City of Seattle • Office of the Mayor

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—six million 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, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

WHEREAS, it is important for people to remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle actively supports the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

WHEREAS, the Days of Remembrance have been set aside for all 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 through Sunday, May 8, 2011, including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, May 1, 2011;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael McGinn, Mayor of Seattle, 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 proclaim that the people and City of Seattle uphold the work of promoting human dignity and confronting hatred whenever and wherever it occurs.

Michael McGinn
Mayor