



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The pages of Armenian history are filled with stories of people overcoming painful adversity and adhering to an inner strength and determination to preserve a culture rich in architecture, weaving, music, and dance; and

WHEREAS, For about 3,000 years the Armenian people made their home in the Caucasus region of Eurasia as an independent entity and continued to thrive when Armenia was absorbed by the Ottoman Empire during the 15th century; and

WHEREAS, The Ottoman Empire dissolved in the early 20th century and gave rise to a new Turkish government that began to remove the Armenian people from within the borders; and

WHEREAS, In 1915, the leaders of the new Turkish government ordered the arrest and execution of Armenian intellectuals, turned people out of their homes, and forced them on death marches across the Mesopotamian desert, in what would become known as the Armenian Genocide that ended the lives of over 1.5 million people; and

WHEREAS, In response to the genocide, at the behest of United States President Woodrow Wilson and the U.S. State Department, the Near East Relief organization was founded, and became the first congressionally sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to provide humanitarian assistance and rescue the Armenian nation and other Christian minorities from annihilation; and

WHEREAS, The Near East Relief organization, with the help of many states, provided \$117 million of assistance between 1915 and 1930 and saved more than 1 million refugees, including 132,000 orphans, by delivering food, clothing, materials for shelter, and setting up refugee camps, clinics, hospitals, and orphanages; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada is home to a large Armenian-American population, who have enriched our State through their leadership and contributions in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, The Armenian people, in Nevada and elsewhere, remain resolved and their spirit continues to thrive a century after their near annihilation; now, therefore, be it

PROCLAIMED, That the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and their descendants are commended for their strength to overcome extreme adversity and prosper in our State; and be it further

PROCLAIMED, That April 24, 2015, is recognized as the day of "Commemoration of the Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923."

DATED this 14th day of April, 2015.



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