

State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** from 1915-1923 during the Armenian Genocide, one and one-half million ethnic Armenian men, women and children as well as over one million Greeks, Assyrians, Syrians and others were massacred as part of the planned complete eradication of those indigenous communities by the Ottoman Turkish Empire during the first modern genocide that still requires justice; and
- WHEREAS,** prior to the implementation of the Holocaust, in order to garner support from his followers, Adolf Hitler asked, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"; and
- WHEREAS,** the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945; Six million Jews were murdered; Roma (Gypsies), people with disabilities and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic or national reasons; millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and
- WHEREAS,** other cases of genocide include the killings in Cambodia in 1975, the massacres in Bosnia in 1992, the slaughter in Rwanda in 1994 and now in the 21st century, the displacements and deaths in Darfur as well as targeting of religious minorities by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the Middle East; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States House of Representatives has adopted H.Con.Res. 75, declaring the atrocities perpetrated by the ISIL against Christians, Yazidis and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide; and
- WHEREAS,** by recognizing and consistently remembering the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust and all cases of past and ongoing genocide, we help protect historic memory, ensure that similar atrocities do not occur again and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution and tyranny:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2017 as

ARMENIA AWARENESS MONTH



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERE-
UNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED
THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO
BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS
24th DAY OF AUGUST IN THE YEAR OF OUR
LORD TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN.

Kim Reynolds
KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

Paul D. Pate
PAUL D. PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE