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**Remarks of Frank Koszorus, Jr., President of the American Hungarian Federation,
on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Bust of
Lajos Kossuth in the United States Capitol**

March 16, 2010

I am delighted to be here representing the American Hungarian Federation and to share with you a brief history of the beginnings of this marvelous bust of Lajos Kossuth.

Our Federation, one of the oldest ethnic organizations in the United States, was founded in 1906 in Cleveland, Ohio, and has served its community and the causes of democracy and human and minority rights ever since.

The Federation's motto, "Faithful Unto Death," was taken from a letter written by Col. Mihaly Kovats de Fabriczy to Benjamin Franklin. Kovats, known as the Father of US light cavalry, offered his sword in service to the United States and died in battle against the British in Charleston, South Carolina in 1779.

Our motto also recognizes the service of Hungarian generals who came to the United States following Hungary's defeat by Austria and Russia in 1849 and fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War.

Just as Kovats' life and service is celebrated, the Federation's motto expresses the historical and inextricable ties between Hungarians and Americans, while symbolizing Hungarians' contributions to America.

Continuing the Federation's strong sense of service and in order to celebrate and commemorate the friendship and shared values between the people of the United States and Hungarians and to acknowledge the incredible, far-reaching and historic changes that were then unfolding in Hungary and the region, the American Hungarian Federation commissioned the bust of Lajos Kossuth and offered it to U.S. Congress twenty years ago.

I am happy to note that the artist, Csaba Kur, was also a member of the board of directors of the Federation.

Well, the rest is history as they say – thanks to the indefatigable efforts of Congressman Tom Lantos and especially of Annette Lantos, we are here celebrating the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the bust of Lajos Kossuth in these hallowed halls of the United States Capitol.

The Federation is both humbled and proud to have been able to make a contribution to this extraordinary event 20 years ago, which enables us to better remember a great Hungarian patriot and champion of liberty and reminds us all that there is work yet to be done, such as promoting inter-ethnic harmony and tolerance in Central and Eastern Europe.

Thank you Congressman Kucinich, Annette and the Lantos Foundation for your support on this issue also.