

**PROCLAMATION
TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
APRIL 24, 2015**

WHEREAS, On the night of April 24, 1915, more than 200 leaders in the Armenian community, in the city known today as Istanbul, were arrested. Sent to prison, most were executed, beginning a horrible, systemic killing and forced relocation of the Armenian people that would last until 1923; and

WHEREAS, During those years, the government of the Ottoman Empire claimed the lives of 1.5 million Armenians and forced 500,000 more from their homeland. The Armenian Genocide was a terrible breach of human rights and an event that has outraged the world; and

WHEREAS, The atrocities carried out against the Armenian people were grave and unimaginable, as they were subjected to deportation, abduction, torture, starvation, and more. And as with any violent conflict, Armenian women and children suffered the worst abuses. The bulk of the Armenian population that was displaced from their homes was forced to escape to neighboring as well as faraway countries. Many fled to the United States; and

WHEREAS, The United States is honored to be a home to a vibrant growing Armenian-American population. This thriving community, many living in the City of Troy, are a proud reminder of survival and determination even in the face of extreme injustice; and

WHEREAS, As Americans, it is our duty to raise awareness of the Armenian Genocide and to participate in the remembrance and mourning of the loss of innocent lives a century ago;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council proclaims April 19-26, 2015, as "Days of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council encourages all residents to raise awareness about the Armenian Genocide and attend commemoration events honoring the memory of innocent victims on this 100th anniversary.

Presented this 20th day of April 2015.