

2015-J3681

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day with L'dor Vador: From Generation to Generation on January 27, 2016

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 year 2016 marks the 83rd 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, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which is observed on January 27th each year, is a day set aside for remembering the millions of victims of the Holocaust; this date was designated by the United Nations General Assembly on November 1, 2005, as it marks the date when Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, was liberated by Soviet Troops; and

WHEREAS, To commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Holocaust Museum & Center for Tolerance and Education, located in the Library Media Center, at Rockland Community College, Suffern, New York, is proud to present L'dor Vador: From Generation to Generation, an opportunity for the families of local Holocaust survivors to exchange

their experiences and listen to a lifetime of stories told by their elders on Wednesday, January 27, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee, David Harris, served as the keynote speaker for this auspicious event, speaking eloquently on the Contemporary Meaning of the Holocaust; and WHEREAS, The Holocaust Museum & Center for Tolerance and Education was founded in 1984, and is dedicated to commemorate human suffering during the Holocaust and educate future generations about this unprecedented catastrophe; its lessons of tolerance and respect for all peoples are taught in hope of preventing oppression and future genocides; and WHEREAS, The idea of a permanent Holocaust Museum & Center for Tolerance and Education originated with the Rockland County Holocaust Commission, which was appointed by the County Legislature on May 15, 1979; two years later, the newly formed Holocaust Museum & Center for Tolerance and Education and the Finkelstein Memorial Library signed a historic agreement giving Holocaust education a permanent home on South Madison in Spring Valley, New York; and

WHEREAS, A new museum will be located on the campus of Rockland Community College, Suffern, New York; the college serves a diverse population of almost 8,000 students, and is visited by 200,000 people a year; the museum will be easily accessible by more than 2.5 million residents of Rockland, Orange, Bergen and Westchester Counties; and

WHEREAS, The Holocaust Museum & Center for Tolerance and Education strives to educate, examine and explore the lessons of the Holocaust with authenticity, dignity and compassion; old and young alike may learn from these lessons to create a society of mutual respect and understanding devoid of the hatred of the past; the Museum is committed to paying tribute to those who perished and those who survived; 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
commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day with L'dor Vador:

From Generation to Generation on January 27, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Holocaust Museum and Center for Tolerance and Education at Rockland Community College.