FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 31, 2009

Wexler Introduces Resolution in Support of Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets

Contact: Ashley Mushnick

Phone: (202) 225-3001

Conference Will Allow International Community to Address Crucial Holocaust Issues

(Washington, DC) Today, Congressman Robert Wexler (D-FL), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, together with a bipartisan group of House of Representatives colleagues, introduced H. Con. Res. 89, a resolution commending the government of the Czech Republic for hosting the upcoming Holocaust Era Assets Conference from June 26 to June 30, 2009. Additional original co-sponsors of the measure include Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA); Co-Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA); Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL); Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Europe, Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-CA); Ranking Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation Europe, Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), and Rep. Michael E. McMahon (D-NY).

The conference will serve as an historic opportunity for governments, non-governmental organizations, Holocaust survivors, and the international community to address outstanding Holocaust issues, including the social needs of Holocaust survivors, financial assets, bank accounts, insurance policies, and other property taken by the Nazis during the Holocaust. The Prague Conference is a follow-up to the 1998 Washington Conference, which was instrumental in establishing international agreements on Holocaust reparation and compensation.

"The Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets may represent the last opportunity for the international community to address outstanding Holocaust era issues while remaining survivors are still alive," said Congressman Wexler. "This conference is an opportunity to highlight and address the plight of many survivors who are living in poverty without the medical care and assistance they need and deserve. It is critical that the United States participates with a high-level representative to ensure a successful outcome of the Prague Conference."

The resolution is available for viewing here.

Congressman Robert Wexler is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. Recently, Congressman Wexler served as an advisor on Middle East issues to President Barack Obama during his 2008 presidential campaign.