



EMBASSY OF HUNGARY
STOCKHOLM

**Dr. Balogh Csaba közigazgatási államtitkár beszéde a
Stockholmi Magyar Nagykövetség nemzeti ünnepi rendezvényén**

Stockholm, 2019.03.13. 18:30

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Tisztelt Magyar Honfitársaim,

Szerettel köszöntöm Önöket a március 15-ei nemzeti ünnepünk alkalmából tartott megemlékezésen és koncerten.

171 years ago a Swedish lieutenant, Carl Fredrik Westerberg, inspired by the revolutionary youth of March 1848 travelled to Hungary to voluntarily join our fight for freedom. Upon his return to his homeland he later wrote enthusiastic articles to Swedish newspapers about the Hungarians, saying „These people with the heroic defense of their freedom, won the sympathy of the whole of Europe”. Later he even named his son after Lajos Kossuth.

Almost a century later another Swedish man arrived to Budapest. When he found himself in a position to help those in the greatest need he acted, did his best and saved thousands of lives. His name was Raoul Wallenberg.

Again, a few years later two Hungarians arrived to Sweden. They arrived at different times, had a different path, but they both came from Hungary and both found a new home here in Sweden. And – one way or another, at different stages of their lives – they were both inspired also by Wallenberg.

Katalin Wáczi was one of those who was saved by Wallenberg during the Holocaust. Later she dedicated her whole life to the memory of the person who saved her life as well as to the other Righteous Among the Nations. She held lectures in high schools throughout Sweden and contributed to the compilation of the Wallenberg room in the Armémuseum. She also initiated the yearly Wallenberg high school memorial competition in Hungary, participants of which I was honoured to address this January.

Gusztáv Kraitzi, a sculptor and ceramic artist, arrived to Sweden after the Hungarian revolution of 1956. Later in his artistic work – together with his wife Ulla – he was also inspired by the heroism of Wallenberg and created the famous Wallenberg briefcase sculptures which became a symbol of humanism. You can find those Wallenberg briefcases at the UN Headquarter in New York, here in Stockholm in front of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, or in Budapest downtown at the Erzsébet tér.

What is in common among these people: Carl Fredrik Westerberg, Raoul Wallenberg, Katalin Wáczi and Gusztáv Kaitzi? – Beside the fact that their lives connected Sweden and Hungary, of course. Each of them was inspired, eager to act, urged by the example and the enthusiasm of others.



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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to announce that the President of Hungary H.E. János Áder has awarded the Order of Merit of Hungary Knight' Cross to Kate Wacz and Gustav Kraitz. As they have been inspired by others during so many years now they inspire us and we feel great honour and respect for that.

Hölgyeim és Uraim!

Wacz Katalin és Kaitz Gusztáv életművét a mai napon a Magyar Érdemrend Lovagkeresztje kitüntetéssel ismeri el Magyarország, amely szól egész életük munkájának, mindenekelőtt pedig szól lelkesedésüknek, buzgalmuknak, a vágyuknak, hogy a világot jobbá tegyék és a bátorságuknak, hogy mertek tenni is érte. Ahogyan őket inspirálták, most ők inspirálnak minket és a következő generációkat.

Köszönöm megtisztelő figyelmüket, thank you very much for your attention.