



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

## UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

APR -7 2022

### MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: 2022 Department of Defense Days of Remembrance/Holocaust Remembrance Day  
Observance

On April 28, 2022, the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising on the Hebrew calendar, the Department recognizes Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah), in conjunction with the national Days of Remembrance, observed on April 24 – May 1, 2022. This time is a commemoration of the Holocaust, the systematic annihilation of 6 million European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Roma (Gypsies), people with disabilities, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons, and millions more, including gay and lesbian people, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

The 2022 theme *Determination, Hope, and Honor* is a testament to the resiliency of Holocaust survivors, a tribute to their protectors and liberators, and a memorial to the fallen. This year, we pay tribute to former U.S. Army Corporal and Medal of Honor recipient, Tibor "Teddy" Rubin. Born in a small town in Hungary, Tibor and his family were sent to the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria, when he was 13 years old, because they were Jewish. Both of his parents and one of his sisters did not survive the Holocaust. He survived in the camp for 14 months. On May 5, 1945, Mauthausen was liberated by soldiers from the U.S. 41st Reconnaissance Squadron of the 11th Armored Division. Their compassion for people in the camp made a deep impression on the teenager. After immigrating to the United States, Tibor Rubin sought to repay his new nation by enlisting in the U.S. Army. As a Jew and non-citizen serving in the Army during the Korean War, he experienced prejudice and saw that America did not always live up to its ideals. He, nevertheless, kept faith in the promise of the nation and, as a rifleman in the 1st Cavalry Division, his heroic actions in combat and selfless acts on behalf of his comrades while a prisoner of war earned Corporal Rubin the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor.

As we remember the innocent Jewish men, women, and children murdered by the Nazi regime, we also recognize the valiant non-Jewish individuals who risked their lives, families, and livelihoods to save people fleeing imprisonment and death. Known as the Righteous Among the Nations, they have a special place of honor and gratitude. They resisted the Nazis' calculated plan to exterminate European Jews through mass genocide. The ten Boom family was made up of such heroes. Based on their religious convictions, the ten Boom family defied Nazi occupation authorities in the Netherlands, hiding 800 people from arrest and deportation. Their efforts resulted in nearly all of the ten Boom family members being arrested by the Gestapo. The father died shortly after his arrest and his daughters were sent to the Ravensbruck concentration

camp where only one daughter, Cornelia (“Corrie”) Arnolda Johanna, survived. After her release, Corrie spent the rest of her life as an advocate for survivors and members of underserved communities, such as the mentally disabled.

On these Days of Remembrance, we recognize and applaud the protectors of the persecuted and the liberators of the Nazi concentration camps whose compassion and valiant efforts saved countless lives. We honor the Holocaust survivors whose stories are reminders of the millions of voices silenced and who inspire us not to be bystanders. We also pause to reaffirm our commitment to preserve justice in our Department by opposing extremism, increasing equity for underserved communities, and utilizing the strength in our diversity of talent. Let this Holocaust Remembrance Day and the Days of Remembrance serve as a compass, pointing leaders toward moral integrity and courage so that the devastation of the Holocaust is never forgotten or relived. For resources and help with leading and organizing observances, visit: <https://www.defenseculture.mil/Human-Relations-Toolkit/Special-Observances/#days-of-remembrance-holocaust-remembrance-day>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.