



HR0074

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Holocaust was the systematic, state-sponsored  
3           persecution and murder of six million European Jews by the  
4           Nazi German regime and its allies and collaborators between  
5           1933 and 1945; and

6           WHEREAS, In addition to perpetrating the Holocaust, Nazi  
7           Germany also persecuted and murdered millions of other victims  
8           using similar forms of state-sponsored terror; and

9           WHEREAS, Antisemitism, the hatred of or prejudice against  
10          Jews, was at the foundation of the Holocaust and was a core  
11          tenet of Nazi ideology; and

12          WHEREAS, The persecution of Jews in Germany and  
13          German-controlled areas evolved between 1933 and 1945,  
14          becoming increasingly radical and culminating in the mass  
15          murder of six million Jewish people; and

16          WHEREAS, During World War II, Nazi Germany and its allies  
17          and collaborators killed nearly two out of every three  
18          European Jews using deadly living conditions, brutal  
19          mistreatment, mass shootings and gassings, and specially  
20          designed killing centers; and

1           WHEREAS, Prior to the formal development of a campaign of  
2 mass murder, Jews in Germany and German-controlled and aligned  
3 territories faced persecution in various forms, including  
4 public identification and exclusion, legal discrimination  
5 through antisemitic laws, organized violence, physical  
6 displacement, internment, theft, and forced labor; and

7           WHEREAS, Beginning in 1939, Nazi officials created ghettos  
8 in cities and towns where Jewish people were isolated, forced  
9 to live, and coerced to perform forced labor; thousands of  
10 Jewish people living in ghettos died as a result of  
11 starvation, rampant disease due to unsanitary conditions,  
12 extreme temperatures, and exhaustion from forced labor; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1941, Nazi leaders began the last stage of the  
14 Holocaust, a mass murder campaign involving mass shootings as  
15 well as gassings at specially designed killing centers that  
16 became known as extermination camps or death camps; the  
17 majority of Jews who had been forced to live in ghettos were  
18 murdered in mass shootings or after being forcibly relocated  
19 to extermination centers; and

20           WHEREAS, The Holocaust ended in 1945 when the major Allied  
21 Powers, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United  
22 States, defeated Nazi Germany and its allies, moving across  
23 Europe and liberating survivors from concentration camps; and

1           WHEREAS, In 2005, the United Nations adopted Resolution  
2           60/7, designating January 27 as International Holocaust  
3           Remembrance Day to mark the anniversary of the liberation of  
4           the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and extermination  
5           center and to honor the six million Jewish victims of the  
6           Holocaust and the millions of other victims of Nazism; and

7           WHEREAS, The year 2025 marks 80 years since the end of  
8           World War II and the Holocaust, and the United Nations  
9           Outreach Programme chose "Holocaust remembrance and education  
10          for dignity and human rights" as its guiding theme for this  
11          year; and

12          WHEREAS, The Holocaust shows what happens when hatred,  
13          dehumanization, and apathy are allowed to destroy individual  
14          dignity and human rights; and

15          WHEREAS, Holocaust remembrance safeguards the memories of  
16          survivors and their testament of life before the Holocaust of  
17          vibrant communities, traditions, hopes, dreams, and loved ones  
18          who did not survive while recognizing the humanity and dignity  
19          of the Jewish people and others who the Nazis and their  
20          collaborators sought to destroy; and

21          WHEREAS, Holocaust remembrance is a bulwark against the

1 denigration of humanity and a clarion call for action to  
2 ensure respect for dignity and human rights; and

3 WHEREAS, Holocaust remembrance is a victory against the  
4 Nazis and their collaborators and against all who would try to  
5 continue their legacy through spreading hatred and Holocaust  
6 distortion and denial into the 21st century; and

7 WHEREAS, In the spirit of remembrance and education,  
8 Illinois became the first state in the United States to  
9 require that public elementary schools and high schools  
10 include Holocaust history and other cases of genocide in  
11 school curriculum; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 we honor the memory of the Jewish people who were victims of  
15 the Holocaust and recognize the bravery of survivors who have  
16 shared their stories with the world; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we honor the memory of the millions of  
18 additional people, including prisoners of war, ethnic Poles,  
19 Romani people, Serbian civilians, people with disabilities,  
20 political opponents and dissenters, people labeled as asocial,  
21 Jehovah's Witnesses, gay, bisexual, and transgender people,  
22 and Black Germans, who were persecuted and murdered by the

1 Nazi state and their collaborators; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we express gratitude for the soldiers,  
3 resistance fighters, and all those who helped defeat the Nazi  
4 regime and end the Holocaust; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we express gratitude for the American  
6 soldiers who fought around the world during World War II,  
7 including the over 980,000 men and women from Illinois who  
8 served in the U.S. Armed Forces and the approximately 22,000  
9 who gave their lives in pursuit of liberty; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we express gratitude for the American  
11 forces that liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp on  
12 April 11, 1945, and who would go on that month to liberate  
13 concentration camps at Dachau, Dora-Mittelbau, and Flossenburg  
14 before liberating Mauthausen in early May 1945; and be it  
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That we urge all Illinoisans to commit to  
17 learning about the Holocaust in order to ensure that such  
18 atrocities are never perpetrated again; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge all Illinoisans to enhance their  
20 efforts to combat antisemitism, bigotry, intolerance, and  
21 racism.