

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Armenian community is commemorating the 81st Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide;

WHEREAS, 81 years ago Armenians were forced to witness the genocide of their relatives and the loss of their ancestral homelands. The extermination of 1.5 million Armenians and the forced deportation of countless others by Ottoman Turks between the years 1915 and 1923 is remembered every year;

WHEREAS, Ancestral Armenian lands have not been returned to the Armenian people; and

WHEREAS, the Armenians continue to be a people full of hope, working side-by-side for the future of Armenia. Through their faith and pride in their heritage, the Armenians remain a strong and courageous people working toward rebuilding a firm foundation for Armenia; and

WHEREAS, Armenian Americans have been forthright in their efforts to preserve their culture, heritage and language;

THEREFORE I, Jim Edgar, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim April 24, 1996, as ARMENIAN MARTYRS DAY in Illinois in remembrance of the 81st Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this SIXTEENTH day of APRIL in the
Year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred
and NINETY-SIX, and of the State of
Illinois the one hundred and SEVENTY-EIGHTH.*

George H. Ryan
SECRETARY OF STATE

Jim Edgar
GOVERNOR