
A DAY OF COMMEMORATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOLOCAUST OBSERVANCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019, 3-5 PM

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA — TEMPLE BETH OR

FEATURED SPEAKERS: ESTHER GUTMAN LEDERMAN, Holocaust Survivor

MARK WERNER, Son of a Jewish Partisan Fighter

*Office of the Governor
State of North Carolina*

*Roy Cooper
Governor*



20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301

April 14, 2019

Dear Friends:

As you gather today in observance of the Holocaust, I bring you greetings from the people of North Carolina. I am sorry that a prior commitment prevents me from being with you on this solemn occasion.

The Holocaust represents a dark and brutal time in our history. The six million souls who suffered and died must never be forgotten. Their faith and courage, and that of the survivors and their families, stand as a symbol to all of us that we can triumph over evil. It is imperative that we bear witness to the atrocities they endured and stand together to say "Never Again."

To all of you here today and all across our great state, I wish you God's blessings as we remember the Holocaust.

With warm personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper



NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON THE HOLOCAUST

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction • 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27601
www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council

Visit the Council website to learn of its education programs for teachers and students across the state and to download the Council's publication, *The Holocaust: A North Carolina Teacher's Resource*.



DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE. In 1979, the U.S. Congress established Days of Remembrance as the nation’s annual commemoration of the Holocaust. Holocaust Remembrance Day—Yom Hashoah—corresponds to the 27th day of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar and the day on which the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began in 1943. In 2019 Holocaust Remembrance Day is May 2. The eight-day period of Days of Remembrance runs from the Sunday before Yom Hashoah through the following Sunday. Each year the Governor of North Carolina issues a State Proclamation affirming these days as a time for remembrance and reflection. The 2019 Proclamation appears on the last page of this program.

In 2005 the United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day—the day in 1945 that Auschwitz was liberated by the Soviet army. Since 2005, the U.N. and its member states have held commemoration ceremonies on this day to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism.

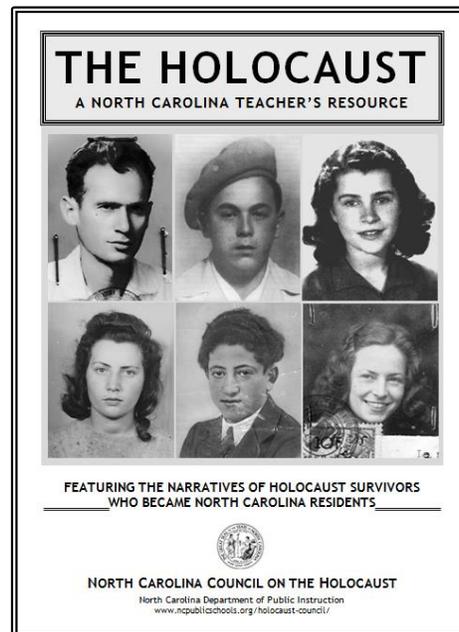
THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON THE HOLOCAUST is a state agency in the N. C. Department of Public Instruction, established in 1981 by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. It is composed of twenty-four members, of whom six are Holocaust survivors or first-generation lineal descendants of survivors. All members are volunteers appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House, or the President pro tempore of the Senate; six are appointed at large. Through its education and commemoration programs, the Council strives to help prevent atrocities similar to the systematic program of mass murder by the Nazis of six million Jews and other targeted groups, including Roma (Gypsies), homosexuals, handicapped persons, and religious and political dissidents, from 1933 to 1945.

If you would like to volunteer with the commemoration committee or contribute to the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation, which supports the Council’s teacher workshops and other programs across the state, please contact Council Chairman Michael Abramson: mabramson919@gmail.com. Also contact Mr. Abramson if you would like to view the Foundation’s Form 990.

THE COUNCIL ANNOUNCES the new edition of its teacher’s guide, *The Holocaust: A North Carolina Teacher’s Resource*, with historical overviews, lessons, and 23 narratives from 21 survivors who became North Carolina residents. They are:

- ◆ Gizella Gross Abramson
- ◆ Julius Blum
- ◆ Hank Brodt
- ◆ Susan Eckstein Cernyak-Spatz
- ◆ Walter Falk
- ◆ Renée Laser Fink
- ◆ Rena Kornreich Gelissen
- ◆ Morris Glass
- ◆ Zev Harel
- ◆ Jack Hoffmann
- ◆ Anatoly Kizhnerman
- ◆ Rachel Giralnik Kizhnerman
- ◆ Esther Gutman Lederman
- ◆ Simone Weil Lipman
- ◆ Esther Politis Mordechai
- ◆ Elias Mordechai
- ◆ Abe Piasek
- ◆ Barbara Ledermann Rodbell
- ◆ Edith Neuberger Ross
- ◆ Morris Stein
- ◆ Shelly Weiner

The guide can be downloaded in its entirety, or by separate chapters and narratives, from the Council’s website at www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council. See the sections Teacher’s Guide and NC Survivor Narratives.



___COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE: CHAIR, SHELLY BLEIWEISS___

- Michael Abramson • Stephanie Abramson • Shelly Bleiweiss • Maxine Ershler Carr • Dr. Seth Cohen
Ray Gonzales • Abe Piasek • Tamara Shovelton • Marianne Wason

COMMEMORATION

Gathering Music: Theme from *Schindler's List* (1993)
John Williams

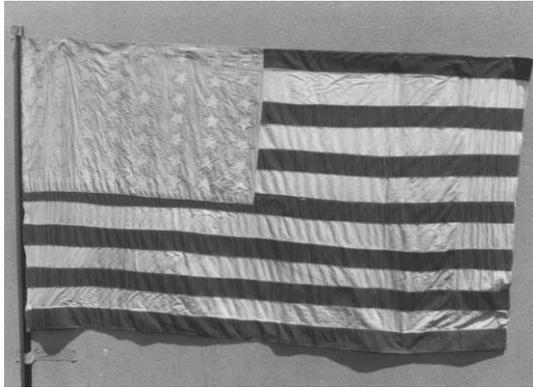
Holly Abramson Zendels
Piano

Greetings

Shelly Bleiweiss
Chair, Commemoration Committee

“The Star-Spangled Banner” __PLEASE STAND__
Lyrics by Francis Scott Key, 1814.

Jenna Isley



O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

American flag handmade by prisoners in the Mauthausen concentration camp and presented upon liberation to Col. Richard R. Seibel, U.S. Army, Eleventh Armored Division, Combat Command "B." This was the first flag to fly over Mauthausen after its liberation. Pieced together from salvaged cloth, the flag contains 56 stars and 13 stripes.

Simon Wiesenthal Center

Welcome

Michael Abramson
Chair, N.C. Council on the Holocaust

Gizella Abramson Holocaust Education Act
H.B. 437

Rep. Linda Johnson
N.C. House of Representatives, District #82

“Song of the Partisans”

Lyrics by Hirsh Glik. Music by Daniel & Dmitri Pokrass.

Miriam Barker, Bernard Most, Arlene Pike
Xavier Richert, Phil Rosol

A Lithuanian poet, Hirsh Glik worked with the underground while in the Vilna ghetto. In July 1944 he escaped from a concentration camp and disappeared; it is presumed that he was captured and executed by the Nazis. His “Song of the Partisans” (“Zog nit keyn mol”—“Never Say”) became the anthem of Jewish partisans in eastern Europe and a song of hope and courage in the camps.

Zog nit keyn mol az du geyst dem letstn veg,
Khotsh himlen blayene farshkeln bloye teg.
Kumen vet nokh undzer oysgebenkte sho—
Es vet a poyk ton undzer trot mir zaynen do.

Never say this is the final road for you,
Though leaden skies may cover over days of blue.
As the hour we longed for is so near,
Our step beats out the message—we are here!

Fun grinem palmenland biz land fun vaysn shney,
Mir kumen on mit undzer pays, mit undzer vey,
Un vu gefaln s'iz a shprits fun undzer blut,
Shprotsn vet dart undzer gvure, undzer mut.

From lands so green with palms to lands all white with snow
We shall be coming with our anguish and our woe,
And where a spurt of blood fell on the earth,
There our courage and our spirit have rebirth.

Es vet di morgnzun bagildn undz dem haynt,
Un der nekhtn vet farshvindn mitn faynd,
Nor oyb farzamen vet di zun in dem kayor,
Vi a parol zol geyn dos lid fun dor tsu dor.

The early morning sun will brighten our day,
And yesterday with our foe will fade away.
And if the sun delays and in the east remains,
This song as password generations must maintain.

Dos lid geshribn iz mit blut un nit mit blay,
S'iz nit kin lidl fun a foygl af der fray,
Dos hot a folk tsvishn falndike vent
Dos lid gezungen mit naganes in di hent!

Zog nit keyn mol az du geyst dem letstn veg,
Khotsh himlen blayene farshteln bloye teg.
Kumen vet nokh undzer oysgebenkte sho—
Es vet a poyk ton undzer trot mir zaynen do!

This song was written with our blood and not with lead,
It's not a little tune that birds sing overhead,
This song a people sang amid collapsing walls,
With grenades in hands they heeded to the call!

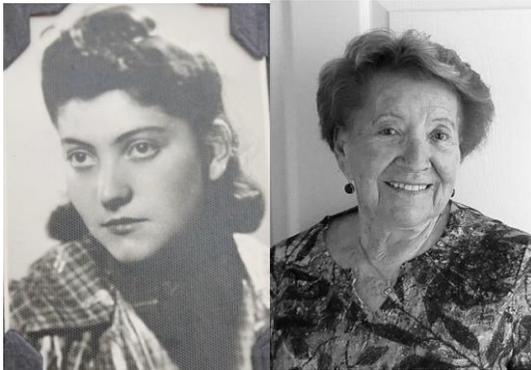
So never say this is the final road for you,
Though leaden skies may cover over days of blue.
As the hour we longed for is so near,
Our step beats out the message—we are here!

Remarks

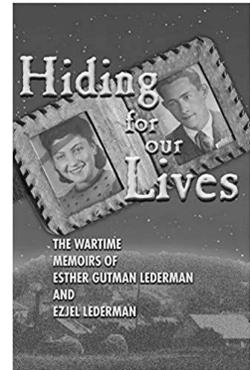
Michelle McLaughlin

Education Curriculum Consultant, Social Studies, N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction
speaking for Eric Davis, Chairman, North Carolina State Board of Education

ESTHER GUTMAN LEDERMAN



As a teenager, Esther Gutman was hidden by a Catholic family in Poland for 22 months along with the Lederman family, whose son, Ezjel, she married after the war. Esther published her memoir *Hiding for Our Lives* in 2007, and her experience is featured in the video “Hiding for Our Lives: Esther Lederman’s Story,” produced by the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education of North Carolina (Holocaust Speakers Bureau), at youtu.be/J1mvWa2ky5M.



Lighting of the Memorial Candles

Dr. Margarita Suarez

Professor of Religious & Ethical Studies, Meredith College

Prelude in B Minor

Holly Abramson Zendels

Waltz No. 3 in A Minor, Op. 34, No. 2

Piano

Frederic Chopin

_____ performed during the Candle-Lighting Ceremony_____

1. **Esther Gutman Lederman**, born in Poland, was hidden as a teenager by a Catholic family later honored as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem. She married a young man who was also hiding with the family, and they came to the U.S. in 1949. She resides in Chapel Hill.
2. **Abe Piasek**, born in Poland, survived Auschwitz and the forced labor camps of Radom, Vaihingen, and Hesselental. He was liberated while on a death train to Dachau. He came to the U.S. in 1947 and resides in Raleigh.
3. **Barbara Ledermann Rodbell**, born in Germany, moved to the Netherlands in 1933 with her family. During the war she used false identification papers to work with the Dutch Resistance protecting Jews and others in hiding. She arrived in the U.S. in 1947 and resides in Chapel Hill.
4. **Emery Gross**, born in Slovakia in 1942, was hidden at age two with a younger cousin for eight months by a non-Jewish woman who was paid in gold to pretend they were her children. After reuniting with his family, Emery immigrated to New York in 1949 and resides in Pittsboro.
5. **Zev Harel**, born in Transylvania, survived Auschwitz and Ebensee and was liberated by the 3rd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, whose reunions he has attended over the years. He came to the U.S. in 1965 from Israel and resides in Greensboro.
6. **Charlotte Wertheim**, born in Germany, was hidden in orphanages in the German and French countryside. Selected by the French underground to be smuggled into Switzerland, she crossed the Alps at night by foot. She emigrated to the U.S. in 1948 and resides in Morrisville.

7. **Elvis Chambers**, a World War II veteran, served with the 26th Infantry Regiment of the First Infantry Division that liberated the Gusen subcamp of Mauthausen in Austria. The regiment also freed prisoners marching out of Flossenburg camp in Germany. Elvis lights the candle in honor of World War II liberators and all veterans.
8. **Karen Klaich**, Teacher Fellow of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Workshop Co-Director of the N.C. Council on the Holocaust, lights the candle in honor of the Righteous Among the Nations, those non-Jews honored by Yad Vashem for risking their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.
9. **Emily Westbrook**, a Meredith College student who worked in Cambodia for several months in 2017 and has diligently researched and made presentations on the Cambodian genocide of the Pol Pot regime from 1975 to 1979, returns the shamos candle to its holder to commemorate all victims of genocide.

We invite all survivors in the audience, and all second-, third-, and fourth-generation descendants, to join the candle lighters in front of the stage.

 SILENT MEDITATION

“Ani Ma’amin” (“I Believe”)

Miriam Barker, Bernard Most, Arlene Pike
Xavier Richert, Phil Rosol

Written by an unknown composer, “Ani Ma’amin” is based on the thirteen articles of faith by the rabbi and Torah scholar Maimonides (1135-1204 C.E.). Many Jews sang “Ani Ma’amin” as they faced imminent death in the gas chambers.

I believe. I believe, I believe, with perfect faith, in the coming of the Messiah, I believe.
And even though he tarry, I will wait each day for his coming. I believe.

Ani ma’amin, ani ma’amin, ani ma’amin be’emuna shlema
Beviat hamashiach, beviat hamashiach
Ani ma’amin veaf al pi sheyitmameya, im kol ze ani ma’amin

“El Molay Rachamim”

 PLEASE STAND

Rabbi Leah Citrin
Temple Beth Or

Prayer for the Departed

Exalted, compassionate God, grant perfect peace in Your sheltering Presence, among the holy and the pure who shine with the splendor of the firmament, to the souls of the holy martyrs who have gone to their eternal home. Master of mercy, shelter them beneath your wings eternally, and may their souls be bound up in the bond of life. You are their portion. May they rest in peace. And let us say: Amen.

Mourners’ Kaddish

 PLEASE STAND

Rabbi Lucy Dinner
Temple Beth Or

Aramaic prayer recited in mourning for the deceased

Let the Glory of God be extolled, let the great Name be hallowed, in the world whose creation God willed. May God’s reign soon prevail, in our own day, our own lives, and the life of all Israel, and let us say: Amen. Let God’s great name be blessed forever and ever.

Let the name of the Blessed Holy One be glorified, exalted, and honored, though God is beyond all the praises, songs, and adorations that we can utter, and let us say: Amen.

For us and all Israel, may the blessing of peace and the promise of life come true, and let us say: Amen.

May the One who causes peace to reign in the high heavens, let peace descend on us, and on all Israel, and on all the world, and let us say: Amen.

(transliteration of the Aramaic)

Yitgadal v'yitkadash shmei raba.
b'alma div'ra chirutei,
v'yamlich malchutei,
b'cha-yeichon uv'yomeichon
uv'cha-yei d'chol beit Yisra-el,
ba-agala uvizman kariv. V'im'ru Amen.
Y'hei sh'mei Raba m'varach
l'alam ul'almei almaya.
Yitbarach v'yishtabach v'yitpa-ar
v'yitromam v'yitnaseh,
v'yit-hadar v'yitaleh v'yit'halal

sh'mei d'Kudsha B'rich Hu,
l'eila min kol birchata v'shirata,
tushb'chata v'ne'che'mata,
da-amiran b'alma, v'imru: Amen.
Ye-hei shlama raba min sh'maya,
v'cha-yim aleinu v'al kol Yisra-el.
V'imru: Amein.
Oseh shalom bimromav
Hu ya-aseh shalom aleinu,
v'al kol Yisra-el, V'imru: Amein.



MARK WERNER

Fighting Back: A Memoir of Jewish Resistance in World War II (1992), by Harold Werner, edited by Mark Werner.

Mark Werner's father, Harold Werner, was a leader in a large Jewish partisan unit that aggressively conducted military missions against the German army in occupied Poland. In addition to their military exploits, this unit rescued Jews and provided a safe haven for them deep in the Polish forest. Few accounts of Jewish survival during the Holocaust describe such a rare combination of victorious military activities and humanitarian efforts in successful large-scale Jewish resistance against the Nazis.



Closing Remarks

Shelly Bleiweiss
Chair, Commemoration Committee

“America the Beautiful”

__PLEASE STAND__

Jenna Isley

Lyrics by Katherine Lee Bates.
Music by Samuel A. Ward.

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

The audience is invited to meet with the speakers and candle lighters at the base of the stage after the commemoration.



Please complete the commemoration survey and place it in the marked basket as you leave the auditorium.



Harold Werner (far left) and other members of the Gyns-zpan partisan fighters in the Parczew forest, Poland, 1943.
Yad Vashem



NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON THE HOLOCAUST

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council/

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

HOLOCAUST TEACHER WORKSHOPS (See also: ncholocaustcouncil.org/)

- One-day workshops; 6-8 workshops a year across the state.
- Holocaust survivor and Best Practices presenter in each workshop.
- One of five focus topics: Propaganda, Anti-Semitism, Resistance in the Holocaust, Education in the Third Reich, and History of the Holocaust and the N.C. Connection.
- Teaching materials distributed; CEU certificate provided.
- No charge; substitute pay provided for public school teachers.

CONTACT

Workshop Co-Directors
—Eastern NC: Karen Klaich
holocaustnceast@gmail.com
—Western NC: Juanita Ray
holocaustncwest@gmail.com

New: HOLOCAUST TEACHER'S GUIDE (Online)

- New publication with 23 narratives by 21 survivors who became North Carolina residents.
- Available for free download as full guide, individual chapters with lesson plans, time line, supplemental materials, and the 23 individual narratives (on separate web page).

CONTACT

www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council/guide/
and . . . /narratives/

TRAVELING EXHIBITS FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- **FACES OF RESISTANCE: WOMEN IN THE HOLOCAUST.** Six separate exhibits: Women in Resistance, Everyday Life in the Ghetto, Armed Struggle in the Ghetto, The Final Solution, Resistance in the Camps, and Women Partisans: Fighting in the Forest.
- **LIFE AFTER SURVIVAL.** 14-panel exhibit on the U.N. relief efforts for Jewish and non-Jewish children in a German children's home after the war.
- **KINDERTRANSPORT.** 17-panel exhibit on the 10,000 children rescued from Nazi-held countries between 1938 and 1940.
- **DR. SEUSS WANTS YOU!** 14-panel exhibit exploring the WWII political cartoons of Theodor Geisel against fascism, bigotry, and anti-Semitism.
- **TRIUMPH OF LIFE.** 40 laminated posters depicting the Jewish resistance to Nazi oppression, focusing on the individual lives of survivors.
- **FENCES, WALLS, AND BUTTERFLIES.** 12 panels of Israeli children's art on the Holocaust.
- **SUITCASE EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT.** Suitcases with books, videos, photos, and artifacts; eight suitcases: four each of two topics—children's diaries and surviving Auschwitz.
- No charge. Lesson plans and support material accompany the exhibits.
- Contact your regional coordinator (right) to schedule an exhibit.

CONTACT

Eastern NC

Lee Holder

lholder@lenoir.k12.nc.us

Piedmont

Garrett Southerland

endlesssummer1982@yahoo.com

Mecklenburg County area
(six counties; see online map)

Cheryl Lange

langecm@rss.k12.nc.us

Western NC

Amy Clark

uncgirl1989@gmail.com

TRAVELING PLAYS

- **Let Your Children Tell.** 50-minute play based on the experiences of four teenagers persecuted during the Holocaust; presented by the Touring Theatre of NC.
- **Etty.** 45-minute one-woman play based on the diaries and letters of Etty Hillesum, a young Dutch woman who was killed in Auschwitz at age 29.
- Contact Michael Abramson, Council Chairman (mabramson919@gmail.com), about funding support for performances in your school or community.

CONTACT

LYCT: Brenda Schleunes

ttnc.org/let-your-children-tell/

336-337-4925

Etty: Susan Stein / ettyplay.org

susan.stein@ettyplay.org

917-509-7535

REGIONAL LENDING LIBRARIES

- Five regional lending libraries of Holocaust teaching materials for classroom use.

CONTACT

See Council website.

ANNUAL STATE HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

- Held in Raleigh each spring near the annual U.S. Day of Remembrance.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

- Holocaust survivors and children of survivors available to speak free of charge to school groups and other audiences.

CONTACT

Michael Abramson, Council Chair
mabramson919@gmail.com

OTHER RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

- Funding support for DVDs and classroom sets of books.
- See Council website for recommended online teaching resources.



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

AND

HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION DAY

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A 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, Jews were the primary victims of the Holocaust with six million people murdered, and millions of others were targeted because of race, ethnicity, physical and developmental disability, sexuality, or nationality reasons; Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents also suffered oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and

WHEREAS, the United States, including North Carolina, became the homeland to Holocaust survivors who, having deep appreciation for the freedom and opportunities afforded by this nation, greatly contributed to the culture and strength of their adopted homeland; and

WHEREAS, the people of North Carolina, the United States, and the world should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and should remain vigilant against bigotry and tyranny; it is imperative that we continually rededicate ourselves to the principles of equality and justice; and

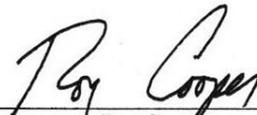
WHEREAS, the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust have been set aside for the people of North Carolina to remember the inhumanity of those who perpetrated the Holocaust, as well as to reflect upon the need for respect of all people; and

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 to be Sunday, April 28, 2019, through Sunday, May 5, 2019, including the International Day of Remembrance, known as Yom HaShoah, on May 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins the nation in commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, the survivors, and their liberators, and encourages our communities to strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning and remembrance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 28 – May 5, 2019, as “**DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST**” and April 14, 2019, as “**HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION DAY**” in North Carolina, and commend observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.