

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 27TH AS INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBERANCE DAY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945, in which six million Ashkenazy and Sephardic Jews were murdered (among which were one and a half million children); and Roma (Gypsies), people with disabilities, and Poles were targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons; and millions more, including LGBTQ+ individuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, political dissidents, journalists, and judges, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has long honored the fact that the armies of the United States were the primary discoverers of the locations used for extermination, the records of the systematic genocide, and the few survivors of the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, the historic perspective of the nation has been clearly affected by this event in such a way that historians, the United States Congress, and the courts generally recognize the Holocaust as an occurrence, not only of European history, but also of the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, of those few survivors of the Holocaust, many subsequently immigrated to the United States, and they and their descendants now form an integral, valued part of our society; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding these well-recognized historical truths, there are those in contemporary society, in the United States and the world, who, for purposes of sowing hatred, disruption, and division, and to justify continuing discrimination - not only against Jews, but also against other minority and marginalized populations and peoples – persist in denying them; and

WHEREAS, those who do not remember history are condemned to repeat it; 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 the moral responsibility of every American government agency and every citizen to not only remember history, but to stand together with vulnerable populations and against distortion and denial; to model not only tolerance, but also acceptance; and to educate future generations; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors in 2022 passed a resolution recognizing January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, we the people of the County of Santa Barbara should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly's unanimously-adopted resolution designating January 27th as Holocaust Remembrance Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors declares January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Santa Barbara County.

PASSED and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 24th day of January 2023.