

By: King of Parker

H.R. No. 129

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, January 27, 2019, marks the 74th anniversary of the
2 liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and death camp,
3 a place that has come to symbolize for people around the world the
4 evils of the German Nazi regime and its reign of violence and terror
5 across Europe; and

6 WHEREAS, After the onset of World War II, German chancellor
7 Adolf Hitler put into action the "Final Solution," a plan that
8 escalated his state-enforced policy of oppression of Jewish
9 citizens and other targeted groups into a campaign of mass murder;
10 Auschwitz-Birkenau, which opened in the spring of 1940, was the
11 largest of the Nazi concentration and death camps, consisting of
12 several facilities and subcamps where a total of at least 1.1
13 million people ultimately lost their lives; and

14 WHEREAS, By mid-1942, the majority of those being imprisoned
15 at Auschwitz-Birkenau were Jews; detainees who were considered
16 unfit for work, including pregnant women, young children, the
17 elderly, and the infirm, were executed upon arrival, while others
18 went on to die from overwork, disease, poor nutrition, or arbitrary
19 acts of violence carried out by the guards; some prisoners were
20 subjected to inhumane and often fatal experiments conducted by
21 Josef Mengele and other Nazi researchers; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1944, with Allied forces closing in,
23 Auschwitz-Birkenau commandants began destroying evidence of the
24 atrocities that had taken place at the camp; the Germans ordered an

1 evacuation of the compound in January 1945, forcing tens of
2 thousands of prisoners to embark on death marches that would claim
3 many lives through exposure, starvation, or exhaustion; the Soviet
4 Army arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau as liberators on January 27 and
5 found more than 7,500 sick or emaciated detainees who had been left
6 behind, along with the remains and belongings of other victims of
7 the camp's brutality; the vast majority of the deceased were Jews,
8 and an additional 70,000 to 80,000 Poles and 19,000 to 20,000 Roma
9 were also counted in estimates of the dead; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, the anniversary of the liberation of
11 Auschwitz-Birkenau is observed as International Holocaust
12 Remembrance Day, an annual day for the world to memorialize the six
13 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and the millions of other
14 victims of Nazism and to develop educational programs aimed at
15 preventing genocide; only through a true understanding of this
16 horrific chapter of history can we recognize and confront the
17 forces of hatred and intolerance, wherever they may manifest, and
18 work together toward a more hopeful future; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
20 Legislature hereby commemorate the 74th anniversary of the
21 liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and death camp
22 and the observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on
23 January 27, 2019.