

STATE OF VERMONT  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
A PROCLAMATION

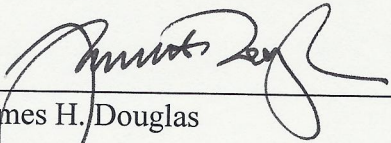
- WHEREAS,** since 1915, April 24<sup>th</sup> of each year has been imprinted in the memory of the Armenian people worldwide, for it was then that the mass genocide of the Armenian people began in the Ottoman Turkish Empire, the first such genocide in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and 2004 marks the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic tragedy; and
- WHEREAS,** Armenian families were uprooted from their ancestral homeland, brutally exposed to all kinds of indignities with hundreds of thousands slain, resulting in more than half of the Armenian people killed; and
- WHEREAS,** recognition of the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this genocide is crucial to guarding against the repetition of future genocide and educating people about the atrocities connected to these horrific events; and
- WHEREAS,** Armenian-Americans have greatly enriched our society through their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; and
- WHEREAS,** our thoughts, offered in memory of the Armenian martyrs of 1915, will serve to remind governments of the world that persecution, torture, and killing must cease forever.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, James H. Douglas, Governor, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2004 as**

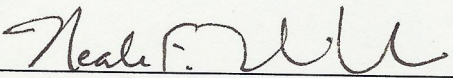
**ARMENIAN MARTYRS DAY**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D. 2004.

  
James H. Douglas  
Governor

By the Governor:

  
Neale F. Lunderville  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

