

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 115

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 21, 2007

Sponsored by:

Senator GERALD CARDINALE

District 39 (Bergen)

Senator JOSEPH M. KYRILLOS, JR.

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Designates April 24, 2008 as “Armenian Martyrs’ Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



SR115 CARDINALE, KYRILLOS

2

1 A **SENATE RESOLUTION** designating April 24, 2008 as “Armenian
2 Martyrs’ Day.”

3

4 **WHEREAS**, On April 24, 1915, under the leadership of the Young
5 Turk Party of the Ottoman Empire, about 300 Armenian leaders,
6 writers, thinkers, and professionals were rounded up, deported, and
7 killed in Constantinople or present-day Istanbul, Turkey; and

8 **WHEREAS**, On that same day, about 5,000 of the poorest Armenians
9 were butchered by battalions in their homes and in the streets; and

10 **WHEREAS**, These events are emblematic of what is today recognized
11 by scholars, governments, and civil society all over the world as the
12 Armenian Genocide of World War I, when from 1915 through
13 1923, the Young Turk leadership of the Ottoman Empire
14 orchestrated the persecution and death of approximately 1.5 million
15 of the 2.5 million Armenians then living in Anatolia or present-day
16 Turkey; and

17 **WHEREAS**, In the face of so much evidence to the contrary it is
18 dangerous to deny, as the government of Turkey does today, that
19 the Armenian Genocide ever happened; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The danger of denial manifested itself as early as the
21 1920s when, on the eve of sending his troops into Poland in World
22 War II, Hitler himself said: “Go, kill without mercy... Who today
23 remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?”; and

24 **WHEREAS**, We shall commemorate with the Armenian community in
25 New Jersey, the United States, Armenia, and the world these events
26 that today call upon us to ensure that such history does not repeat
27 itself; now, therefore,

28

29 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

30

31 1. This House designates April 24, 2008 as “Armenian Martyrs’
32 Day,” and urges Governor Jon S. Corzine to memorialize this day in
33 recognition that the tragic events of 1915 and the following years
34 should be remembered by those of us living today.

35

36 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
37 Senate President and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be
38 transmitted to Governor Jon S. Corzine.

39

40 **STATEMENT**

41

42 This resolution designates April 24, 2008 as “Armenian Martyrs’
43 Day,” in commemoration of the persecution and death of 1.5
44 million Armenians from 1915 through 1923 in Anatolia, present-
45 day Turkey, under the rule of the Young Turk Party of the Ottoman
46 Empire. These events are widely recognized today by scholars,
47 governments, and civil society groups around the world as the
48 Armenian Genocide of World War I.