

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**S. C. R. No. 11**

**Senators Yuko, Dolan**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To request an Act of the United States Congress to designate 1  
the Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial, located in 2  
Zion Memorial Park in Bedford, Ohio, as a National 3  
Memorial. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, The Kol Israel Foundation (Hebrew for "All of 5  
Israel") was established in 1959 in Cleveland, Ohio, by a small 6  
group of survivors of the Jewish Holocaust of World War II 7  
perpetrated by Nazi Germany. It was formed so its members, who 8  
shared a common past and who faced similar problems, could find 9  
refuge with each other and provide a sense of community and 10  
valuable emotional, psychological, and financial support to 11  
themselves and others similarly situated. The organization now 12  
boasts hundreds of members, mostly Jewish Holocaust survivors 13  
and their descendants; and 14

WHEREAS, In 1960 the Kol Israel Foundation decided to build 15  
a monument in memory of the six million Jewish victims of the 16  
Holocaust. The subject monument is believed to be the first of 17  
its kind constructed in the United States. The monument was 18  
constructed at Zion Memorial Park, a Jewish cemetery located in 19  
Bedford Heights, Ohio. The granite monument has human ashes from 20  
victims recovered from crematoriums in three concentration camps 21

as well as other artifacts: teeth, hair, and bars of soap made 22  
from pure Jewish fat, buried beneath it in six small caskets. 23  
Victims' names also are engraved on its walls to honor the dead. 24  
The monument was dedicated on May 28, 1961. In attendance at the 25  
ceremony were hundreds of people including Cleveland Mayor 26  
Anthony J. Celebrezze, military color guard, and other 27  
dignitaries, and it is the site of an annual memorial service 28  
presented by Kol Israel Foundation each fall with the support of 29  
the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. The event serves as an 30  
opportunity for families to say the Mourner's Kaddish for 31  
departed Holocaust victims who did not receive a proper burial 32  
or do not have a known grave; and 33

WHEREAS, The monument has been expanded, and is surrounded 34  
by low granite circular walls where additional names of 35  
Holocaust survivors, and their departed family members, have 36  
been engraved. One section also contains the names of several 37  
American astronauts and one Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon, a son 38  
of Holocaust survivors, who died in the Columbia Space Shuttle 39  
disaster in 2003. The wall also contains the quote of General 40  
Dwight D. Eisenhower who upon liberating a concentration camp 41  
stated: "The things I saw beggar description...The visual evidence 42  
and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty, and bestiality 43  
were so overpowering as to leave me a bit sick"; and 44

WHEREAS, The historical significance of the Kol Israel 45  
Monument is without question as it is a holy site containing 46  
human remains and where prayers for the departed are recited. It 47  
signifies the duty to remember the past atrocities of World War 48  
II so that they will not be repeated. It is an educational 49  
location as well, signifying the events of the war and its 50  
victims and stands to remind us of the motto of the Jewish 51  
victims-"Never Again"; and 52

WHEREAS, The memorial received official historic 53

recognition from the Ohio History Connection in 2016, and is 54  
seeking inclusion for the monument in the National Registry of 55  
Historic Places; and 56

WHEREAS, The Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial 57  
represents an historical event and captures the essence of the 58  
atrocities of the Holocaust of World War II; now therefore be it 59

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 60  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, request an Act of the United 61  
States Congress to designate the Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust 62  
Memorial, located in Zion Memorial Park in Bedford, Ohio, as a 63  
National Memorial; and be it further 64

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 65  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, request the assistance of the 66  
Ohio Congressional delegation in support of this request; and be 67  
it further 68

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a duly 69  
authenticated copy of this resolution to the Speaker and Clerk 70  
of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro 71  
Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the members 72  
of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of 73  
Ohio. 74