

U.S. Ambassador Howard Gutman Impressed by Remember Museum

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The Remember Museum which was created in Clermont by Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz has just gone through an exceptional moment. Indeed, U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Howard Gutman paid it a long and private visit. Only accompanied by his wife and his son Collin, in addition to a couple of plain-clothed policemen, this brilliant lawyer whom President Obama turned into a diplomat kept the promise he had made at the recent Memorial Day ceremonies at the Henri-Chapelle American cemetery.

‘I was told extraordinary things about Mathilde and her husband. This is why I wanted to see by myself,’ the unusual visitor said, before adding after a visit of close to two hours and a half instead of the sixty minutes which had been initially planned: ‘This is definitely not a museum like others because it is alive. It is alive thanks to the stories it tells about men and women but also thanks to the ties that the M&Ms – read Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz – continue to weave with U.S. citizens today. It is simply incredible. I knew Belgium is one of the European countries which is the most grateful to America for what my country did in the Second World War - and many other museums testify of this – but this one is really the top.’

Let us not forget this moment of friendliness when Mr. Gutman explained how his father, a Polish Jew, migrated to the U.S. under a false name and with a fake passport from Danzig after having been freed from German prisons by Stalin’s army. And all this simply sitting in the kitchen of the Schmetz family, drinking a beer and tasting Belgian chocolates which the Ambassador, who was also an actor – in the 2009 remake of *Fame* for instance – admitted to liking a lot.

The Remember Museum, which is open to the public – with multilingual guided tours - the first Sunday of each month and by appointment for groups of more than ten people, is located at Beoles 4 in the commune of Thimister-Clermont. More information is available on the internet site <http://remembermuseum.com> or by calling 087/44 61 81.