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Chicago Remembers the Holocaust

The City of Chicago's annual Holocaust Remembrance Day public ceremony will be held Thursday, May 6 at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center (9603 Woods Drive) in Skokie, Illinois. Nazi concentration camp survivor, John Macsai is the keynote speaker this year. The event begins at 11am and is free and open to the public.

The museum's executive director, Richard S. Hirschhaut, stated that the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is honored to once again host Mayor Daley for this important day of commemoration and reflection. "We are grateful to Mayor Daley for his unwavering commitment to ensuring that the universal lessons of the Holocaust are conveyed to young people across our region so they may confront the challenges of bullying, intolerance and genocide in our world today," added Hirschhaut.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is the largest facility in the Midwest dedicated to preserving the memories of those lost in the Holocaust and to teaching current generations to fight hatred, indifference and genocide in today's world. The museum takes a global perspective by exploring issues of genocide and human rights around the world and throughout history. Through its public programs, traveling exhibits and Voices of Conscience lecture series featuring international human rights leaders, the Museum seeks to raise awareness and inspire action in response to the many atrocities that have taken place and continue to occur worldwide.

As part of the education process, many high school students from area public and Catholic schools have been invited to attend and six students have been chosen to participate in the candle lighting ceremony as witnesses to the 6 million lives lost in the Holocaust.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center reaches approximately 100,000 school children throughout Illinois and across the Midwest annually. Issues related to Darfur, Rwanda, Cambodia and other modern atrocities are carefully woven into museum exhibits, curricula and field trip experiences.

Invited guests include Chicago City Council; sister agency officials; Chicago appointed officials; Consular Corps and members of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center; Village of Skokie officials, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies; and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Participants include Megan McDonald, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Events; Ron Huberman, CEO of Chicago Public Schools; Dr. Hal Lewis, President and CEO of the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies; Mayor George Van Dusen, Village of Skokie; Mayor Richard M. Daley, City of Chicago; and Richard S. Hirschhaut, Executive Director of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Educational Center. Space is limited.

Notes: Chicago's Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony was instituted 21 years ago by Mayor Daley. The Holocaust was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

