

## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp, April 29, 2020**

### **Video message by Karl Freller, Director of the Bavarian Memorial Foundation and First Vice President of the Bavarian State Parliament**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

As Director of the Bavarian Memorial Foundation, it pains me that in this year particularly, in which the liberation of the Dachau and Flossenbürg Concentration Camps has its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have had to cancel the long-planned ceremonies. At a time when a virus is spreading worldwide this decision was unfortunately necessary.

In order to protect our guests and visitors, we have followed the security guidelines implemented throughout Bavaria and Germany by closing both memorial sites and cancelling all events until further notice. I can only apologize for the inconvenience.

Dear Survivors,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

For Dachau alone we had registrations by over seventy survivors, mostly with family. Many of them had consciously chosen to return to the location of their persecution and liberation on this special date, some of them for the first time. Being in contact with them, but also with their children and grandchildren, enriches our work at the memorial sites immensely. For this they deserve my special thanks.

The fact that 19 American liberators also wanted to come is a special honor! What must have been going on in those people who arrived at Dachau in the early evening hours of the 29<sup>th</sup> of April and liberated the Concentration Camp prisoners from their privation and distress. We will never forget their selfless actions!

Anniversaries are days of remembrance. Remembering the victims and the National Socialist crimes is and remains our duty and obligation, even a three-quarter century on. The warnings of yesterday serve the peace of tomorrow! Never again must contempt and exclusion, hate and agitation, death and extermination be allowed to rule our land.

The Bavarian Memorial Foundation with all its boards and all its staff understands its responsibility and takes its task very seriously. We receive significant support from both the Federal German level as well as from the Free State of Bavaria and are currently working intensively on far-reaching plans for the future of both memorial sites. The inclusion of the descendants of survivors and victims will be very important to our work.

With all my heart I wish us all stable health and for the survivors the chance to come next year. We will try everything to invite you to the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 2, 2021 in order to make up for the missed ceremonies and the possibilities of meetings, which we were not able to engage in this year.

Thank you very much.