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JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS AWARD WINNING
DOCUMENTARY “FOOTSTEPS OF MY FATHER” WILL BE SHOWN AT
SCRANTON YOM HASHOAH EVENT

SCRANTON, Pennsylvania – The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR), in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Scranton Jewish Community Center (JCC), will present its award-winning documentary titled “Footsteps of My Father,” during Scranton’s Yom HaShoah Commemoration Event on Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. The screening will take place at the Scranton JCC, located at 601 Jefferson Avenue in Scranton.

The film explores the heroism of Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds in saving the lives of 200 Jewish American soldiers during the Second World War. The narrative, told through the lens of Edmond’s son, Pastor Chris Edmonds, and several American Jewish POWs, was directed by Paul Allman, and produced by JFR Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl and Dean Beals who has co-produced JFR documentaries for many years. Ted Koppel, of ABC News’ Nightline, provided the historical narration for the film.

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.

FOOTSTEPS OF MY FATHER SCRANTON EVENT
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Edmonds survived 100 days of captivity, and returned home after the war, but never spoke of his actions. Edmonds 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 and The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. The narrative of film follows the younger Edmond's exploration of the episode during the war.

"Master Sgt. Edmonds's story, one not only of heroism but also one of humility, provides an incredible role model to today's leaders and to so many others. During his lifetime, he chose not to publicize his actions, and the story of his son's discovery of them provides an incredible window into the Greatest Generation," said Stahl. "We are pleased to share his story with an even wider audience through this film."

There will be a post-screening discussion with JFR Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl who will introduce the film.

The film has received many awards including the Award of Excellence Special Mention by The Best Shorts Film Competition (2018); 2nd place Documentary Short Film Award at the KNOX Film Festival (2018) and the Best Shorts Competition 2018 Humanitarian Awards; Best Documentary at the 2018 Rhode Island Roving Eye Film Festival; and Best Short Documentary at the 43rd Cleveland International Film Festival.

The JFR continues its work of providing monthly financial assistance to more than 275 aged and needy Righteous Gentiles, living in 19 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/>.