



On May 31, 2012, motorcyclists from five countries gathered on Parliament Hill for the Ride To Remember “Never Again” ceremony to raise awareness of the Holocaust. Member of Parliament Peter Goldring, Parliamentary co-chair and principal organizer of the event, looks back.

The Ride to Remember (R2R) was started in 2005 as an annual event in which Jewish motorcyclists in the United States would ride to remember those murdered in the Holocaust, and to raise awareness for all genocide education. The 2012 Ride to Remember was the first to take place outside the United States.

I was approached by Howard Galganov, who I had worked with on national unity issues in the past, to become involved. We decided that a ceremony on Parliament Hill with the participants pledging “Never Again” to genocide would be appropriate, and that participation should not be restricted only to Jewish bikers but by opened

also to all. I suggested that because many of these riders would be military veterans that they stop at the Memorial Park in Trenton.

I formed a Parliamentary committee to work on the event. Interest both on and off Parliament Hill was gratifying. The Christian motorcycle group Mission of Hope from Texas were among those who joined the ride, as did representatives of The CAV, the Canadian Army Veterans motorcycle group, and the organizers of both the Heroes Highway Ride (the largest single-location ride in Canada) and the National Memorial Ride.

I worked with Doug Main, who did the design and ordering of posters, cards and t-shirts. I assembled the 100 badges, dog tags I called them, on House of Commons lanyards for dignitaries and volunteers. I travelled to CFB Trenton and met with Chief Warrant Officer Sandor Gyuk and Captain Gregory Bush. From them I learned about another ride the He-

roes Highway Ride organized by Lou Devuono. I spoke to Lou and passed his con-



MP John Rafferty, Lou Devuono, Joyce Kaufman, Howard Galganov, Rabbi Leibele Rodal, MP Peter Goldring and MP David Anderson.



tact information on to Howard. I then travelled the road from Ottawa to Trenton to meet with media to prepare them for the Ride.

The goal was to remind everyone of the horrors of genocide and the terrible consequences of indifference. In this context, having Bikers from across the religious, cultural, and national divides shouts volumes to the importance of this common cause. While the Second World War Holocaust is perhaps the best-known of the genocides of the 20th century, it is important to continue to promote education about and understanding of this and similar genocides, such as the Holodomor in Ukraine, to truly ensure that such actions are not repeated in the future.

Inspector Mark Ford of the Ottawa Police Service came to my office and agreed to close a road close to Parliament Hill allowing the 300 or so bikers to use it for parking. Following the event the riders were given a police escort past the National War Memorial and on to the Highway as they made their way out of the city.

The Parliament Hill ceremony included a show of flags of the riders' countries (Canada, The US, Australia, the United Kingdom and Israel) and the playing of their national anthems. Representatives of the Israeli and Australian governments brought greetings and the Honoura-

ble Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism spoke on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The Reverend Gary Burd of the Mission of Hope riders offered a prayer, and the Kad-dish, an ancient Hebrew Prayer that pays homage to those who have perished, was delivered by another biker, Rabbi Leibele Rodal. All in attendance were asked to take the pledge of "Never Again," led by biker Andy Reti, who as a child survived the Holocaust.

I was the first Canadian Member of Parliament to refer to the Holodomor in Ukraine as a genocide in a speech in Parliament in 1998, and in 1999 when I called for the creation of a world genocide museum. I am well aware that there are those who, to support their own agendas, deny the truth of historical

events like the Holodomor or the Holocaust, and have spoken out on many occasions to ensure the facts of history are not obscured or re-written.

Following is the speech I gave on Parliament Hill as part of the ceremonies.

*We ask, "Why is it important to remember the Holocaust – World Genocides."*

*Certainly, we want to give spiritual comfort and consoling to the survivors and honour the*



Mr. Goldring addresses the multi-faith assembly gathered on the grounds of Parliament Hill prior to the beginning of the Ride To Remember.



memories of the victims.

But there is another reason equally as important.

We, as politicians, have a duty to remember – to speak out when we see genocidal acts. In those terrible days past, politicians from countries around the world who knew full well what was happening did not. Politicians were silent when millions suffered and perished. Politicians turned back ships of fleeing desperate refugees from the safety of their country's ports, sending them back to Hitler's death camps. Politicians purchased from Stalin's Soviet Union crops stolen from Ukraine, as ten million Ukrainians starved to death on land so rich as to be called "Europe's Bread Basket".

In July 2008, representing Canada, I was in Kazakhstan, a former Soviet country, attending a 56 country including Canada and United States conference with OSCE – Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Ukraine had introduced a resolution to recognize the Holodomor - the genocide in which 10 million perished.

The debate began with a Member of Parliament from France astonishingly stating, "We're politicians, we're not historians!" "Why are we debating genocide?"

Then I spoke addressing the French delega-

tion first. I reminded them that a knowledge of history, particularly genocide, should be an essential for all politicians.

In this debate, in a far corner of our earth, the deniers could have had their way and could have interpreted the Holodomor the way they wished if I had not stood up for the truth. They had the advantage – even the host country Kazakhstan supported them, and the American delegation had left early. It served the deniers purpose to cast doubt on claims of genocide; to claim it to be a failure of nature rather than murder by forced starvation by one man, Stalin. I was proud that day as Ukraine's resolution survived the deniers without a word being changed. A slim majority of the 300 parliamentary delegates stood together to support the resolution on genocide. This experience forever shaped my resolve.



Minister Jason Kenney, MP David Sweet, and MP Peter Goldring on Parliament Hill to speak to the assembly before the Ride to Remember.

The importance of speaking about and reminding ALL of the truth of the Holocaust continues right here today.

In the House of Commons in 1999, I called for the formal recognition of the Holocaust by way of a museum to permanently display genocide, the dark side of humanity. Visiting politicians and others from around the world would view the exhibits and be made aware of why they need to remember the atrocities of the past, to help prevent them in the future

– a lesson not yet learned by the political leaders in Syria today.

I will close with a statement that I gave in the House of Commons yesterday.

Mr. Speaker,

Seventy years ago, the duly elected leader and government of a modern country, known for its contributions to the arts and culture, edicted mass murder of an unimaginable scale.

The world was shocked to learn of meticulous state records documenting millions who perished; horrendous evidence that evil resides everywhere when left unchecked due to apathy and indifference.

The goal was genocide: to obliterate Jews in all countries under Nazi control.

As the storm clouds of rhetoric and denial gather against Jews throughout the world: We stand together to remember those whose lives were annihilated in the Holocaust. We stand to condemn these acts of genocide and those that would deny the very atrocities that caused millions to perish at the hand of their fellow man.

Mr. Speaker, we stand as one people, under the banner of humanity, united in our support to solemnly pledge, this day and forever – NEVER AGAIN.

**UPDATE: Following the Parliament Hill ceremony the ride proceeded to Trenton for another ceremony at Bain Park, site of the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial, with Mr Goldring as the keynote speaker.**

9111 - 118th Ave.  
Edmonton, AB T5B OT9  
(780) 495-3261  
Fax: 495-5142

Web Site:  
www.petergoldring.ca  
Email:  
peter.goldring.c1@parl.gc.ca

411 Justice Bldg.  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
(613) 992-3821  
Fax: 992-6898

*This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.*

**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Do you think it was significant for Christian, Jewish (and other) bikers to come together for this purpose?

Yes

No

**Question #2** Should government be doing more to educate people about the Holocaust, the Holodomor and other world genocides?

Yes

No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6