City of Portsmouth

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. Jews were the primary victims – six million were murdered; Gypsies, the handicapped and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic or national reasons. 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, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

Whereas, we the people of the City of Portsmouth should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

Whereas, the Days of Remembrance have been set aside for the people of the City of Portsmouth to remember the victims of the Holocaust as well as to reflect on the need for respect of 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, 2011 through Sunday, May 8, 2011, including the international Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, April 21.

Now, Therefore, I, Kenneth I. Wright, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia do hereby proclaim May 1 through May 8, 2011 as

"Days Of Remembrance Of The Victims Of The Holocaust"

in memory of those victims, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of the City of Portsmouth should strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning and remembrance.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia to be affixed this eighteenth day of February, two thousand eleven.

Kenneth I. Wright
Mayor