

Office of the Governor

NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: JAYNE O'CONNOR
GENE HERMAN
609-777-2600
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GOVERNOR PARTICIPATES IN YOM HASHOA CEREMONY, HONORS VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST, STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF TOLERANCE

Gov. Christie Whitman today helped commemorate Yom HaShoah, the annual Holocaust memorial observance, during a candlelight ceremony in the Assembly Chambers at the State House. The Yom HaShoah ceremony was organized by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. Yom HaShoah marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

"Together we were among the first states in the nation to ensure that our public schools teach students about the Holocaust - not just the story of the Nazi nightmare, but the hopes and dreams that have lived on through the survivors, said Gov. Whitman.

"Today we are here to light a candle in remembrance of those who were murdered because of the Nazi intolerance. We light a Candle of Remembrance to honor the six million lives lost," the Governor said. "Yom HaShoah lights the way for all of us. It affirms our deepest belief that we will defeat intolerance and that an assault on the civil rights of any of us is an attack on all of us."

In 1994, Gov. Whitman signed the Holocaust Education Act, landmark legislation that made New Jersey one of the first states in the United States to require public schools to teach students about the Holocaust and other genocides.