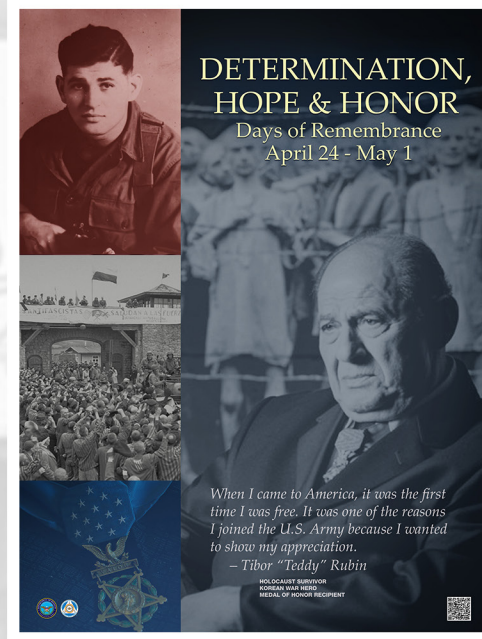


CULTURAL
AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

Days of Remembrance | April 24-May 1



Each year, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum leads the nation in commemorating Days of Remembrance. The week of remembrance is set aside to honor and remember the victims of the Holocaust and their liberators.

The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were racially superior and that the Jewish people, deemed inferior, were an alien threat to the German racial community.

Hitler's "final solution"—now known as the Holocaust—was systematic genocide.

Approximately 6 million Jews and some 5 million others, targeted for racial, political, ideological, and behavioral reasons, died in the Holocaust. More than one million children were killed.

Days of Remembrance raises awareness that democracy's institutions and values are not sustained passively. They must be actively appreciated, nurtured, and protected. This observance illustrates the catastrophic results of allowing xenophobia and racism to take root in any society.

Today, we carry forward the proud legacy of men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces who played an essential role in liberating the camps at Buchenwald, Dora-Mittelbau, Flossenbürg, Dachau, and Mauthausen.

American forces not only secured freedom for the survivors of Nazi horrors, they also ensured that the world would know what had happened.

"We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must - at that moment - become the center of the universe."

— Elie Wiesel, Holocaust Survivor, *The Night Trilogy: Night, Dawn, The Accident*