

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 11, 2000

Memorandum for Sean Maloney

From: Ann Lewis

Re: Rush Presidential Letter Request

The Director of the Florida Holocaust Museum contacted my office today requesting a Presidential letter honoring the museum founders to be read at a dinner Thursday evening. This is one of the largest Holocaust museums in the country, and I would like to honor the request. I have attached background information about Edie and Walter Loebenberg and a copy of the dinner invitation. Thank you for any assistance you can provide in attaining a letter on such short notice.

1/11
SEND TO
JAN B.
[Signature]



Edie & Walter Loebenberg



Edie and Walter Loebenberg are true leaders within our community. Their foresight and vision continually light flames of hope while fighting bigotry, hatred and prejudice. With unwavering modesty and humble beginnings, they dreamt of a space that would house a

small poster exhibit about the Holocaust, a place where children could come to learn from one of the darkest periods of mankind's history. Today this dream stands as one of the finest Holocaust museums in the world, the fourth largest in the country. It is a tribute to the millions who suffered and perished, and a treasure to the thousands of visitors walking through the doors.

Their involvement is passionate and far-reaching. The Loebenberg's make an impact on the community by participating on local boards, serving equally on state, national and international levels. As exceptional role models to our youth, both provide inspiration and motivation. Friends regard them with the highest esteem, and recognize them for wisdom and caring. Most of all, Edie and Walter are loved by each and every one of their children and grandchildren.

"The Florida Holocaust Museum is dedicated to advancing public awareness, education and understanding of the Holocaust, honoring the memory of millions of innocent people who suffered, struggled and died in the Shoah."—Mission Statement

*The Board of Trustees of the Florida Holocaust Museum
proudly invite you to join them in honoring*

Edie & Walter Loebenberg

and previewing the new exhibit

"Anne Frank: A History for Today"

Sponsors: The Eckerd Family Foundation, State of Florida, The Paul W. Martin, Jr. Family, The Sembler Family

at the First Annual . . . To Life Award Dinner

the evening of Thursday, the Thirteenth of January, Two Thousand

*Hilton St. Petersburg
333 First Street South*

6:00 - 7:30Cocktails & Hors D'oeuvres

Concurrent with cocktails at the Hilton, there will be a special preview of "Anne Frank: A History for Today" at the Museum. Transportation between the Hilton & Museum provided by The Looper

7:30 - 8:00Program & Special Presentation by Jon Voight

8:00Dinner

Black Tie Optional

RSVP by January 6, 2000

Valet Parking

Complimentary



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Edie & Walter Loebenberg

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WALTER P. LOEBENBERG

Walter P. Loebenberg is Chairman of the Board and President of U.S. Enterprises, Inc, a venture capital and investment firm with offices in St. Petersburg, Florida. Prior to this Mr. Loebenberg was President and Chairman of U.S. Health Corporation, which was sold to Nu-Med of California in 1985. As Chairman of U.S. Health Corporation, he designed, constructed, managed and owned health facilities including hospitals, medical office buildings, ambulatory care centers and home health services in Florida and other sections of the southeastern United States. He now serves on the Board of Directors of Great American Marine.

Mr. Loebenberg actively participates in community and professional organizations. He holds board of director positions in the following organizations:

Menorah Manor
Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services
Drug Free America Foundation

He is a member of the American Hospital Association and Federation of American Hospitals. He is Founder of the Florida Holocaust Museum and is past Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Anne Frank Center USA in New York. Mr. Loebenberg also is a member of the Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation Committee. Most recently Mr. Loebenberg served on the Florida Commissioner's Task Force on Holocaust Education.

A resident and community leader of Pinellas County, Florida for over thirty years, Mr. Loebenberg has contributed to the growth of business, education and social developments in the Tampa Bay area and the State of Florida, as well as to the advancement of professional health care services throughout the industry. Married to Edith for fifty one years, they have three children and eight grandchildren.

The Florida Holocaust Museum
Fact Sheet

"The Museum is dedicated to advancing public awareness, education and understanding of the Holocaust, honoring the memory of millions of innocent people who suffered, struggled and died in the Shoah."

In every generation, there are those who seek to destroy those who are different from themselves. By studying about the Holocaust, we can recognize and fight bigotry, hatred and prejudice. Our children respond with their hope and optimism as they learn that there are those who will take a chance, will risk all to help the downtrodden, the victim, even against all odds. Through lessons of the Holocaust, we teach tolerance and diversity.

Location: 55 Fifth Street South • St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Opening: February 22, 1998

Leadership: Elie Wiesel, Honorary Chairman; Walter P. Loebenberg, Founder; Amy S. Epstein, Chairman; Paul W. Martin, Jr., President; Lawrence D. Wasser, Executive Director; Stephen M. Goldman, Museum Director

Architecture: The new 27,000 square foot Holocaust Center is the fourth largest Holocaust museum in the country. Eleven eternal flames, in remembrance of the eleven million victims, are ensconced on the exterior of the building. The entrance incorporates a wall of seven transparent triangles etched with the mission statement of the museum and deliberately chosen quotations. The large backdrop behind the triangles contains a montage of painted images of the Holocaust. Design of the Center was the collaborative efforts of Nick Benjacob, architect and L. David VonThaden, interior design.

Exhibitions: Through a collection of photographs, testimonies and historical artifacts relating to the Holocaust, the visitor is guided through the comprehensive core exhibit. Divided into twelve areas, the core exhibition takes a visitor from the flourishing pre-war life of eastern Europe, through the events of the Holocaust, concentration camps and ultimately, the birth of the State of Israel. Located in the central atrium of the exhibition space is **Auschwitz Boxcar # 113 0695-5**. Resting on railroad tracks from Treblinka, this boxcar was once used by the Nazis to transport Jews and other men, women and children to the killing centers. The permanent exhibition was designed by Bob Davidson of EAM Shopworks. Hundreds of digitized images, and historical and cultural artifacts comprise the museum's core exhibition.

General Information:

- The Holocaust Museum was instrumental in shaping and passing legislation to mandate Holocaust education in the schools
- 160,000 people have viewed 27 different exhibits
- 2,500 teachers have received training in Holocaust education from the center
- 100,000 students have visited the center
- A 1997 study revealed many community leaders view The Holocaust Center as a critical vehicle to impact racial discord, anti-Semitic and white supremacist activities
- The following services are available from the Center:
 - * Book and Author series
 - * Commemoration
 - * Community Outreach
 - * Generations After (children & grandchildren of survivors)
 - * Scholarly events
 - * Survivor services
 - * Traveling exhibits
 - * Video testimonies

Tour information: Docent-led tours are available for schools and groups of ten or more by appointment. The guided tour includes the theater, permanent exhibition, changing exhibition gallery, library and memorial rooms.

Museum Hours / Admission / Policies

Monday - Friday 10 am - 5 pm

Saturday - Sunday noon - 5 pm

The Center is closed: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Thanksgiving & Christmas Day

General Admission \$6

Seniors and College Students (with ID) \$5

Students 18 and under \$2

Members Free

Discounts are available to groups of ten or more by prior reservation

Eating, drinking and smoking are not permitted.

Photography, video and audio recording are not permitted.

The museum is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Directions: The museum is conveniently situated in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida. It can easily be reached from Interstate 275. Visitors should use exit 10 (I-375) and follow the signs to 4th Street North. Turn right onto 5th Street and go 4 blocks. The museum is immediately on the right once you cross Central Avenue.

Affiliations: The Center is a member of:

The American Association of Museums

The Association of Holocaust Organizations

The Association of Jewish Libraries

The Council of American Jewish Museums

The Florida Museum Association

The Florida State Task Force for Holocaust Education

Contact: Diane Tindell Phone: 727.820.0100 x 241

Fax: 727.821.8435

<http://www.flholocaustmuseum.org>

Welcome to the Florida Holocaust Museum

*The Fourth Largest
Holocaust Museum
in the United States!*

Walk within the walls of the Florida Holocaust Museum. Experience the hopes and dreams, achievements and conviction, and the past and future of those who died in the ghettos and concentration camps of Europe. Meet survivors, the few who tried to save them and the liberators, all determined to preserve human dignity.

Holocaust comes from the Greek word meaning a sacrificial offering consumed by fire. The Holocaust was the state sponsored persecution and methodical elimination of European Jewry by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

Eleven million innocent people were victims of Nazi tyranny. The numbers are incomprehensible to human beings. Six million Jews along with five million others including children, gypsies, homosexuals, mentally and physically disabled, Jehovah's Witnesses, political dissidents and Resistance Movement members were murdered. Very few of Europe's Jews escaped or survived.



You will witness their stories - a compelling history of individuals who confronted hatred and violence in their own homes; and communities that coped with persecution and isolation. Intolerance among people is not unique. It manifests itself in a myriad of ways including religious persecution and racial discrimination.

The powerful themes that echo through this Museum will touch the soul of every human being regardless of faith or heritage. The Museum serves as a beacon of light furthering education about this unprecedented destruction of human life and promotes the lessons of tolerance, respect and responsibility.

The lessons of the past are focused on the present. The Florida Holocaust Museum reaches out to individuals in our communities and classrooms to create awareness of the Holocaust. This tragic era in human history affords the opportunity to study and challenge the impact of bigotry, prejudice, hatred and indifference to those who fail to grasp its magnitude and implications.

The Florida Holocaust Museum is dedicated to advancing public awareness, education and understanding of the Holocaust, honoring the memory of millions of innocent people who suffered, struggled and died in the Shoah.

By viewing the collection of personal photographs, unique testimonies and historical artifacts relating to the Holocaust, you will witness the poignant picture of a catastrophe and the indomitable spirit of the people who were there. This guide will serve as your map through the exhibition. It will direct you to each area and enrich your experience.



The Future

The violence and criminal transgressions of the Nazi regime through its Final Solution devoured eleven million souls. The extraordinary culture of the Jewish people in Europe was almost totally annihilated.

Although other disasters have erupted throughout the world in times of war, never has mass genocide been so systematically planned and executed. Over half a century later and a continent away, there is an opportunity to honor and immortalize the memory of those who suffered. We must strive to increase awareness of the causes and consequences of racism, anti-Semitism and all

forms of discrimination both during the Holocaust and today.

All of the suffering and loss will be meaningless if we do not understand what took place and act to insure that it will never happen again. As we experience the hate and mistrust that comes with prejudice and ignorance, one of our basic human emotional needs and hope, can be fulfilled. We must challenge and educate those who promote hatred and intolerance. The vision of the Holocaust Museum is a future in which peace and harmony are reality in our neighborhoods, in our nation, and in our world.

The Florida Holocaust Museum is committed to fostering education concerning social studies, history,

multicultural studies, literature and the arts. With the help of the Holocaust Museum, Florida became the first state in the nation to mandate Holocaust education for grades kindergarten through twelve in public schools. The Museum offers:

- Study guides and teacher training programs to educators throughout the country.
- Seminars, workshops and in-services for teachers, librarians and educators.
- Prejudice Reduction and Leadership Development Seminars for high school students.
- Exceptional experiences for participation at various levels for students.

First Floor

Permanent Exhibit

The Theater (1) is a 40-seat auditorium, which provides an introduction to the Museum and the Holocaust. It is used for films, videos, lectures, public forums, readings and briefings.

The comprehensive Core Exhibit is divided into twelve areas. Each section depicts an aspect of the flourishing pre-war life of Eastern Europe, the Holocaust and ultimately, the birth of the State of Israel. From the memories of personal recollections of daily life and special family events, you meet individuals who will become the casualties.

Experience Jewish Life

before WWII (2) Begin to feel the rise of racism and antisemitism, the cornerstone of the Nazi regime. Interact with ordinary people. You will see the professors, factory workers, farmers or shopkeepers, Jews, like their neighbors, worked to sustain their families. As you continue along the exhibit to the Rising Tide/The Nazi Party in Power (3), the timeline details the historical elections and Adolf Hitler's vision for a new Germany.

These were Extraordinary Times

Through an orchestrated policy of both social and economic discrimination, Jews were increasingly dehumanized and isolated from the mainstream German community. Observe the way Nazi anti-

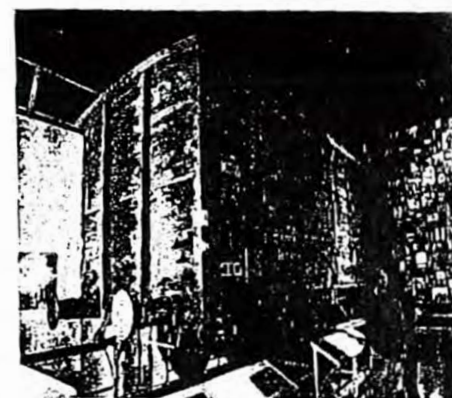
The Meditation Court (7) and Memorial Chapel (10) provides places to rest from the events portrayed. Surrounded by the stories of the hidden and those who hid them, the righteous and those who were rescued, visitors find refuge as they sit, reflect, and hope.

The Memorial Chapel extends a space of serenity for contemplation and the opportunity to light a memorial candle.

Yet amidst the fear and anguish, people existed who risked their own lives and resisted. In their homes, ghettos, and camps, they fought their oppressors both by spiritual, non-violent actions and by the taking up of arms. Religious leaders, teachers, writers and artists continued their work in defiance of their persecutors. Later, alongside partisan fighters throughout Europe, they were welcome participants in the struggle against the Nazi war machine. Prepare to meet Anne Frank, Maximilian Kolbe, Oskar Schindler, Chiune Sugihara, and Raoul Wallenberg. (8)

The Museum Store (11) offers a beautiful selection of books, traditional and contemporary design objects, unique jewelry and limited edition artwork. There are also posters and catalogs created specifically for the Holocaust Museum available.

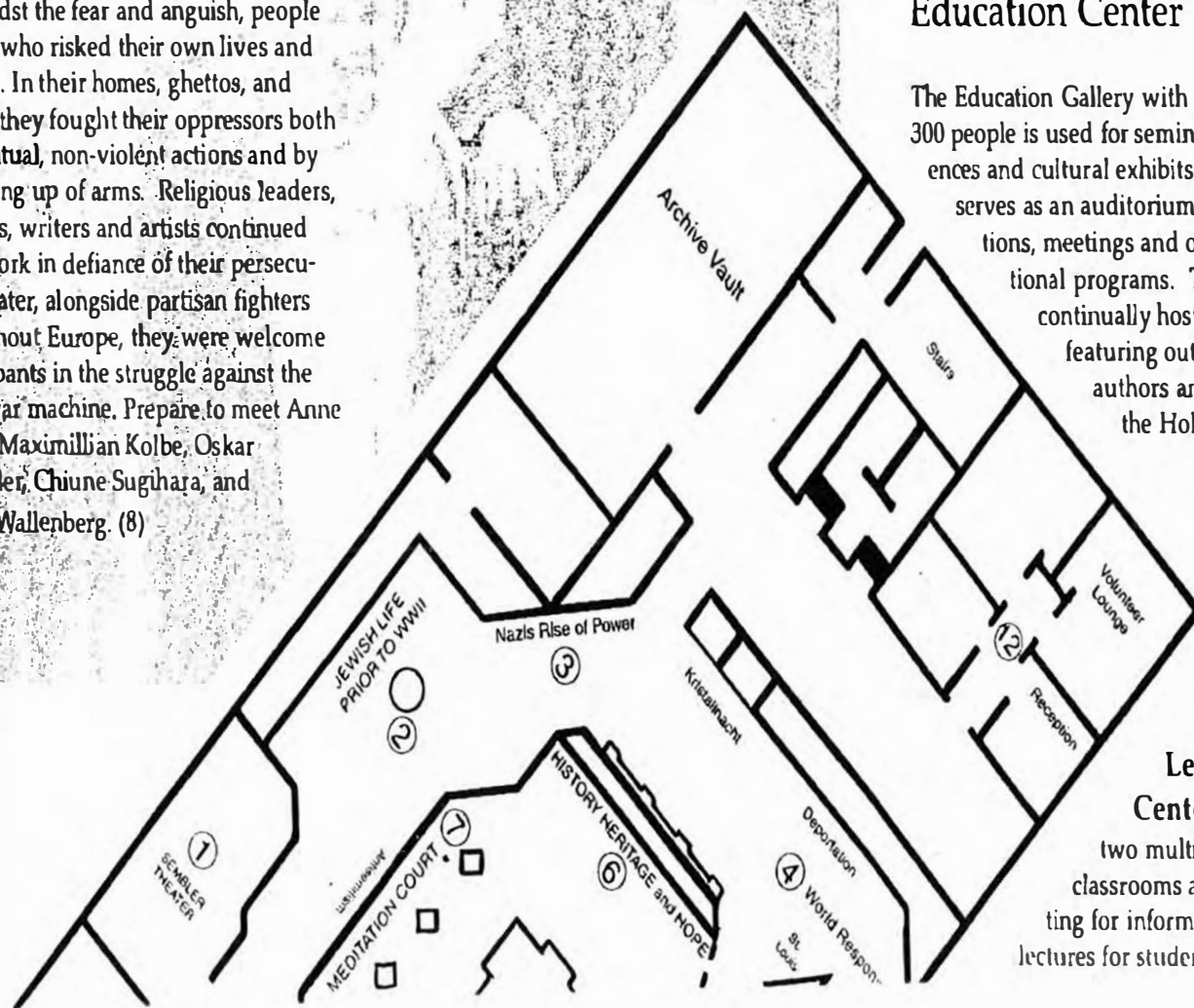
Volunteer and Visitor Services (12) are located on the first floor.



Third Floor

Education Center

The Education Gallery with seating for 300 people is used for seminars, conferences and cultural exhibits. The gallery serves as an auditorium for receptions, meetings and other instructional programs. The Center continually hosts programs featuring outstanding authors and scholars of the Holocaust.



The Learning Center consists of two multi-purpose classrooms and is the setting for informal talks and lectures for students and visi-

increasingly difficult and dangerous for the Jews of Germany and Austria. On November 9, 1938, *Kristallnacht* (the Night of Broken Glass) began. A supposedly spontaneous demonstration by German citizens, it was in fact carefully planned and resulted in the destruction of more than one thousand synagogues and 7,000 Jewish owned businesses, and the arrest of 30,000 Jews. It is generally considered to mark the beginning of the Holocaust.

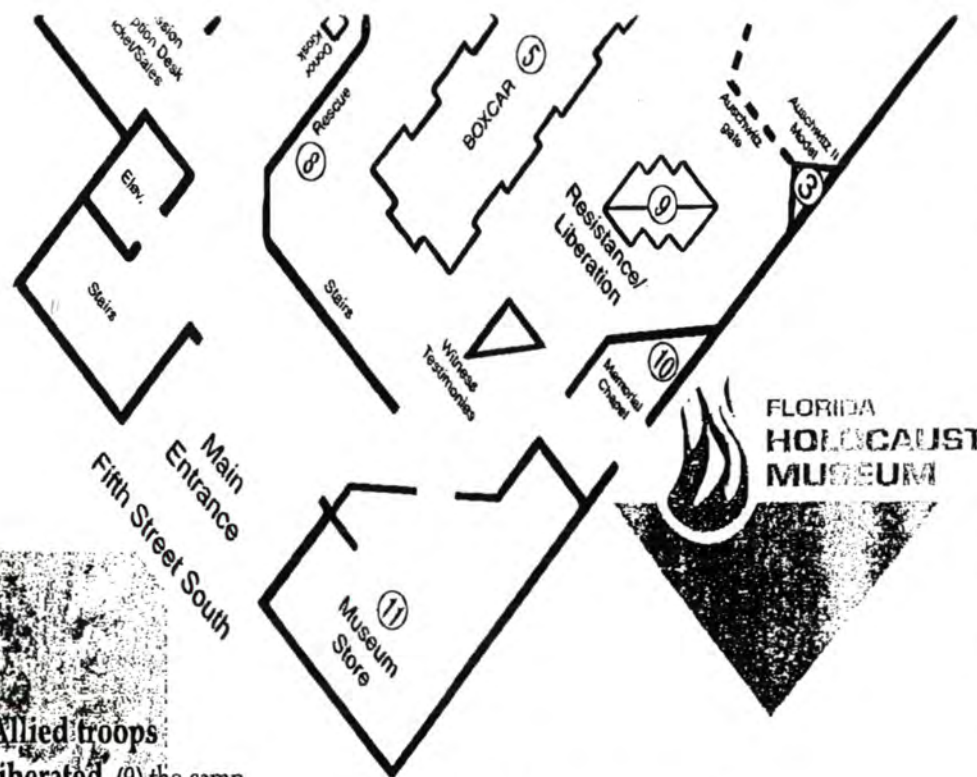
The World Response (4) to the Nazi's programs was as Hitler hoped. No nation cared about the fate of European Jews. You will learn of the discussions by other countries to ease quotas on Jewish immigration and no one acting on the situation. The gates of the world were closed to Jews.

Entering the central atrium of the exhibition space, you are confronted by the power and massiveness of Auschwitz Boxcar # 113 0695-5 (5). Resting on railroad tracks from Treblinka, this boxcar was once used by the Nazis to transport Jews and other men, women and children to the killing centers.

History, Heritage and Hope (6), the interactive multi-media exhibit, is unique. All of the stories and memories you encounter are real. Many are from residents of the Tampa Bay area, and these survivors have chosen to share their past with you. They are our neighbors, they are our witnesses -- We must never forget. What we have once heard, we now have witnessed.

Allied troops liberated (9) the camp at Majdanek in July of 1944. The murder continued as thousands more were still transferred to Auschwitz. American and Soviet forces were shattered as they witnessed the horrors when camps such as Buchenwald were liberated from the west. Although the Nazis had taken every effort to remove as many prisoners and destroy as much evidence as possible, more than two hundred thousand inmates were left behind, many near starvation and deathly ill.

Setting legal precedent, twenty-one high ranking Nazi officials were brought to trial at Nuremberg in 1946. Fourteen were sentenced to death. The vast majority of Nazi war criminals escaped justice, many receiving assistance from the very countries they once swore to annihilate.



Second Floor Special Exhibitions

The Special Exhibit Gallery presents exceptional works and rare collections from all over the world. Exhibitions include selections from the Museum's growing permanent collection and other touring exhibits of art, photography, and artifacts on diverse aspects of the Holocaust and related topics to promote tolerance and understanding. These fine exhibits change on a regular basis.

The Survivor Services Office is located on the second floor.

The Murray Tolerance Center houses technological computer resources providing access to a wide range of educational material on the Holocaust, history and multicultural topics. Here is a place for you to study the moral, ethical and social issues raised by the Holocaust.

The Library and Resource Center enhances the educational mission of the Holocaust Museum. The library and computer-based Learning Center offers researchers of all ages and levels access to bound volumes and periodicals. Books, videos, posters and lesson plans on the history of the Jews, the Holocaust, post-Holocaust and related subjects are housed in the library.





*"First they came for the Jews.
I was silent. I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the Communists.
I was silent. I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists.
I was silent. I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me.
There was no one left to speak for me.*

-Martin Niemöller, Pastor
German Confessing Church

*What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty
of the oppressor, but the silence of the
bystander.*

Elie Weisel

*I go on dreaming, dreaming about survival
and about getting free in order to be able to
tell the world, to yell, and to rebuke, to tell
and to protest*

Unknown Child Victim
Lodz Ghetto

*"We should hold the soul of each human our
hearts and hands-
Cherish them, nurture them-
We all need to continue to remember so we
can work to stop man's inhumanity."
-From the Visitors' Book*

The Speakers' Bureau takes our message out to the community. Holocaust survivors and concentration camp liberators visit schools and share their stories with diverse audiences, serving as eyewitnesses to history. The use of our on-site research facilities and resources is encouraged.

For more information on these resources, please call the Program and Education Director at extension 242

Volunteer Opportunities

The Florida Holocaust Museum welcomes volunteers in many areas. Opportunities are available in the gift shop, reception area, library, and administrative offices. Individuals may also train to be docents or museum guides. Anyone, regardless of experience, can become a volunteer. The staff of the Museum works with individual volunteers to explore your specific areas of interest. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call the Volunteer Coordinator at extension 224.

Tour information

Docent-led tours are available for schools and groups of ten or more by appointment. The guided tour includes the theater, permanent exhibition, changing exhibition gallery, library and memorial rooms.

To arrange a docent led tour or receive a trip planner, please call Visitor Services at extension 221.

Museum Hours
Monday - Friday 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday - Sunday noon - 5 pm



Admission Policies
General Admission \$6
Seniors and College Students (with ID) \$5
Students (18 and under) \$2
Museum Members Free
Discounts are available for groups of ten or more by prior arrangement.
For information about tax deductible contributions to the Museum, please contact the development department at 727.820.0100 ex. 240

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St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Phone: 727.820.0100
Fax: 727.821.8435
www.flholocaustmuseum.org

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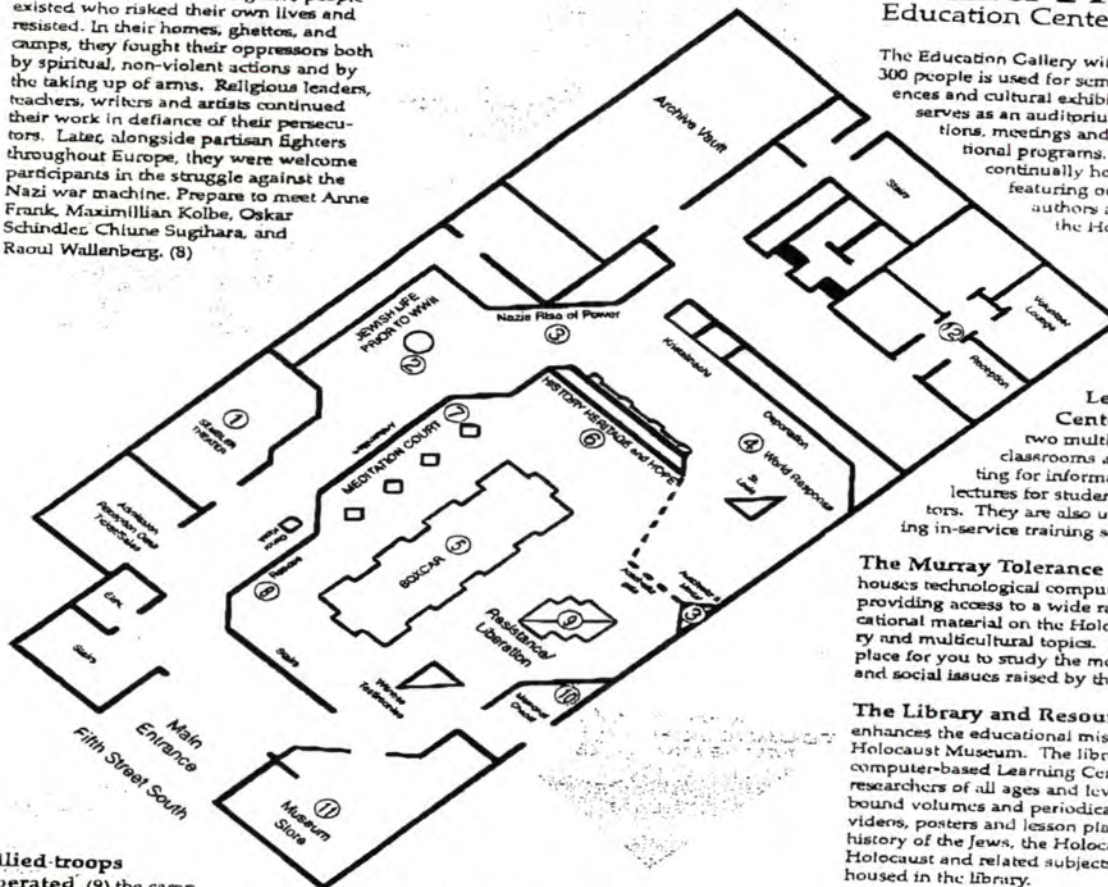
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The Learning Center

consists of two multi-purpose classrooms and is the setting for informal talks and lectures for students and visitors. They are also used for holding in-service training sessions.

The Murray Tolerance Center houses technological computer resources providing access to a wide range of educational material on the Holocaust, history and multicultural topics. Here is a place for you to study the moral, ethical and social issues raised by the Holocaust.

The Library and Resource Center enhances the educational mission of the Holocaust Museum. The library and computer-based Learning Center offers researchers of all ages and levels access to bound volumes and periodicals. Books, videos, posters and lesson plans on the history of the Jews, the Holocaust, post-Holocaust and related subjects are housed in the library.

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BHA

BOBBY HOGUE & ASSOCIATES
Consulting and Public Affairs

Staff Sec
gc

January 3, 2000

00 JAN 11 4:59

President Bill Clinton
White House
Washington, D. C. 10500-2000

Dear Mr. President;

I write on behalf of my longtime friend, Lloyd George, of Arkansas. As you know, I worked alongside Mr. George for twenty years in the Arkansas legislature. I know that he has now completed 2 years of supervised parole and paid the fine assessed him in connection with his federal conviction in 1997. He is elderly and wants only to be allowed to spend his time visiting and traveling with family. I respectfully request that you consider granting Mr. George a Presidential Pardon so that his vast contributions to our State may be more remembered than his federal conviction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Hogue
Bobby L. Hogue

1-11-00

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ☒
No ☐

Capitol Square, Apt. #14 - Lit
Office 501-372-7829 / Fax

P.O. Box 97 - Jonesboro, AR 72403
870-935-0452



Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Inc.

P.O. Box 777, Hingham, MA 02043-0777

Chief Thomas E. Garrity, Devens
President - 978-772-4600

Chief Hobart H. Boswell, Jr., Foxborough
First Vice President - 508-543-3300

Chief Alexander S. McCurdy, Littleton
Second Vice President - 978-952-2302

Chief Richard K. Wehter, Ret., Hingham
Secretary/Treasurer - 781-741-8126

Phone: 781-741-8126

Fax Line: 781-749-8354

E-mail: fcamchiefs@aol.com

Web Site: <http://www.fcam.org/>

January 4, 2000

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear President Clinton:

One month ago, a terrible tragedy happened in a nearby city that impacted the entire nation. Six brave firefighters lost their lives battling a fire in a vacant warehouse where it was believed that a homeless couple were trapped. You were in attendance at a solemn service to pay respects to the fallen heroes and to support the widows, children and firefighters, like myself, who were hurting badly. I will be forever grateful to you for this gesture and you will always have my respect.

Today I write to you to ask for your help. The nations fire service has long been woefully underfunded and has received very little recognition at the Federal level. A United States congressman, Bill Pascrell from New Jersey, recently filed a piece of legislation HR.1168 known as the F.I.R.E. Act that would provide badly needed funding to the fire service to bolster our aging workforce and provide technology to help us to combat the nation's fire problems. Perhaps this funding would help us to avoid such tragedies as Worcester, Ma. While this bill has the signatures of 218 Congressmen, it languishes in a committee with little hope of receiving a hearing where it could stand on its merits.

Mr. President, we need your help to get this urgently needed legislation and funding passed or to include a similar amount of money in your House budget to be used to assist the nations fire service. In providing your support to the fire service you will accomplish a number of successes. First, you will help the nations fire service meet it's mission to prevent the outbreak of fire and protect our fellow Americans from the ravages of fire. Second, you will leave a legacy as you finish your term in office, as one of our greatest Presidents, who helped the nations fire service achieve it's goals. Finally, you will truly honor the six fallen heroes by taking this step, to help us prepare and minimize the chances that this terrible tragedy could ever happen again.

Thank you for being there for us in Worcester, and I would appreciate your support in this very important matter.

Send to Burkhardt for reply?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Respectfully Yours;

Chief Robert A. DiPoli

Chief Robert A. DiPoli
Needham, Massachusetts
Federal Legislative Representative
Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts

"United To Face The Future"



JOHN D. CORRENTI
CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Thurs Staff
Secretary
- He's important
- POTUS will want to see

January 7, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Since I wrote to you several weeks ago regarding the dire situation facing our wire rod facilities, I have had to shut down our Memphis melt shop indefinitely. This plant makes the raw steel for our wire rod operations. It was indeed a difficult holiday for our 250 loyal workers in Memphis, 100 of whom live in Arkansas. We were faced with massive losses of \$100 million at the 2-year old facility, and high imports of wire rod that continue to exceed 1998 levels "dumped wire rod."

The Memphis facility has the potential to become a world class steel-making facility. But we must generate cash from our operations to make the investment work efficiently and profitably. The unrelenting surge of low-priced wire rod imports has drained us of that cash.

I simply did not have the cash to continue operating the Memphis plant at this time. Mr. President, I have been in this steel business for 30 years, and never in my 30 years have I ever had to shut a plant down and, it is something that I never, never want to be faced with again. These 250 workers were depending upon me and you to help rectify this situation.

1/11/00

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ☒

No ☐

833662

740 / 16

FAX COVER SHEET

Office of David Pryor
2701 Kavanaugh Boulevard
Suite 300
Little Rock, Arkansas 72215
(501) 661-1775 (501) 661-9091

cc: Sean M.
to handle
to POTUS

TO: Nancy Hernreich

FAX NUMBER: 202-456-2883

FROM: David Pryor

DATE: January 5, 2000

NUMBER OF PAGES (Including Cover Sheet): 6

1-11-00

Send to Burkhardt?

AGENCY
LIAISON

Yes ☒
No ☐

Nancy:

This is a self-explanatory letter I received from Joe Fred Starr in Fayetteville.

As you can see, time is of the essence in this case. It may well be, in order to save this man from our country's deportation of him, that it will take coordination with various agencies of the government. This is why I bring this to your attention. I have faxed this to Bruce Lindsey (no response), and have also talked to Blanche Lincoln's office (Steve Patterson). I have also sent a copy to David Pryor, Jr. at the State Department.

Nancy, if this man is deported, it would be criminal. Please help us!

Your friend,

David Pryor

JOE FRED STARR
210 Ravenswood Lane
Fayetteville, AR 72701

December 27, 1999

Honorable David Pryor
#10 Greenbriar
Little Rock, AR 72202

Dear David:

RE: Hua Zhong, MD, Phd.

I know you are retired from politics. I also know you have made remarkable contributions to the welfare of the country. Could you do one more? Could you do something which might cure many of the major causes of cancer?

I have terminal prostate cancer - This is too late to help me, but may help those who get it in the next few years as well as cure many other types of cancer.

I am working with the top prostate research scientists at John Hopkins Medical Institute. A Chinese visitor, a Doctor Hua Zhong is working with them and has made an earthshaking breakthrough. He discovered the Hypoxia Inducible Factor 1 alpha gene (HIF-1 α). That gene is the one that causes blood vessels to grow into tumors, not just in prostate cancer but in breast cancer, lung cancer, ovarian cancer and a dozen others.

Just as important Dr. Zhong has identified what turns on HIF-1 α in cancer cells which is a pathway (R13) that may be blockable by four different drugs. Some of his work has just been published in the newest issue of Cancer Research (November 15, 1999).

The U. S. Government is going to deport Dr. Zhong before he finishes his work! Can you believe it? Not because anyone wants to, but because the bureaucracy simply cannot function quickly enough to process his visa application or extension.

Can you help stop such a stupid thing from happening?

Honorable David Pryor

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December 27, 1999

I attach a letter from the Director of the National Cancer Institute (Attachment A) to the USIA explaining how important this is.

Here are some of the basic facts:

500,000 American citizens will die this year of the 12 leading causes of cancer.

Dr. Zhong's research according to the John Hopkins scientists (such as Dr. Jonathan Simons) has the possibility of a major cure on all 12, not just prostate cancer.

Dr. Zhong must leave this country in March, 2000 if his J-1 visa status is not extended by the United States. The Chinese government refuses to consent to such an extension. He is not a "Fulbright". The law does not require him to return to China.

The Defense Intelligence Agency has granted clearance. The Department of Defense is going to recommend to the State Department that Dr. Zhong's J-1 visa waiver be granted. See letter from the Office of Under Secretary of Defense (Attachment B).

BUT

To complete the process at D.O.D. a "Research Assessment" of the importance of the research must be made by a "Research Officer" who knows how long this will take? (Isn't the opinion of the Director of the National Cancer Institute good enough?)

Although the file has been mislaid at times a Ms. Peggy Rock at D.O.D. now has the file. She will not tell anyone who the "Research Officer" is. She says this information is classified.

After this "Research Assessment" is done (if ever) Ms. Rock apparently does not know who exactly and to what offices of the State Department she is to send the file, but believes it will take the State Department five (5) months to process the file (by which time Dr. Zhong will be long gone).

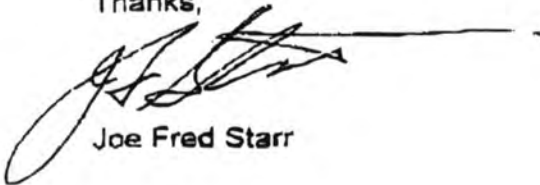
Ms. Rock's telephone number at D.O.D. is 703-647-3459 or 703-693-2982.

Honorable David Pryor
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Can any of your old friends in Congress help? Can anyone get the D.O.D. to move on its research assessment? Can anyone get the file sent to the right place at State? Can anyone get the State to act promptly?

I hate to impose on your goodwill but I really believe this is the most important thing going on in the war against cancer and future generations will bless you if you can help.

Thanks,



Joe Fred Starr

JFS/nw

Enclosures (2)



U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND MATERIEL COMMAND
131 ARCADE STREET
FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND 21742-5021

October 13, 1999

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

ATTACHMENT B

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense
(Acquisition & Technology)
ATTN: Congressional Actions & Internal Reports/Peggy Rusk
Room 3D765, Pentagon
3020 Defense
Washington, DC 20301-3020

Dear Sir:

I fully support Hua Zhong's M.D., Ph.D., application for a J-1 Visa extension. During the past year, Dr. Zhong has been critical to the accomplishment of a prostate cancer research project funded by the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program. The ultimate goal of this project, titled "Oncolytic Gene Therapy for Prostate Cancer," is to design highly specific and effective therapies for prostate cancer.

Dr. Zhong is a highly skilled, competent and capable scientist and is dedicated to developing new treatments for human cancers. During this post-doctoral fellowship, Dr. Zhong has made a major discovery involving a gene that initiates the process allowing cancer cells to turn on their own blood supply and thereby metastasize. This area of research (angiogenesis) is one of the scientific community's highest priorities targeted for new cancer treatments, and Dr. Zhong's research has attracted international acclaim. It is vital that Dr. Zhong be granted an extension to the J-1 Visa and continue analyzing this important gene.

Thank you for your consideration of Dr. Zhong's application for the J-1 Visa extension.

Sincerely,

Patricia C. Modrow, Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Grants
Management

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

ATTACHMENT A

National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

August 19, 1999

United States Information Agency
Office of the General Counsel
Waiver Review Branch
Washington, D.C. 20547-0001

RE: J-1 Visa Exception for Dr. Hua Zhong

Dear Sirs:

As Director of the National Cancer Institute, and a matter of national interest, I am requesting a J-1 visa exception on behalf of Dr. Hua Zhong who is a post-doctoral fellow in the National Institutes of Health, Special Program of Research Excellence (S.P.O.R.E.) at The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine. I am specifically requesting a waiver on behalf of Dr. Zhong, as his continued stay in the United States is in the public's best interest.

Dr. Zhong is conducting novel research on the HIF-1 α gene, which appears to be an important new marker for cancer prevention, and a new target for treatment of lung, colon, breast, ovarian, kidney, and prostate cancers. These cancers have been responsible for the deaths of over 1 million U.S. citizens in the past 5 years, and his work may have a significant beneficial impact on future therapeutics of this disease.

Dr. Zhong is uniquely qualified and trained under the direction of Professors Donald S. Coffey, Patrick C. Walsh, Martin D. Abeloff, and Jonathan W. Simons to conduct this important direction in cancer research in the National Institutes of Health S.P.O.R.E. at Johns Hopkins. In the event a specific form is required with this request, please forward it to the undersigned. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Klausner, M.D.
Director
National Cancer Institute

cc: Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Paul Sarbanes
Dr. Hua Zhong
Judge Ralph Burnett
Dr. Patrick C. Walsh
Dr. Donald S. Coffey
Dr. Martin D. Abeloff
Dr. Jonathan W. Simons