

# 1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 477

*Commemorating the First Genocide of the 20th Century.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 20, 1995

Agreed to by the Senate, January 26, 1995

WHEREAS, 1995 marks the 80th anniversary of the First Genocide of the 20th Century, the extermination of nearly two million Armenians by the Ottoman Turks in 1915; and

WHEREAS, the continued refusal of the Turkish government to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide deprives the Armenian people of the right to their own history, access to their ancestral lands, and preservation of their cultural and religious monuments and churches; and

WHEREAS, many citizens of Virginia remember parents, grandparents, and other relatives who suffered and died during the 1915 Armenian Genocide; and

WHEREAS, commemorating this terrible event serves the dual purpose of honoring those who suffered and died 80 years ago and reaffirming for Armenians their culture, their history, and their religious beliefs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commemorate on April 24, 1995, the 80th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly urge the citizens of Virginia to join with the Armenian-American community in commemorating this solemn occasion with appropriate activities and observances.

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