

As Reported by the Senate General Government Budget Committee

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

S. C. R. No. 11

**Senators Yuko, Dolan
Cosponsor: Senator Hackett**

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