

## ONE HERO'S STORY

Liviu Librescu was undoubtedly one of those Americans most aware that last Monday had been set aside as Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel.

After all, Liviu was himself a Holocaust survivor. He was only a boy when forced, with his family, to live inside a labor camp the Russians had set up in Romania, and then moved to a ghetto there. He was 15 by the time the ordeal was over, and from that point on, he never took his freedom lightly.

He became a scientist, a professor, and an immigrant to Israel after Romanian, Communist, persecution against him became too much in his homeland.

It was 1985 when Librescu and his wife came to America for a sabbatical, a move that would change his life again. They loved their life in Virginia, and his job at Virginia Tech, so much, they decided to spend the rest of their lives in America.

On Monday, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, Professor Librescu was teaching a class when violence and persecution found him again. This time, it was a disturbed student who was systematically murdering 32 innocent and unarmed victims on the Virginia Tech campus.

According to students in the classroom, the professor and his students heard the gunshots elsewhere in Norris Hall, and realized they were about to be in an extremely dangerous situation. Instead of escaping, the 76-year-old Librescu ran to the door, and held it shut with his body. He urged his students to escape through the windows of the classroom, and they did, immediately.

After the last student escaped, the gunman apparently won the battle over the door, forced his way in, and killed the professor. But because of his heroic actions, a classroom of young adults lived through the worst shooting massacre in the history of the United States.