

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 to 1945; and Nazi persecution became increasingly intense, widespread and systematic, culminating in a campaign resulting in the murder of six million Jews and five million Poles, handicapped, Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents; and

WHEREAS, the Nazi's targeted children as useless eaters incapable of exploitation as forced laborers, murdering over one million Jewish children; often, adults sacrificed their lives to give comfort to the children as long as possible, like Warsaw ghetto orphanage director Janusz Korczak who accompanied the children to Treblinka where he was killed along with the nearly 200 children in his charge; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments, and we, as individuals and as a community, should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain ever vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, to some extent before June 1941 and to a full extent before September 1939, what we now know as the Holocaust could have been prevented. "Remembrance" obligates us to remember not only the victims of the Holocaust but also those who took a determined stand against Nazism; and

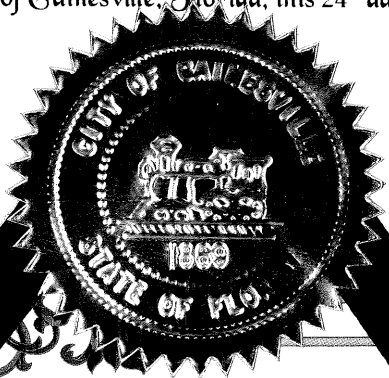
WHEREAS, pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980) the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designated the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be April 15-22, 2007, including the Day of Remembrance, Yom Hashoah, to be observed on April 15, 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim the third week of April and Sunday, April 15, 2007 as

Days of Remembrance and Yom Hashoah "Children in Crisis: Voices from the Holocaust"

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in actively rededicating ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society, by remembering the victims of the Holocaust and reflecting on the need for respect of all people; and as we honor the survivors, rescuers, and liberators of the victims of the Holocaust, we are reminded that individuals do have the power and choice to make a difference in the fight against oppression and murderous hatred.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 24th day of March, A.D., 2007.



Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor