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STATE WIDE COMMEMORATION
70TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY DAY

Friday, May 8 at 10:00 am

Honoring the Victory of Soviet and Allied Forces in World War II and Holocaust Survivors
At Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

In Partnership with Chicago Association of Veterans of World War II, Holocaust Community Services, Council for Jewish Elderly and the Russian Jewish Division of JUF

Chicago Association of Veterans of World War II will host a state wide commemoration on **Friday, May 8 from 10:00–12:00 pm**. This commemoration is especially poignant as the number of surviving veterans has dwindled in the last decade.

Dignitaries and local leaders including Bruce Rauner, Governor of Illinois; Roey Gilad, Consul General of Israel to the Midwest; Marijus Gudynas, Consul General of Lithuania; and Andriy Pravednek, Consul General of Ukraine will offer remarks during the program. Acclaimed violinist David Lisker, and the Campanella Children’s Choir will perform.

“I am proud that our state recognizes those who heroically sacrificed their lives for freedom,” said Rauner, “We must continue to show our gratitude to those who fought so valiantly to protect our way of life.”

The commemoration is one of many public programs being held in conjunction with the Museum’s current special exhibition *Through Soviet Jewish Eyes: Photography, War, and the Holocaust*, a photographic exhibition that reveals a rarely seen perspective of World War II through the lens of the most important Soviet Jewish photojournalists. In order to reach Chicagoland’s significant Russian speaking community, the Illinois Holocaust Museum is the first museum in the world to present the entire exhibition with Russian translation.

“As the son of a veteran, I could not be more thankful for this unique opportunity to recognize the efforts and extend gratitude to a very important part of our community,” said Michael Polsky, Invenergy CEO. “These veterans made tremendous sacrifices years ago for our freedoms today, and we are forever indebted to them.”

The Russian-speaking community is an integral part of the World War II story:
- 62% of World War II Survivors in the Chicago-area were born in the former Soviet Union
- 464,000 plus Russian speakers live in Illinois
- 40,000 Russian speaking Jews reside in the Chicagoland area

The May 8 event is **free to the public and will be presented in Russian with English translation**. This program is generously sponsored by the Peter Polsky Freedom Fund in partnership with Chicago Association of Veterans of World War II, Holocaust Community Services CJE SeniorLife, Council for Jewish Elderly and the Russian Jewish Division of Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Support also provided by Virginia Wolff, Inc.

To view other exhibition related programming, visit [http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/pages/exhibitions/special-exhibitions](http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/pages/exhibitions/special-exhibitions).
The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Holocaust by honoring the memories of those who were lost and by teaching universal lessons that combat hatred, prejudice and indifference. The Museum fulfills its mission through the exhibition, preservation and interpretation of its collections and through education programs and initiatives that foster the promotion of human rights and the elimination of genocide. The Museum is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.; Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Learn more at www.illinoisholocaustmuseum.org.

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