

National Days of Remembrance

OBSERVANCE TEMPLATE: **MILITARY AUDIENCES**

This template is based on The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute format for organizing special observances. Military organizers can adapt the structure and order of the program when designing their Holocaust Days of Remembrance observance. A variety of theme options are available at ushmm.org/remember/days-of-remembrance.

The resources listed below are available on the Museum's website, ushmm.org.

Suggested program element	Rationale	Resources
Program music	Music can help set the tone and framework for an observance. Musical selections can be used before, during, or following a commemoration.	Musical Selections
Welcoming remarks		
Presentation of colors		
National anthem		
Invocation	Setting the appropriate tone and framework for a Days of Remembrance ceremony is important. The short video "Why We Remember the Holocaust" may be used for this purpose, or an individual may open with remarks.	<i>Why We Remember</i> video Historical Essays
Musical interlude		
Candle-lighting ceremony	The lighting of candles is often part of a Days of Remembrance ceremony. Local dignitaries, survivors and their families, rescuers, or liberators are often chosen to light the candles. During the candle lighting, a short poem or literary selection may be read, music may be played, or both may be done.	Selected Readings Musical Selections

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Readings	Reading selections for a Days of Remembrance commemoration take a variety of forms, depending on the audience, location, and type of observance being held. Readings may be distributed to the audience or read aloud by an individual. A candle might be lit immediately after or during the reading.	Selected Readings
Introduction of guest speaker		
Keynote address	A keynote address can take many forms, depending on the time available and type of audience. It could be delivered by a Holocaust survivor, liberator, or rescuer; a political dignitary; or a religious leader. Other possible options include creating programs that interview Holocaust survivors or showing films or other multimedia presentations about the Holocaust, or a selected theme.	Theme Videos <i>The Path to Nazi Genocide</i> video Guidelines for Hosting a Holocaust Survivor Sample Questions for Interviewing Holocaust Survivors Suggested Films List
Benediction		
Closing remarks	A Days of Remembrance theme video might be shown to conclude, or an individual may close with remarks.	Planning guide: Theme Videos Historical Essays
Retirement of colors		
Closing music	See “Preprogram music”	
Other resources	Providing additional resources helps educate people about the Holocaust and provides context. Historical overview articles might be distributed or made available for people to read. Personal histories of individuals from the Holocaust might also be distributed or incorporated into a ceremony. Posters, PowerPoint displays, and animated maps are also available for presentation or display.	ushmm.org/remember