

The City of Holland, Michigan



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, many of our community's ancestors and families experienced the wrath of the Holocaust and they and their descendants live today with the pain, sorrow, and anger of this atrocity; and

Whereas, many of our community's ancestors and families in the Netherlands boldly and bravely acted, without regard to their own safety and well-being, to oppose the genocide perpetrated by Nazi Germany and its collaborators by shielding and hiding Jews in defiance of the Nazis and young men of our community took up arms in service to their country to defeat Nazi totalitarianism and liberate Europe from the tyranny, destruction, and dehumanization brought about by the Nazi regime.

Whereas, remembering the horror of the Holocaust offers a renewed opportunity for us today to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

Whereas, the people of the City of Holland should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny and should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual and religious freedom and actively work to promote a just society; and

Whereas, the Days of Remembrance have been set aside internationally for all people to remember the victims of the Holocaust as well as to reflect on the need for respect of human rights all peoples; 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, May 1 through Sunday, May 8, 2011, including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, May 1, 2011;

Whereas, I, Kurt David Dykstra, Mayor of the City of Holland, Michigan, do hereby proclaim the week of Sunday, May 1 through Sunday, May 8, 2011, as Days of Remembrance in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and in honor of the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as residents of the City of Holland, should work to promote human dignity and a just society.

Kurt D. Dykstra, Mayor