

## **The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous**

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### **JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS TO SCREEN ACADEMY AWARD SUBMITTED FILM “FOOTSTEPS OF MY FATHER” AT ANNUAL DINNER**

NEW YORK – The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) will screen its Academy Awards submitted documentary, “Footsteps of My Father” at its annual dinner. The award winning film explores the heroism of Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds in saving the lives of 200 Jewish American soldiers during the Second World War.

The dinner will take place Monday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. at The New York Public Library.

Master Sgt. Edmonds was captured during the Battle of the Bulge by the German Army on December 19, 1944. As the highest-ranking officer in the Stalag IXA, a prisoner of war camp, Edmonds was responsible for the camp's 1,292 American POWs. The camp's commandant ordered Edmonds to identify the Jewish soldiers in order to separate them from the other prisoners. Instead, Edmonds refused, and when the German commandant placed his pistol against Edmonds' head, demanding that he identify the Jewish soldiers, Edmonds responded "We are all Jews here," refusing to identify the Jewish soldiers thereby saving their lives.

Edmonds survived 100 days of captivity, and returned home after the war, but never spoke of his actions. He passed away in 1985, and only long after did his son, Pastor Chris Edmonds, begin to put together the story of his father's heroism during the war. Posthumously, Edmond's actions have been recognized by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Authority, and The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. The narrative of film follows the younger Edmond's exploration of the episode during the war.

JFR 2018 DINNER  
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The documentary's narrative was told through the eyes of Edmond's son, Pastor Chris Edmonds, and several American Jewish POWs. It was directed by Paul Allman and produced by The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. The JFR, working with Paul Allman and Dean Beals, has produced documentaries for more than a decade. Ted Koppel, of ABC News' Nightline, provided the historical narration for the film.

“Over the years we have worked with and honored many holocaust survivors and their rescuers, but the story of Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds saving 200 Jewish-American soldiers truly distinguishes the man and leader he was,” said Stahl. Several of the Jewish GI's saved by Master Sgt. Edmonds will be at the dinner, as well as their family members, and the three granddaughters of Master Sgt. Edmonds.

The JFR continues its work of providing monthly financial assistance to more than 300 aged and needy Righteous Gentiles, living in 20 countries. Since its founding, the JFR has provided more than \$40 million to aged and needy rescuers – helping to repay a debt of gratitude on behalf of the Jewish people to these noble men and women. Its Holocaust teacher education program has become a standard for teaching the history of the Holocaust and educating teachers and students about the significance of the Righteous as moral and ethical exemplars. For more information, visit <https://jfr.org/>.