



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

**Message to all Employees
Commemorating the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Days of Remembrance, May 1-8, 2011
"Justice and Accountability in the Face of Genocide: What Have We Learned?"**

To All USDA Employees:

Every year, we take a moment to remember the atrocities of the Holocaust and memorialize its victims.

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jews by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945. And though Jews were the primary victims, Gypsies, the handicapped and the Polish people were also targeted for destruction. Millions more suffered oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

From May 1 to May 8, 2011, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will lead our Nation in the annual Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust.

This year the commemoration will look to landmark events—the Nuremberg trial and the trial of Adolf Eichmann—which shaped our understanding of international justice and its power to provide affirmation to victims and warn potential perpetrators, with the theme "Justice and Accountability in the Face of Genocide: What Have We Learned?"

But while accountability is crucial in the aftermath of genocide, remaining vigilant against hatred and persecution as well as supporting early intervention are the true ways to ensure that a tragedy of this scale never happens again. The Holocaust showed the need to respect all people of the world, but also the importance of acting on that belief.

Here at the Department, I encourage you to observe this remembrance not only to memorialize those who were killed in the Holocaust, but to rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society. I hope this year's Days of Remembrance inspires us again to promote human dignity and confront hate wherever and whenever it occurs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written over a circular stamp.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary