



Executive
Office

John Engler
Governor

Executive Declaration

Governor John Engler
Hereby issues this Executive Declaration
in Observance of

April 24, 1995

as

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915-1923

WHEREAS, at the outbreak of World War I, the Young Turk regime of the Ottoman Empire, led by Talaat Pasha, decided to deport the entire Armenian population of about 1.8 million people to Syria and Mesopotamia, planning to exterminate them by driving all Armenians, regardless of age or condition of health, to the totally barren Der-El-Zor region of what is now Syria; and

WHEREAS, the Armenians were rounded up, brutally driven from their homes and their land, separated from their families, robbed of everything they owned and stripped of possessions they carried with them, and on the death march to Der-El-Zor, more than a million died of starvation or were killed; and

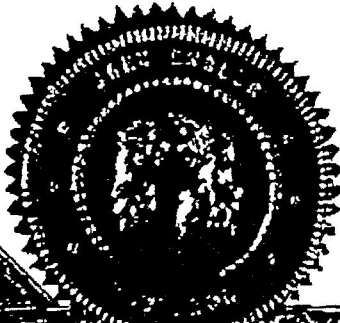
WHEREAS, thousands of Christian Armenians were tortured and murdered for refusing to accept Islam as their religion, and the atrocities inflicted upon them in concentration camps and on death marches to Der-El-Zor resemble those suffered by the victims of the Holocaust in World War II; and

WHEREAS, the massacre of Armenians who escaped deportation and remained in Turkey was called the "most colossal crime of all ages" by the American examining military mission's report to the U.S. Congress, and in a telegram sent by U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau to the Secretary of State, Morgenthau warned that "a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion"; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1.5 million people of Armenian ancestry perished in the genocide perpetrated by the governments of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; and

WHEREAS, many Armenians emigrated to the United States, where they and their descendants have contributed much to the economic and cultural vitality of our society, and kept alive the memory of their friends and relatives who perished during the systematic campaign of extermination; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Engler, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby declare April 24, 1995 as A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915-1923 in Michigan and urge the citizens of Michigan to observe that day by remembering the 1.5 million people of Armenian ancestry who lost their lives during that terrible time.



Given under my hand this thirtieth day of March in
the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and
ninety-five and of the Commonwealth one hundred
and fifty-nine.

John Engler
Governor