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Contact: Leslie Pardo/Glenn Oswald
Marx Layne & Company
248-855-6777

Holocaust Memorial Center To Host Lessons from the Rwandan Genocide

*Retired Lt. Gen., the Honourable Roméo Dallaire, to share experiences
from his service with the United Nations*

Farmington Hills, Mich. -- Dec. XX, 2018 – The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus is hosting Lessons from the Rwandan Genocide, the newest installment in the Community Conversations speakers series, at 3:00 p.m. on Sun., January 13, 2019. Featured speaker is retired Lt. Gen., the Honourable Roméo Dallaire, who served as Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda prior to and during the 1994 genocide.

During his service with the United Nations, Lt. Gen. Dallaire provided the UN with information about the planned massacre, which ultimately took more than 800,000 lives in less than 100 days. Tragically, permission to intervene was denied and the UN withdrew its peacekeeping forces. Lt. Gen. Dallaire, along with a small contingent of Ghanaian and Tunisian soldiers and military observers, disobeyed the command to withdraw and remained in Rwanda to fulfill their ethical obligation to protect those who sought refuge with the UN forces.

In recognition of Lt. Gen. Dallaire's courage and leadership, several honors were bestowed upon him, including the Meritorious Service Cross, the United States Legion of Merit and the Aegis Award on Genocide Prevention. His defiant dedication to humanity as General has been well-documented in films and books. Dallaire published an account of his experience in *Shake Hands with the Devil: the Failure of Humanity in Rwanda* which won the Governor General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction in 2004 and the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for political writing awarded by the Writers' Trust of Canada. Lt. Gen. Dallaire's book provided the basis for an Emmy Award-winning documentary and major motion picture. Notably, Dallaire's book was entered into evidence in war crime tribunals trying the perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide.

“We are honored to have Lieutenant General Roméo Dallaire share his experiences in Rwanda with us. His bravery in service and advocacy for human rights is inspiring,” said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO, Holocaust Memorial Center. “We are proud to host Lessons from the Rwandan Genocide, and know this will be an informative and emotional experience for everyone in attendance.”

Lessons from the Rwandan Genocide is generously supported by Lori and Alan Zekelman.

The event is free with museum admission or membership. A dessert reception will follow the event. RSVPs are requested by Jan. 9 to 248-536-9613 or tinyurl.com/RwandaHMC.

About the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus is a 55,000 square foot museum and Library Archive in Farmington Hills that teaches about the senseless murder of millions and why each of us must respect and stand up for the rights of others if we are to prevent future genocide and hate crimes.

The lessons of history are used to create a call to action, teaching visitors through the examples of those who risked their lives to save others, and asking our guests to react to contemporary challenges such as racism and prejudice. Exhibits include artifacts such as an authentic WWII-era boxcar, text panels, photos, video testimonies, films, paintings, sculpture, and a sapling from the tree located outside Anne Frank's hiding place window that is described in her diary. Public tours are available daily on a walk-in basis at 1:30 pm. These tours, led by a docent, last approximately 1.5 hours. As often as possible, a Holocaust survivor will speak from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm daily. Visitors can call in advance to verify that a Holocaust survivor will be speaking. Located on the second floor above the museum, the Library Archive is an important resource for academics, the media and families researching their heritage.

Hours: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 am to 5 pm (last admission at 4:00 pm), Monday 9:30 am – 8:30 pm (last admission 7:30 pm) and Friday 9:30 am to 3 pm (last admission 2:00 pm). Wheelchair accessible. Free parking. For additional information, visit www.holocaustcenter.org or call 248-553-2400.

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