



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

Whereas: Every year since 1915, people around the world have come together to observe the anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian genocide. New York City is honored to join the Knights of Vartan once again in paying tribute to everyone who suffered and perished. Today, we take this opportunity to reflect on and renew our commitment to understanding the horrors of the past, at the same time we voice our hope for a future free of violence and intolerance.

Whereas: The first victims of the genocide were the religious, political, and intellectual leaders of Constantinople's Armenian community, who were arrested and murdered on April 24, 1915. Over the next eight years, nearly 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children perished, and thousands more were deported from their homeland. Approximately 20,000 Armenian refugees came to New York and found comfort in the small but vital Armenian community that has thrived in our city since the mid-19th century.

Whereas: No city has opened its doors more widely to the world than New York. Our city remains a place where people of every background and belief strive to live together in harmony, and it is no surprise that our residents are among the leading advocates for a more just world. Together, we honor the lives of those lost 96 years ago, and faithfully look ahead to the continued success of a city that proudly accepts and appreciates everyone.

Now therefore, I, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York, in honor of those who lost their lives during the Armenian genocide, do hereby proclaim Sunday, May 1st, 2011 in the City of New York as:

"Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day"