

National Days of Remembrance

PROCLAMATIONS FOR MAYORS

The reading of an official proclamation from a mayor or governor may be included in a Days of Remembrance commemoration. A request, along with this sample proclamation, should be sent to the mayor's office several weeks before the observance. Inviting the mayor to the commemoration is also appropriate.

The language suggested here is based on messages and proclamations sent to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Days of Remembrance program by public officials. Actual wording is the prerogative of the official who issues the document. View proclamations from mayors and governors issued in previous years at <http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor>.

Sample Civic Proclamation for the Days of Remembrance

Sunday, April 15, through Sunday, April 22, 2012

CHOOSING TO ACT: STORIES OF RESCUE

Whereas, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945—six million were murdered; Roma (Gypsies), people with disabilities, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons; and 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, we the people of the City of _____ should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

Whereas, we the people of the City of _____ 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 the City of _____ 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 15, through Sunday, April 22, 2012, including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, April 19, 2012;

Now, therefore, I _____, Mayor of _____, do hereby proclaim the week of Sunday, April 15, through Sunday, April 22, 2012, as Days of Remembrance in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and in honor of the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of the City of _____, should work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.