

[Commending Charles "Carl" Lutz]

1 **COMMENDING THE LATE CHARLES "CARL" LUTZ FOR RESCUING SAVING 62,000**
2 **JEWISH LIVES FROM EXTERMINATION BY THE NAZIS BETWEEN 1942 AND 1945 AND**
3 **FURTHER HONORING THE MEMORY THIS GREAT SOUL FOR HIS COURAGEOUS,**
4 **COMPASSIONATE AND EXEMPLARY ACTIONS IN A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED CRISIS**
5 **OF DEPRAVITY, INHUMANITY AND SOCIAL AND POLITICAL TURMOIL IN WORLD**
6 **HISTORY AND FURTHER PRAISING THIS EXTRAORDINARY HUMAN BEING AS A ROLE**
7 **MODEL OF A WORLD CITIZEN WHO EXEMPLIFIED, KEEN INTELLIGENCE AND**
8 **RESOURCEFULNESS COMBINED WITH OVERFLOWING COMPASSION AND LOVE FOR**
9 **FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS IN THE FACE OF DEPRAVED AND BRUTAL NAZI STATE**
10 **MACHINERY AND DISPLAYED TENACIOUS WILL AND COURAGE IN RISKING HIS OWN**
11 **AND HIS FAMILY'S LIFE TO RESCUE HIS FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS FROM IMMINENT**
12 **TORTURE, TERROR AND DEATH.**

13 WHEREAS, Charles "Carl" Lutz was one of the greatest mass rescuers of Jews during
14 the Holocaust and is credited with saving the lives of more than 62,000 Jews in Budapest
15 between 1942 and 1945; and

16 WHEREAS Carl Lutz was born on March 30, 1895, in Walzenhausen, Canton
17 Appenzell, in eastern Switzerland was the second youngest of ten children; and

18 WHEREAS, Carl Lutz moved to the United States in 1913 at the age of 18 and between
19 1918 and 1920, he studied at Central Wesleyan College in Warrenton, Missouri and later
20 enrolled at George Washington University, majoring in Law and History; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1920, Lutz became Chancellor at the Swiss Embassy in Washington,
22 DC. He remained there until 1926; and

23 WHEREAS In 1935, Carl Lutz was appointed Vice Consul at the Swiss consulate in
24 Jaffa, Palestine and was stationed in Palestine between 1935 and 1941 where he became
25 acquainted with members of the Jewish community; and

Supervisors Ammiano, Bierman, Kaufman, Newsom, Teng, Katz, Leno

1 WHEREAS, Consul Lutz arrived in Budapest, Hungary, on January 2, 1942 and was
2 assigned to be Chief of the Department of Foreign Interests of the Swiss Legation where he
3 represented the interests of the United States, Great Britain, and 14 other countries that had
4 severed relations with Hungary because of its alliance with Germany; and

5 WHEREAS; In one of his first missions, Consul Lutz decided to help young Jewish
6 refugees emigrate to Palestine while serving as the representative of neutral Swiss
7 of British interests in Hungary, which included British-occupied Palestine; and

8 WHEREAS, Lutz worked closely with the Jewish Council for Palestine in which
9 "Palestine Certificates" were issued and which were endorsed by the British authorities and
10 thus assisted more than 10,000 Jewish children and juveniles to escape to Palestine by March
11 1944.

12 WHEREAS, Lutz could not tolerate the treatment of Jews by Hungarian officials, and
13 pioneered the use of an official document called the Schutzbrief (protective letter), an
14 ingenious document designed to shield Jews against being drafted into Hungarian forced labor
15 camps where many people were killed, and later was used to protect Jews while they were
16 waiting for passage to Palestine; and

17 WHEREAS, The Schutzbrief was to be his greatest contribution to the rescue of Jewish
18 people in Hungary; and

19 WHEREAS, After the German takeover of Hungary, Lutz received secret information on
20 the planned deportation and murder of Hungarian Jews and he and his superior, Maximilian
21 Jaeger, decided to appeal to the neutral legations in Budapest for help and included in these
22 legations was the Vatican, Sweden, Spain and Portugal; and

23 WHEREAS, Lutz and Jaeger proposed a united front against the Germans to protest
24 the deportation and murder of Hungarian Jews; and

25 WHEREAS, Lutz decided to place the staff of the Jewish Council for Palestine under
his diplomatic protection and to rename it the "Department of Emigration of the Swiss
Legation."; and

WHEREAS, Lutz began to issuing tens of thousands of new Schutzbriefe and was
careful to always repeat numbers 1 to 8,000 and never to exceed 8,000; and

1 WHEREAS, Each 1,000 names were grouped together into one Swiss "collective
2 passport" and the collective passports were intended to be legal proof that the applicants were
3 under Swiss protection; and

4 WHEREAS, In late 1944, Consul Lutz failed in an attempted to secure a safe haven in
5 Switzerland for more than 200,000 Hungarian Jews; and

6 WHEREAS, In the Fall of 1944, Consul Lutz was opposed to the Hungarian and Nazi
7 establishment of a centralized ghetto of remaining Budapest Jews because he feared that this
8 would simply precede deportation and the Jews sheltered by Lutz were placed in his 76
9 Schutzhäuser (safe houses) in the Saint Stephen ghetto and put under his diplomatic
10 protection; and

11 WHEREAS, In the midst of war, Lutz somehow managed to feed the thousands of
12 Jews under his protection; and

13 WHEREAS, On several occasions, Lutz and his wife, Gertrud, drove to the
14 concentration camp at the Obuda brickyards in the middle of the night in order to rescue Jews
15 from being deported; and

16 WHEREAS, In November 1944, Lutz was responsible for liberating an entire column of
17 1,000 Jews who had been sent on a death march from Budapest to Vienna; and

18 WHEREAS, According to the records of Jewish relief agencies, Consul Lutz was
19 responsible for saving the lives of more than 62,000 Jews, nearly half the Jews remaining in
20 Budapest; and

21 WHEREAS, Carl Lutz received appreciation from the Jewish people. One wrote: "All
22 our friends agree that large numbers of Jews, probably running into thousands, owe their very
23 lives to your courageous intervention with the authorities and your constant readiness to help
24 in every way that was open to you...You will always be remembered in our annals."; and

25 WHEREAS Consul Lutz retired from the diplomatic service in 1961, marking the end of
more than 40 years of service to Switzerland; and

 WHEREAS Lutz was recognized by Yad Vashem in Israel as Righteous Among the
Nations in 1965 and in 1975, he died peacefully in Bern at the age of 80; and

1 WHEREAS, In July 1991, a monument at the entry of the former ghetto in Budapest
2 was dedicated to Consul Lutz; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 hereby commends and honor the late Mr. Charles "Carl" Lutz for rescuing saving 62,000
5 Jewish lives from extermination by the Nazis between 1942 and 1945; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors honor the memory this great
7 soul for his courageous, compassionate and exemplary actions in a time of unprecedented
8 crisis of depravity, inhumanity and social and political turmoil in world history; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOVLED, That the Board of Supervisors wish to praise this extraordinary
10 human being as a role model of a world citizen who exemplified, keen intelligence and
11 resourcefulness combined with overflowing compassion and love for fellow human beings in
12 the face of depraved and brutal Nazi state machinery and displayed tenacious will and
13 courage in risking his own and his family's life to rescue his fellow human beings from
14 imminent torture, terror and death.
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SUPERVISOR AMMIANO



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 992010

Date Passed:

Resolution commending the late Charles "Carl" Lutz for rescuing, saving 62,000 Jewish lives from extermination by the Nazis between 1942 and 1945 and further honoring the memory this great soul for his courageous, compassionate and exemplary actions in a time of unprecedented crisis of depravity, inhumanity and social and political turmoil in world history and further praising this extraordinary human being as a role model of a world citizen who exemplified, keen intelligence and resourcefulness combined with overflowing compassion and love for fellow human beings in the face of depraved and brutal Nazi state machinery and displayed tenacious will and courage in risking his own and his family's life to rescue his fellow human beings from imminent torture, terror and death.


November 1, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 9 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom,
Teng

Absent: 2 - Yaki, Yee

File No. 992010

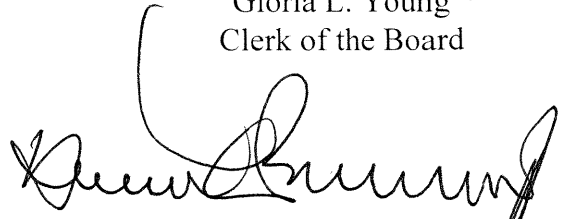
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on November 1, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

NOV 12 1999

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.