rights and justice in American foreign policy during his distinguished career in Congress. Mr. Lantos was the only Holocaust survivor ever to be elected to the U.S. Congress. The fearing experiences of his youth developed in him the deep-seated conviction that human rights are indivisible and that we are indeed our brothers’ keepers. During his nearly thirty years in Congress, Tom Lantos has acted on those convictions with great passion. He has fought against the genocide in Darfur, on behalf of the exiled people of Tibet, and for the all of those who struggle for their fundamental rights in every corner of the world. The Lantos Foundation will carry forth this proud tradition of service to humanity through its educational and social action programs.

To honour the memory and legacy of this great man, contributions can be made to “Lantos Foundation” and sent to:

The Tom Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice
19 Pleasant Street, 2nd Floor
Concord, NH
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