



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide

WHEREAS, an estimated 1.5 million men, women and children of Armenian descent were victims of the genocide perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire in 1915 and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., stated, "I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this; and the great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915; and the killing of the Armenian people was accomplished by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasurers of art, and cultural monuments in an attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than 3,000 years"; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide has been acknowledged by countries and international bodies such as Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Council of Europe, Cyprus, the European Parliament, France, Great Britain, Greece, Lebanon, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Nations and Uruguay; and

WHEREAS, each year Armenians throughout the world honor those who perished from 1915 to 1923, and all the world's people should commemorate the Armenian Genocide because it stands as an ugly testament to man's inhumanity to man; and

WHEREAS, we must do our best to raise awareness about the Armenian Genocide not only because it is an undeniable chapter of world history, but also because learning more about this unconscionable tragedy will help us better understand the necessity of eliminating hatred from our own; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, in the shadow of the Holocaust, the international community responded to Nazi Germany's methodically orchestrated acts of genocide by approving the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the crime of Genocide; and

WHEREAS, despite the international community's consensus against genocide, as demonstrated by the fact that 133 nations, including the United States, are party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and through other instruments and actions, denial of past instances of genocide continues, and many thousands of innocent people continue to be victims of genocide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2018, as: *Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide* and encourage all state residents to strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning and remembrance.



Given under my hand and the great seal
of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 4 day of April, 2018

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State