



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State is proud to be the site of activities acknowledging historical milestones which are vital to our understanding of humanity, whether the events are joyous celebrations or sorrowful commemorations; the State of New York, a region born of immigrants that is continuously blessed by their presence and contributions, stands to gain the most from appreciating the role past events played in the arrival of its newer citizens and their permanent resettlement here; and

Whereas, Armenian Americans are a valuable part of New York's immigration landscape and success story, and in overwhelming instances their modern immigration story is related to the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23 perpetrated against Armenians by the Ottoman authorities under whose imperial authority most Armenians lived; Armenian men, women and children were singled out for their ethnicity and Christian faith before being killed through some of the most inhumane methods, and surviving Armenians, after being expelled from their ancestral lands, made their way to safe havens such as America; and

Whereas, the costs of the Genocide are severe and lasting, and include over 1.5 million Armenians killed, two-thirds of Armenian lands seized, as well as the incalculable injury to Armenians in terms of the loss of and threats to identity, culture, language and political standing in the region; fewer in number but no less victimized were the Greek and Assyrian Orthodox Christians who also endured similar ends and trials as a result of these organized extermination-expulsion campaigns; and

Whereas, the denial of the Armenian Genocide by some continues to be a source of frustration and dismay to Armenians even as additional forms of evidence of the Genocide are discovered, and such recognition would work positively toward healing among advocates, humanitarians, clergy, academics and families; and

Whereas, this year marks the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide's onset, and Armenian Americans everywhere are organizing a series of commemorative events held in remembrance of victims and to honor survivors, who due to their age are dwindling in number; known as Martyrs Day, April 24th is the community's official unified observance of the Genocide, and in the interest of truth New York State has a tradition of proclaiming this day; and

Whereas, it is fitting that on April 24th and throughout this year-long 90th anniversary observance, many more citizens of goodwill uphold their convention of sympathizing with the suffering of others not only in the interest of seeking justice for the pained, but also to ensure that future crimes do not befall other victims;

Now, Therefore, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2005 as

ARMENIAN MARTYRS DAY

in the Empire State in observance of one of history's most tragic instances of man's inhumanity to his fellow man.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fourteenth
day of April in the year two thousand five.


Governor


Secretary to the Governor