



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

MAR 30 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Department of Defense 2018 Holocaust Days of Remembrance

The Department of Defense (DoD) joins the Nation in observance of the Holocaust Days of Remembrance (April 8–15, 2018), the national annual commemoration of the Holocaust.

Between the years of 1933 and 1945, the Nazi regime and its collaborators carried out genocide of six million Jews and millions of other people deemed by the regime as racially or socially unfit. This systematic, state-sponsored atrocity continued until German Armed Forces surrendered to Allied Forces on May 7, 1945. The genocide came to be known as the *Holocaust*, meaning “sacrifice by fire.”

During the Holocaust Days of Remembrance, we honor the millions of victims and survivors who underwent great suffering—and those who tragically lost their lives. In the face of horrific adversity, these individuals exhibited boundless courage and demonstrated to the world the strength and resiliency of the human spirit.

As we reflect on the atrocities of the Holocaust, we also recognize and remember those who chose to act against hatred and persecution. As we remember the rescuers, liberators, and courageous men and women of the Allied Forces who fought to end tyranny and oppression, we are reminded of the Department’s guiding principle that every individual is valued—that every individual has dignity and worth.

The Department reaffirms its commitment to strive to eliminate all forms of discrimination, prejudice, bigotry, and hatred. DoD personnel are encouraged to join in the commemoration of the Holocaust Days of Remembrance and take the opportunity to honor the legacy of the victims, survivors, rescuers, and liberators of the Holocaust.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert L. Wilkie".

Robert L. Wilkie

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