

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 49

Urging the return of portraits painted by Dina Babbitt during her internment at Auschwitz that are now in the possession of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2001

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

---

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the return of portraits painted by Dina Babbitt during her internment at Auschwitz that are now in the possession of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

Whereas Dina Babbitt (formerly known as Dinah Gottliebova), a United States citizen now in her late 70's, has requested the return of watercolor portraits she painted while suffering a 1½-year-long internment at the Auschwitz death camp during World War II;

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 in-

mates of Auschwitz-Birkenau, under orders from Dr. Josef Mengele;

Whereas these paintings are currently in the possession of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum;

Whereas Dina Babbitt is unquestionably the rightful owner of the artwork, since the paintings were produced by her own talented hands as she endured the unspeakable conditions that existed at the Auschwitz death camp;

Whereas the artwork is not available for the public to 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 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  
7            camp, including the atrocities committed by Dr.  
8            Josef Mengele;

9            (2) urges the President to make all efforts nec-  
10            essary to retrieve the 7 watercolor portraits Dina  
11            Babbitt painted, while suffering a 1½-year-long in-  
12            ternment at the Auschwitz death camp, and return  
13            them to her;

1           (3) urges the Secretary of State to make imme-  
2           diate diplomatic efforts to facilitate the transfer of  
3           the 7 original watercolors painted by Dina Babbitt  
4           from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum to Dina  
5           Babbitt, their rightful owner;

6           (4) urges the Government of Poland to imme-  
7           diately facilitate the return to Dina Babbitt of the  
8           artwork painted by her that is now in the possession  
9           of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum; and

10          (5) urges the officials of the Auschwitz-  
11          Birkenau State Museum to transfer the 7 original  
12          paintings to Dina Babbitt as expeditiously as pos-  
13          sible.

○