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CONTACT: Robert Bobo, 469-657-8691

Robert.Bobo@pxd.com

Eva Parks, 469-900-7027

Eva.Parks@pxd.com

**TEXAS LIBERATORS PROJECT PRESERVES STORIES OF TEXANS WHO
LIBERATED NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS**

AUSTIN, Texas—On the anniversary of Kristallnacht (“Night of Broken Glass”) which marked a dramatic escalation of anti-Jewish violence under the Nazi regime, the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC) launched its Texas Liberators Project at a Capitol ceremony.

For years, the stories of the last living Texans who served in World War II and liberated Nazi concentration camps—and those of liberators who have passed away— remained untold. The new project by the THGC aims to change that. The Texas Liberator Project is a one-of-a-kind resource dedicated to preserving history and educating future generations about the horrors of the Holocaust. The project includes an interactive app, traveling exhibit, a printed book featuring the narratives of 21 Texas liberators, and an Honor Roll of more than 350 Texas liberators identified to date, compiled on a user-friendly website, texasliberators.org.

Each of the four project elements documents and tells the stories of nearly two dozen witnesses to the Holocaust in an innovative way. The traveling exhibit takes visitors back in time— giving a sense of what it felt like for the average Texan sitting in a living room, hearing the news about Pearl Harbor and beginning to understand the scope of the war in Europe. The traveling exhibit will be on display in the Capitol through November 23.

The ceremony in the Texas Senate Chambers featured a presentation of medals by Holocaust survivors to honor World War II Texas veterans who liberated Nazi concentration camps. There was also a flyover of the capitol by a vintage World War II plane.

The mission of the THGC is to promote awareness and enhance understanding of the Holocaust and other genocides in the world. Since its founding in 2009, the THGC has dedicated its resources, energy, and expertise to the education of teachers and students to better recognize and acknowledge the consequences of hatred, bigotry, and apathy. Through education and engagement, the THGC seeks to remind the public of its collective responsibility in not only preventing but ending, once and for all, this type of human cruelty. For more information regarding Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission programming, visit www.thgc.texas.gov.

www.thc.texas.gov

This email was sent to leah.brown@thc.texas.gov
Texas Historical Commission, 1511 Colorado St., Austin, Texas 78701, United States
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