

Chairman Moran's prepared remarks

U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum hearing, March 17, 2010

It is now time to begin our hearing on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The museum, which opened here in the District in 1993, is a living memorial to the Holocaust. It was created to remember the victims of the Holocaust, and to stimulate leaders and citizens to confront a legacy of hatred. The Museum and its education and research programs work to prevent genocide and to promote human dignity.

Today we welcome Sara Bloomfield, who has been director since 1999. Ms. Bloomfield has an outstanding reputation as an educator and has led many important efforts.

It is important that this story be told. As then General Eisenhower wrote after encountering the Ohrdruf concentration camp:

"I have never felt able to describe my emotional reaction when I first came face to face with indisputable evidence of Nazi brutality and ruthless disregard of every shred of decency."

Last June a tragic hate crime occurred at the Holocaust Museum when a white supremacist shot and killed Museum security guard Stephen Tyrone Johns. We here again want to recognize and remember Mr. Johns.

I understand that the Museum and its outreach efforts continue to reach a wide audience. Over 30 million have visited the museum so far, including over 1.7 million in 2009.

We will be interested to hear Director Bloomfield explain highlights of the Museum's recent activities and its 2011 budget request. I note that the Museum has continued to be successful at raising private funds to expand exhibits and widen public outreach all over the world.

Mr. Simpson, do you have any opening remarks?