



December 12, 2020

To the Members of the Texas Sunset Commission:

I write this with a full heart and great pride because I have been privileged to work closely with the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission these past 5 years. When Pete Berkowitz first arrived at the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost at Texas Tech, I did not know that what he would offer me, my students, the Honors College, Texas Tech University was an opportunity to honor veterans, to educate the public, to engage in vital and life-changing scholarship, and to unite with the other Holocaust museums, center, and programs to be upstanders in the battle for justice and human decency. The THGC has been pivotal in not just a statewide initiative to teach, train, and make available resources and materials to the wider public, it has been part of a national movement to ensure that we acknowledge and study the brave work of our Texas Liberators in the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. With Governor Abbot's signing of a 2019 bill to create an educational Holocaust remembrance week in the public schools, the work of the THGC has been more important than ever. Not only has the THGC provided training sessions, teacher's workshops, bibliographies and filmographies, exhibits, films, digital resources, an educational app, visits with Liberators and survivors, and collaborated with Holocaust and genocide scholars and the Holocaust Museums in the state of Texas, it has served as both the practical and logistical repository of this work but also as the inspiration for continued study, continued self-reflection, and continued energy to fight against genocide, human cruelty, and injustice.

Countless teachers and students have been irrevocably affected by the work of the THGC. Countless Texas veterans, too many of whom we have lost in these recent months, have been beautifully honored by the THGC. And countless proud citizens of the great State of Texas have been inspired to civic duty and public service by the commitment of the THGC. One of my students who worked on the project is now a member of the Texas National Guard because he wants to answer the call of duty as our Texas Liberators did during the Second World War. Another works with non-profit groups because he wants his work to have meaning and inspire change. Yet another teaches the history of the Liberation as part of U.S. History because in fact our soldiers came back not only as war heroes but as witnesses to the Holocaust.

I beseech you to consider what the THGC has done to improve the lives of Texans through education, inspiration, and dedication. And I ask that you continue your support of the Commission as being upstanders is one of the greatest Texas tradition.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aliza Wong".

Aliza S. Wong, Ph.D.
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