

*Office of the Mayor
City of Twin Falls, Idaho*

Proclamation



**"TWIN FALLS ARMENIAN MEMORIAL MONTH"
100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide
April 2015**

WHEREAS, The Armenian People have been part of a thriving and noble civilization that is over 3,000 years old; and,

WHEREAS, the Armenian history, including the tragic loss of life and displacement of Armenians that occurred in the final years of the Ottoman-Turkish Empire, has not been widely understood by our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the government of Azerbaijan created a political and social situation that did not tolerate the Karabakh Armenians living in their historic homeland; and,

WHEREAS, Sumgait Pogroms in 1988 and the Baku anti-Armenian riots in 1990 resulted in hundreds of Armenian deaths and the mass deportation of 350,000 Armenians from Azerbaijan; and,

WHEREAS, the United States is on record as having officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, in the United States Government's May 28, 1951, written statement to the International Court of Justice regarding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, through President Ronald Reagan's April 22, 1981, Proclamation No. 4838, and by Congressional legislation, including House Joint Resolution 148 adopted on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247 adopted on September 10, 1984; and,

WHEREAS, Twin Falls has become the home to many of the Armenian refugees and immigrants who have resettled in Twin Falls after falling victim to Azerbaijan's conflicts of 1988-1990; and,

WHEREAS, Armenian-Americans living in Twin Falls, Idaho, have greatly enriched our city and state through their contributions as citizens, business leaders, agriculture, academia, government and the arts; and,

WHEREAS, recognition and remembrance of the history of the Armenian people is crucial to guarding against future discrimination and bigotry; and,

THEREFORE, I, Don Hall, Mayor of the City of Twin Falls, do hereby join the Twin Falls Armenian-American Community and their Twin Falls citizen supporters, by proclaiming April, 2015, as

"TWIN FALLS ARMENIAN MEMORIAL MONTH" in memory of the 100th year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and those who suffered under the final years of the Ottoman Turkish Empire and the Azerbaijan persecutions.

Furthermore, I encourage each citizen to take the time to learn more about the history of one of the newest cultures and the persecutions they endured. The persecutions which forced their exodus from Azerbaijan to become part of the powerful cultural diversity of Twin Falls.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.

Mayor Don Hall

Attest: Deputy City Clerk Leila A. Sanchez

Dated: March 30, 2015