

Dear Mayor:

In accordance with its Congressional mandate, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will once again lead the nation in the annual Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust, commemorated this year from Sunday, April 18 through Sunday, April 25. The Day of Remembrance, *Yom Hashoah*, is April 18.

This year's observance will honor the memory of the Jews of Hungary, deported sixty years ago in the final stages of World War II, as well as those few courageous individuals, organizations and countries, such as Raoul Wallenberg and the War Refugee Board, who attempted to rescue them. The anniversary of the deportations provides the theme for this year's memorial ceremony, captured in remarks by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on March 24, 1944: "*For Justice and Humanity*." During this speech, President Roosevelt called for the rescue of the Jewish population in Hungary, saying, "In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving people rally to this righteous undertaking."

Today, as the Museum begins its second decade as America's memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, individual and communal acts of heroism and rescue during the Holocaust serve as powerful examples of how our nation and its citizens can – and must – respond to acts of hatred and inhumanity.

Recognizing the importance that we, as a nation and individually, must strive to overcome prejudice and inhumanity through education, vigilance and tolerance, your personal leadership in this national commitment to remember is essential. Thus, we respectfully encourage you to commemorate the Days of Remembrance with appropriate ceremonies and programs and to issue, as was done in the past, a special Days of Remembrance Proclamation for distribution to the citizens of your city. A sample is enclosed for your consideration and convenience. A background piece on the theme is enclosed and we encourage you to access the Museum's website at www.ushmm.org for further information on Days of Remembrance.

We are grateful for your leadership and support in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Meed
Chairman, Days of Remembrance

Enclosures