

2015-J1086

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the University of Albany Hillel upon the occasion of its event to commemorate the observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day April 15-16, 2015

WHEREAS, From 1933 to 1945, 5.8 million Jews were murdered in the Nazi Holocaust as a part of a systematic program of genocide, and millions of other people also perished as victims of Nazism; and

WHEREAS, Jews who fell under German control in Eastern and Central Europe were quickly stripped of their rights and property; and

WHEREAS, The Jews who perished at Nazi hands comprised two-thirds of all European Jewry, and in countries such as Poland, which before the Second World War included parts of the Ukraine and Belarus, the Jewish death toll surpassed 90 percent; and

WHEREAS, The People of the State of New York should always remember the atrocities committed by the Nazis so that such horrors are never repeated; and

WHEREAS, The year 2015 marks the 82nd Anniversary of the beginning of the genocide of European Jews, the bleakest, most murderous moment in history; and

WHEREAS, The Holocaust represents the darkest period in the civilization of mankind and must always be remembered in order to prevent its reoccurrence anywhere else in the world; and

WHEREAS, Holocaust Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah Ve-Hagevurah, is a day set aside for remembering the victims of the Holocaust and for reminding New Yorkers, all Americans, and people around the world of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred and indifference reign; and

WHEREAS, Internationally, Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed on the 27th day of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar, which this year falls on

Thursday, April 16, 2015; every year, the students of the University of Albany Hillel observe a twenty-four hour vigil, commemorating this somber time in our global history; and

WHEREAS, Throughout this solemn watch, students will read the names of people killed in the Holocaust, and listen to formal discussions led by their peers and the Hillel staff; and

WHEREAS, The University of Albany Hillel is the center for Jewish life on campus; with 5,300 Jewish students, this vital organization has one of the largest Jewish student populations in the country; and

WHEREAS, With a dedicated staff and exceptional student leadership, the University of Albany Hillel is an integral part of the campus community; the Hillel facilitates the development of a vibrant, diverse, and empowered Jewish community; many different student groups and initiatives offer a wealth of resources and opportunities that enrich students' social, cultural, religious and political lives; and

WHEREAS, Knowing that the events and root causes of the Holocaust must not be forgotten and that, particularly as survivors diminish in number, links must be forged to educate future generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the University of Albany Hillel upon the occasion of its event to commemorate the observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day April 15-16, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the University of Albany Hillel.