



Proclamation

Whereas: The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945; and

Whereas: Six million Jews 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: Learning how and why the Holocaust happened is an important component of education for all Americans to learn about the importance of safeguarding individual freedoms and building a just society for all its people; and

Whereas: More than 70 years after the conclusion of World War II, the decreasing number of eye witnesses and the growing distance from the history makes it vital to institutionalize education about the events of the Holocaust and its lessons about the moral responsibilities of individuals, governments, and all sectors of society; and

Whereas: The United States is committed to promoting Holocaust education as a means for countries around the world to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of genocide prevention today; and

Whereas: We, the City of Virginia Beach have a strong stake in remembering and learning about the Holocaust as a warning about the danger of what can happen when hate goes unchallenged and when oppression is met with indifference; and

Whereas: The Days of Remembrance are a time for the people of Virginia Beach to remember the victims of the Holocaust; and

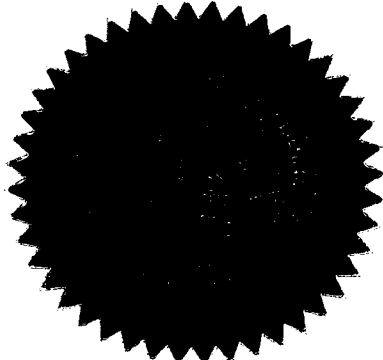
Whereas: Pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980), the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the Days of Remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust, which will be from Sunday, April 28, through Sunday, May 5, 2019, including the Day of Remembrance, known as Yom Hashoah, on May 2, 2019.

Now, Therefore, I, Robert M. Dyer, Mayor of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, do hereby proclaim:

April 28 - May 5, 2019 Holocaust Remembrance Week

In Virginia Beach, in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and in honor of the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and I call upon all citizens to work to promote human dignity and to confront and reject hate.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, to be affixed this Twenty-Sixth day of April, 2019.



Robert M. "Bobby" Dyer
Mayor