

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 54

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Auschwitz-Birkenau state museum in Poland should release seven paintings by Auschwitz survivor Dina Babbitt made while she was imprisoned there, and that the governments of the United States and Poland should facilitate the return of Dina Babbitt's artwork to her.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 1999

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. HELMS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Auschwitz-Birkenau state museum in Poland should release seven paintings by Auschwitz survivor Dina Babbitt made while she was imprisoned there, and that the governments of the United States and Poland should facilitate the return of Dina Babbitt's artwork to her.

Whereas Dina Babbitt (formerly known as Dinah Gottliebova), a United States citizen now 76 years old, has requested the return of watercolor portraits she painted while suffering a year and a half long internment at the Auschwitz death camp;

Whereas Dina Babbitt was ordered to paint the portraits by the infamous war criminal Dr. Josef Mengele;

Whereas Dina Babbitt's life, and her mother's life, were spared only because she painted portraits of doomed inmates of Auschwitz-Birkenau, under orders from Dr. Josef Mengele;

Whereas Dina Babbitt is unquestionably the rightful owner of the artwork, since it was produced by her own talented hands as she survived the unspeakable conditions that prevailed at the Auschwitz death camp;

Whereas only 22 of the 3,800 Czech Jews scheduled for death at Auschwitz in March of 1944 survived the Auschwitz ordeal, and among those who were murdered were relatives of Dina Babbitt;

Whereas to continue to deny Dina Babbitt the property that is rightfully hers adds to the pain and suffering she has experienced because of the Auschwitz ordeal;

Whereas the artwork is not available to public view at the Auschwitz-Birkenau state museum and therefore this unique and important body of work is essentially lost to history; and

Whereas this continued injustice can be righted through cooperation between agencies of the United States and Poland: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes the moral right of Dina Babbitt
4 to obtain the artwork she created, and recognizes
5 her courage in the face of the evils perpetrated by
6 the Nazi command of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death

1 camp, including the atrocities committed by Dr.
2 Josef Mengele;

3 (2) urges the President to make all efforts nec-
4 essary to retrieve the seven watercolor portraits
5 Dina Babbitt painted, while suffering a year and a
6 half long internment at the Auschwitz death camp,
7 and return them to her;

8 (3) urges the State Department to make imme-
9 diate diplomatic efforts to facilitate the transfer of
10 the seven original watercolors painted by Dina Bab-
11 bitt from the Auschwitz-Birkenau state museum to
12 Dina Babbitt, the rightful owner;

13 (4) urges the Government of Poland to imme-
14 diately facilitate the return of the artwork painted
15 by Dina Babbitt from the Auschwitz-Birkenau state
16 museum to Dina Babbitt; and

17 (5) urges the officials of the Auschwitz-
18 Birkenau state museum to transfer the seven origi-
19 nal paintings to Dina Babbitt as expeditiously as
20 possible.

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