



Councilmember Charles Allen

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize April 24, 2025, as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day and reflect on the 110th anniversary of the 1915 Armenian Genocide and on the importance of educating District residents on the Armenian Genocide.

WHEREAS, on April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire began a premeditated campaign of brutal atrocities, including pogroms, deportations, forced death marches across Anatolia into the Syrian Desert, starvation, crucifixions, kidnapping, massacres en masse, and genocide against its Christian Armenian minority population, resulting in the death of an estimated one and one half million Armenians and over one million Greeks, Assyrians, Syriacs and others;

WHEREAS, on July 16, 1915, the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, wrote to the U.S. Secretary of State, Robert Lansing, and reported that “Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eye witnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress”;

WHEREAS, Near East Relief was the first Congressionally sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to rescue the Armenian Nation and other Christian minorities from annihilation after Ambassador Morgenthau pled for assistance upon personally witnessing the systematic massacre of Armenians;

WHEREAS, James Cannon, Jr., Frank Morrison, and Ray Lyman Wilbur of the District of

33 Columbia helped lead the humanitarian efforts of Near East Relief by serving on its Board of  
34 Trustees from 1915 to 1930;

35 WHEREAS, Near East Relief's efforts resulted in delivering \$117 million of assistance  
36 between 1915 and 1930, including the delivery of food, clothing, and materials for shelter, setting  
37 up refugee camps, clinics, hospitals, and orphanages;

38 WHEREAS, the Near East Relief Committee of the District of Columbia was the third-  
39 largest committee of any state in the United States from 1915 through 1930;

40 WHEREAS, Near East Relief evolved into the Near East Foundation in 1930, and it  
41 continues to provide humanitarian aid to people throughout the Middle East and Asia;

42 WHEREAS, on May 28, 1951, the United States Government affirmed the Armenian  
43 Genocide in a statement to the International Criminal Court, which stated that "the Roman  
44 persecution of the Christians, the Turkish massacres of Armenians, the extermination of millions  
45 of Jews and Poles by the Nazis are outstanding examples of the crime of genocide";

46 WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives officially acknowledged the World War I  
47 mass killings of Armenians as the Armenian Genocide through adopted legislation in 1975 and  
48 1984;

49 WHEREAS, on April 22, 1981, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation which  
50 stated that "like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians  
51 which followed it – and like too many other such persecutions of too many other peoples – the  
52 lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten";

53 WHEREAS, since the 1890s, Armenian Americans and organizations contribute richly to  
54 the District of Columbia's social mosaic and add to our community's economic, political, and  
55 educational development;

56           WHEREAS, in 2019, the District of Columbia recognized the Armenian Genocide of 1915-  
57 1923, affirming recognition of persecuted Armenians;

58           WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 has been recognized by the U.S. House  
59 of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and the President of the United States, as well as more than  
60 30 countries, including Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, the Vatican, and Argentina;

61           WHEREAS, by recognizing, remembering, and educating others about the Armenian  
62 Genocide, we help protect historic memory, prevent similar atrocities from happening again, and  
63 remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny.

64           RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
65 resolution may be cited as the “Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day Recognition Resolution  
66 of 2025”.

67           Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes Armenian Genocide  
68 Remembrance Day and reflects on the 110th anniversary of the 1915 Armenian Genocide and on  
69 the importance of educating District residents about the Armenian Genocide.

70           Sec. 3. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor,  
71 the State Superintendent of Education, the Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools,  
72 and the President and each member of the State Board of Education.

73           Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.