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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

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SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 24, 2009 AS "ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY" TO  
COMMEMORATE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915 TO 1923 AND IN HONOR OF  
ARMENIAN-AMERICANS

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Goodwin, Raptakis, Jabour, and P Fogarty

Date Introduced: April 23, 2009

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, One and a half million men, women, and children of Armenian descent were  
2 victims of the genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915 and thereafter; and

3           WHEREAS, The United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau,  
4 Sr. stated, "Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and  
5 whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive,  
6 became the daily misfortunes of these devoted people."; and

7           WHEREAS, The killing of the Armenian people was accomplished by the systematic  
8 destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art, and cultural monuments in an attempt  
9 to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than three thousand years; and

10           WHEREAS, Contemporary newspapers, such as the New York Times, carried headlines  
11 including "Tales of Armenian Horrors Confirmed" and "Million Armenians Killed or in Exile";  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, Around the globe the Armenian genocide has been acknowledged by  
14 countries and international bodies such as Argentina, Belgium, Canada, the Council of Europe,  
15 Cyprus, the European Parliament, France, Great Britain, Greece, Lebanon, Russia, the United  
16 Nations, and Uruguay; and

17           WHEREAS, Each year Armenians throughout the world honor those who perished from  
18 1915 to 1923, but truly all the world's people should commemorate the Armenian genocide  
19 because it stands as an ugly testament to man's inhumanity to man; and

1           WHEREAS, We must all do our best to raise awareness about the Armenian genocide not  
2 only because it is an undeniable chapter of world history, but also because learning more about  
3 this unconscionable tragedy will better help us understand the necessity of eliminating hatred  
4 from our own communities; and

5           WHEREAS, Residents of Rhode Island are highly sensitive to the need for consistently  
6 remembering and openly condemning the crimes committed against any culture or people in  
7 order to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

8           WHEREAS, Armenian-Americans living in Rhode Island have greatly enriched our state  
9 through their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; now,  
10 therefore be it

11          RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
12 hereby recognizes April 24, 2009 as "Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day" in the State of  
13 Rhode Island; and be it further

14          RESOLVED, That this Senate respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to  
15 likewise commemorate the Armenian genocide and acknowledge that genocide is relevant to and  
16 affects all nations; and be it further

17          RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the  
19 United States, the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, the Honorable Donald Carcieri,  
20 Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Armenian Assembly of America in Washington, and  
21 the Armenian National Committee in Washington.

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