



Richmond City Sheriff's Office
Sheriff C. T. Woody, Jr.



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 18, 2016

Media Contact: Sarah Scarbrough, PhD
office (804) 646-0987
cell (804) 837-7779

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS SPEAK TO REAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Richmond, Virginia – Sheriff C.T. Woody, Jr was honored to welcome Holocaust Survivors Alan and Halina Zimm to speak to residents participating in his REAL Program. Alan and Halina have both dedicated their lives to educating the public about World War II, living under Nazi Germany, and how they survived when so many others perished in the Holocaust.

A large component of the REAL Program is education, and when offered the opportunity to hear and learn more about the Holocaust from those who lived through it, many residents expressed their interest to hear from survivors like Alan and Halina. While some residents read and studied the Holocaust in school, many had not even heard of it or did not know exactly what it was. The chance to hear from survivors – those who can describe personal experiences and struggles and articulate what life was like under such a treacherous regime – is a rare gift that REAL program participants were able to experience.

Alan and Halina brought not only an instructive historical angle to this presentation, but also a message of motivation and hope. It is a message that can have a large impact on those who are incarcerated; the idea that individuals can and often do find themselves in horrible situations, and bad choices can result from those situations.

“Everyone isn’t bad; some people make bad decisions,” said Alan, and that when faced with incarceration and the prospect of turning one’s life around, “destination and faith are the most important things.”

The residents found the presentation informative and inspiring. A program resident said, “If they can make it through the Holocaust, anything is possible.”

“Alan and Halina Zimm have experienced struggles and horrors that no human being should have to endure,” said Sheriff Woody. “It is a great testament to them that they have made it their mission to share such a painful period in their lives with others. Any chance that we have to educate those who are incarcerated, we take. Our residents received not only a historical lesson today, but also one of faith, motivation, and hope – the idea that one can survive and go on to achieve great things regardless of the circumstances they face.”

The Richmond City Sheriff's Office is responsible for maintaining a secure jail and a safe court system, along with seamless inmate transport and civil process to preserve public safety. We remain committed to performing these duties with unsurpassed integrity and professionalism, with progressive training that incorporates best practices and technology. While partnering with the community, we strive to lower recidivism by providing faith-based and community-based programming that empowers ex-offenders to become productive members of society.