

CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA
Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims—six million were murdered; Gypsies, the handicapped, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the citizens of Florence, Alabama, to remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and to remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, we the people of Florence should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

WHEREAS, the Days of Remembrance have been set aside for the people of Florence to remember the victims of the Holocaust as well as to reflect on the need for respect of all peoples; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980) the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be Sunday, April 19 through Sunday, April 26, 2009, including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, April 21;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby E. Irons, Mayor of the City of Florence, Alabama, do hereby proclaim the week of Sunday, April 19 through Sunday, April 26, 2009, as **DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE** in memory of the Holocaust victims and in honor of the survivors, as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of the City of Florence should strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning and remembrance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this the 27th day of March, 2009.



Bobby E. Irons
MAYOR