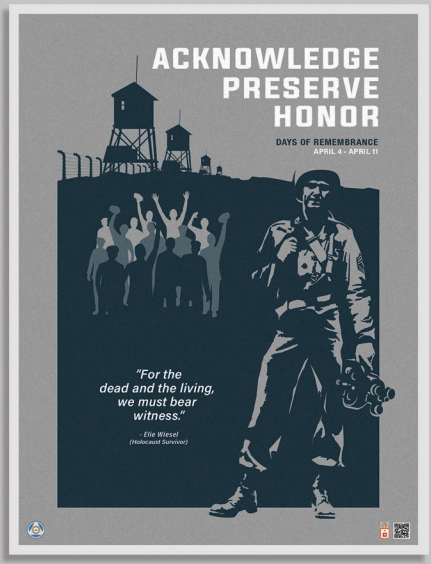
CULTURAL AWARENESS

OBSERVANCE

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE



FACTS

Each year, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum leads the nation in commemorating Days of Remembrance.

Days of Remembrance was established by the U.S. Congress to memorialize the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust—as well as the millions of non-Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. Holocaust is a word of Greek origin meaning “sacrifice by fire.”

The week of remembrance is set aside to honor and remember the victims of the Holocaust and their liberators.

As the Nazi regime crumbled under the pressures of advancing Allied armies, American Soldiers made a horrifying discovery. They found the death camps where millions of Jews, political prisoners, and other persons deemed undesirable by the Nazis were sent to labor and die.

They liberated dozens of camps and sub-camps. Along with their Allied counterparts, American Soldiers became the first outsiders to witness the horrors of the camps. The Army Signal Corps had a key role in documenting the atrocities of the Holocaust.

A number of these images were later transmitted to news agencies in America and other countries, where they helped to inform the world about the horrors of Nazism and the plight of concentration camp prisoners.

The U.S. Army and the Allied military governments of Germany used these photographs to confront German prisoners of war in the United States and the German population with the evidence of Nazi crimes.

"For the dead and the living, we must bear witness. For not only are we responsible for the memories of the dead, we are also responsible for what we are doing with those memories.”

- Elie Wiesel (Holocaust Survivor)

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