**14180, Joseph Weisbord**

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather once again, just as we have for many years, to remember the six million Jews who died here and at other camps like it during WWII. We also gather to honor the survivors of that terrible time, one of which was my father, who was a resident of Town of Radom/Poland. Because my father lived through his experience at Concentration Camp Vaihingen/Enz he passed that knowledge down to me. Today we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of that camp. Standing here at the cemetery of that camp we are humbled by the sacrifice of those who died here.

As the son of one of the prisoners and the current President of the Radomer Mutual Cultural Center, I am honored to speak to you today. This organization was founded by people from Radom who survived the holocaust and came to the United States. I am one of the “second generation” who have begun a transition of leadership from the survivors to the next generation. It is our responsibility, as that second generation, to continue to remind the world of what happened so that something like that never happens again. There are those who say it is time to forget what happened. They want to look to the future, not relive the past. But, a wise man once said, to forget history is to repeat history. So, let’s first look at some history.

On August 9th the transfer of 2189 Polish/Jewish concentration camp prisoners from Auschwitz to the construction project “Stoffel” took place. In the beginning of April the order was issued to evacuate the camp. Those being able to walk were sent to Dachau via train transport. In Dachau 515 men were listed, my father among them.

If you look around you there are new anti-Semitic acts occurring. So, on one hand you have those say we need to forget and then we see others who want to repeat the past. The only way to prevent repeating the past is to remind the world of what happened here and how it didn’t happen all at once, but was insidiously worked in on step at a time.

As a representative of the second generation I feel a responsibility to continue to remind the world of the atrocities that occurred. But, in addition to hearing about the sacrifices of my father and his generation, I am also honored to celebrate the lives of those who perished as well as those who survived. I have attended these memorials for many years and I’ve been inspired by the resilience of the survivors and as a representative of Radomer, I want to say that we are privileged to know all of you. It is our honor to pass along the memories of you both because of how you survived and how you have gone on to build meaningful lives.

I’d like to make special mention to Mrs. Von Staden who became the wife of the West German Ambassador to the US - Berndt von Staden. She was a 15 year old girl at the time and my father was one of the inmates who worked at her parents’ estate. He has told me stories of her family’s kindness to him and other prisoners. Her mother always talked to the prisoners and my father remembers how she would make sure he would be given an apple to eat and some milk to drink.

We have also been inspired by the dedication of Radomer past leaders. Leaders like Jack Werber (Millie), Henry Hanover (Paula), and Sam Feldman (Celia). It is our duty to share your stories, honor your legacy, and preserve the memory for our children, our grandchildren, and for the future of mankind.