86R23772 BK-D

By:  Raymond H.R. No. 1264

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, From 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany carried out the systematic persecution and mass murder of close to six million Jews as well as millions of other people from targeted groups; and

WHEREAS, Touting virulent theories of German racial purity and superiority, the Nazi Party enacted a series of programs that deprived Jewish civilians of their rights and property; this campaign of terror ultimately escalated into genocide on a scale never before witnessed, and as Germany executed its conquest of Europe, some two-thirds of all Jews on the continent perished at the hands of the Nazis; in some countries, such as Poland, the Jewish death toll surpassed 90 percent; and

WHEREAS, The year 2019 marks the 86th anniversary of the beginning of the genocide of European Jews; the Holocaust represents one of history's darkest and bleakest periods, and though it serves as a point of shame for humankind, the events that occurred and the lessons we may draw from them must never be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Holocaust Remembrance Day, also known as "Yom Hashoah," is observed each year on the anniversary of the start of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, an act of Jewish resistance that took place in German-occupied Poland in 1943; an estimated 7,000 Jews lost their lives in the revolt, which was staged to oppose the deportation of Jews to Nazi labor and death camps, and it went on to inspire other revolts in camps and ghettos throughout Eastern Europe; and

WHEREAS, Many of those who witnessed the horrors of the Holocaust as survivors or concentration camp liberators, as well as their descendants, have made their homes in our state; it is critically important for all Texans to remember the events of the Holocaust so that we may remain fully vigilant against contemporary manifestations of hatred and prejudice; and

WHEREAS, With the threat of genocide and ethnic cleansing still present in many war-torn regions of the world, this tragic chapter offers warnings that remain strikingly relevant; as survivors of the Holocaust diminish in number, links must be forged to educate future generations so that they may lead the world to a more tolerant and peaceful future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize May 2, 2019, as Holocaust Remembrance Day.