



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

APR 12 2023

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

SUBJECT: 2023 Department of Defense Holocaust Days of Remembrance Observance

Annually, the Holocaust Days of Remembrance observance calls our Nation together to remember the victims of the Holocaust, honor the survivors, and pay tribute to those who risked their lives to rescue them. This year, the Days of Remembrance observance will take place between April 16, 2023 and April 23, 2023, with April 18, 2023, designated as Holocaust Remembrance Day. Between 1933 and 1945, the German government, led by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, carried out the systematic persecution and murder of 6 million Jewish people. This genocide, known as the Holocaust, also included other people considered politically, racially, or socially unfit by the Nazi regime.

This year's theme, "Behind Every Name A Story: The Women," explores firsthand accounts of women who endured the horror of the Holocaust, many of whom witnessed mass devastation and endured labor and death camps in Europe. While each Holocaust experience was unique, the theme examines the physical and sociological trauma of women who experienced the Holocaust. The Days of Remembrance observance is a time to appreciate the importance of valuing human dignity and equitable treatment for all people so atrocities like the Holocaust can never happen again.

Recent hate-based crimes against members of the Jewish community demonstrate that the United States is not immune to violence directed against individuals because of their religion, race, or ethnicity. Such acts are antithetical to Department of Defense core values. We must remain cognizant of history, intervene to prevent problematic behavior before it escalates, and cultivate an inclusive workplace where all members of the Total Force have an opportunity to thrive.

The number of Holocaust survivors is dwindling but their legacy remains strong in the telling of their stories; we will not let them be forgotten. We will remember their lives and sacrifices as we appreciate our individual strengths, inherent in our differences, to enhance mission effectiveness. We honor all Holocaust victims, survivors, and those who risked their lives to rescue others by pursuing equitable and just treatment for all persons, regardless of their religion, race, or ethnicity. For more information or help with 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.", is located at the bottom right of the page.

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.