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.*

***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 Medford should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and*

***WHEREAS**, we the people of the City of Medford should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Days of Remembrance have been set aside for the people of the City of Medford 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, April 15 through Sunday, April 22, 2012 including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah on April 19, 2012;*

***NOW, THEREFORE**, I Gary Wheeler, Mayor of Medford, do hereby proclaim the week of April 15 through April 22, 2012 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 citizens of the City of Medford, should strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning and remembrance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 5th day of April, 2012.

Gary H. Wheeler
Mayor of Medford