

# National Days of Remembrance

## OBSERVANCE TEMPLATE: **MILITARY AUDIENCES**

This template is based on The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute format for organizing special observances. Military organizers can adapt the structure and order of the program when designing their Holocaust Days of Remembrance observance.

The resources listed below are available on the Museum's website, [ushmm.org](http://ushmm.org).

Suggested program element	Rationale	Resources
<b>Program music</b>	Music can help set the tone and framework for an observance. Musical selections can be used before, during, or following a commemoration.	Musical Selections
<b>Welcoming remarks</b>		
<b>Presentation of colors</b>		
<b>National anthem</b>		
<b>Invocation</b>	Setting the appropriate tone and framework for a Days of Remembrance ceremony is important. The short video "Why We Remember the Holocaust" may be used for this purpose, or an individual may open with remarks.	<i>Why We Remember</i> video
<b>Musical interlude</b>		
<b>Candle-lighting ceremony</b>	The lighting of candles is often part of a Days of Remembrance ceremony. Local dignitaries, survivors and their families, rescuers, or liberators are often chosen to light the candles. During the candle lighting, a short poem or literary selection may be read, music may be played, or both may be done.	Selected Readings Musical Selections

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<b>Readings</b>	Reading selections for a Days of Remembrance commemoration take a variety of forms, depending on the audience, location, and type of observance being held. Readings may be distributed to the audience or read aloud by an individual. A candle might be lit immediately after or during the reading.	Selected Readings
<b>Introduction of guest speaker</b>		
<b>Keynote address</b>	A keynote address can take many forms, depending on the time available and type of audience. It could be delivered by a Holocaust survivor, liberator, or rescuer; a political dignitary; or a religious leader. Other possible options include creating programs that interview Holocaust survivors or showing films or other multimedia presentations about the Holocaust, or a selected theme.	Theme Videos <i>The Path to Nazi Genocide</i> video Guidelines for Hosting a Holocaust Survivor Sample Questions for Interviewing Holocaust Survivors
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Closing remarks</b>	A Days of Remembrance theme video might be shown to conclude, or an individual may close with remarks.	Theme Videos
<b>Retirement of colors</b>		
<b>Closing music</b>	See “Preprogram music”	
<b>Other resources</b>	Providing additional resources helps educate people about the Holocaust and provides context. Historical overview articles might be distributed or made available for people to read. Personal histories of individuals from the Holocaust might also be distributed or incorporated into a ceremony. Posters and PowerPoint displays are also available for presentation or display.	<a href="http://ushmm.org/survivors-victims">ushmm.org/survivors-victims</a>