



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

February 9, 2017

The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools
3535 Commerce Road
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Friends:

It is a privilege to send greetings and words of welcome to all who have gathered at the Jefferson Library at the United States Military Academy at West Point in the beautiful Hudson Valley to commemorate the 72nd Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz with the presentation of the *Forbidden Art Exhibit*.

The people of the Empire State recognize the great value and importance of promoting a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and we remember the deaths of the millions of souls who perished at the hands of the Nazis in their extermination camps. January 27, 1945 marks the date when the Soviet army reached the horrors of the camp at Auschwitz, and the anniversary of liberation stands as an appropriate testament to never again allowing such genocide and to a compassionate commitment to addressing the harm and injustice of all aspects of hatred, intolerance, and misuse of authority.

On behalf of all New Yorkers; I commend the International Auschwitz Council, the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools, the United States Military Academy, and all affiliated and everyone present for their determination to have the frightening xenophobia and incomprehensible inhumanity of the Holocaust never forgotten and never repeated. In particular, I wish to thank Dr. Piotr M.A. Cywiński, Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum of Poland. The vision of all who have assembled for today's address, and those who put together this meaningful touring exhibit, offers us hope that our children and grandchildren will live in a more tolerant, peaceable world.

With warmest regards and best wishes for a memorable and moving ceremony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew M. Cuomo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

ANDREW M. CUOMO

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
PERFORMANCE * INTEGRITY * PRIDE