

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 155

Approved April 9, 2014

WHEREAS, One and one half million men, women, and children of Armenian descent were victims of the genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915 and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, The United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., stated, "Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of these devoted people." The killing of the Armenian people was accomplished by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art, and cultural monuments in an attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than three thousand years; and

WHEREAS, Contemporary newspapers, such as the New York Times, carried headlines including "Tales of Armenian Horrors Confirmed" and "Million Armenians Killed or in Exile"; and

WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide has been acknowledged by countries and international bodies such as Argentina, Belgium, Canada, the Council of Europe, Cyprus, the European Parliament, France, Great Britain, Greece, Lebanon, Russia, 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 all 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 better understand the necessity of eliminating hatred from our own communities; and

WHEREAS, Residents of Rhode Island are highly sensitive to the need for consistently remembering and openly condemning the crimes committed against any culture or people in order to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

WHEREAS, Armenian-Americans living in Rhode Island have greatly enriched our state through their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Members of the Providence City Council hereby Proclaim April 24, 2014 as "Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day", to commemorate the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to 1923 and in honor of Armenian-Americans.

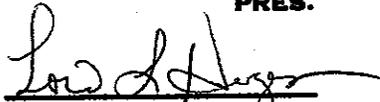
IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 03 2014

READ AND PASSED

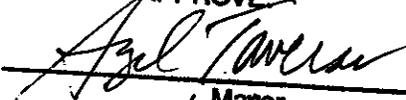


PRES.



CLERK
ACTING

I HEREBY APPROVE



Mayor

Date: 4/9/14



Armenian National Committee OF RHODE ISLAND

7 Armenia Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02909

March 8, 2014

City Clerk Anna Stetson
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Anna Stetson:

For the past fourteen years, the City of Providence has participated in our program to have the Armenian flag raised in memory of the Ottoman Turkish government's attempt to eliminate the Christian Armenians from their ancestral lands through planned Genocide during World War 1. The flag is to be flown on April 24th, which is the date when 300 Armenian leaders, doctors, lawyers, priests and others were hung in the center of Constantinople, thus beginning the systematic planned elimination of the Armenians from their homeland, which they had occupied for over 2000 years.

This tragedy is widely known and accepted by scholars, historians and most of the civilized world as the first Genocide of the 20th Century, a precursor to the Holocaust. Enclosed is a copy of last year's House of Representatives Resolution recognizing the day as well as a copy of a law in our state allowing for the teaching of this and other cases of Man's Inhumanity to Man over the past two centuries.

Armenians in Rhode Island and all over the world contribute to their cultural, educational, political and religious communities. There are about 12,000 Armenians in the State of Rhode Island and every one of them would be pleased and honored if you would continue to fly our flag in memory of the 1,500,000 Armenian men, women and children who lost their lives during that period. If you need a replacement flag or if you have any questions, please contact Steve Elmasian at 401-573-7888 or at steveelmasian@gmail.com.

The flag is to be flown with the red stripe on top.

Thank you,

Armenian National Committee of Rhode Island
7 Armenia Street
Providence, RI 02909
anc.ri@anca.org

Headquarters:

Armenian National Committee — Eastern U.S.A. • 80 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472 • (917) 428-1918

Offices in:

Washington • Los Angeles • Toronto • Buenos Aires • London • Paris • Athens • Yerevan • Beirut • Sydney

2013 – H 6034

LC02411**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND****IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY****JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013****HOUSE RESOLUTION
DESIGNATING APRIL 24TH, 2013, AS "RHODE ISLAND REMEMBRANCE OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915-1923"****Introduced By:** Representatives Kazarian, Corvese, Nunes, Mattiello, and Chippendale**Date Introduced:** April 24, 2013**Referred To:** House read and passed

1-1 WHEREAS, Armenians living in their historic homeland in Asia Minor were subjected to
1-2 severe persecution and brutal injustice by the Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire before and
1-3 after the turn of the twentieth century, including widespread acts of destruction, mayhem, and
1-4 murder during the period from 1894 to 1896, and again in 1909; and

1-5 WHEREAS, The horrible experience of the Armenians at the hands of their Turkish
1-6 oppressors culminated with what is known by historians as the "First Genocide of the Twentieth
1-7 Century" or the "Forgotten Genocide"; and

1-8 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide began with the murder of hundreds of Armenian
1-9 intellectuals and political, religious, and business leaders who were arrested and taken from their
1-10 homes in Constantinople before dawn on April 24, 1915; and

1-11 WHEREAS, The Young Turk regime then in control of the empire planned and executed
1-12 the unspeakable atrocities committed against the Armenians from 1915 through 1923, including
1-13 the torture, starvation, and murder of 1.5 million Armenians, death marches into the Syrian
1-14 desert, and the exile of more than 500,000 innocent people; and

1-15 WHEREAS, While there were some Turks who jeopardized their safety in order to
1-16 protect Armenians from the slaughter being perpetrated by the Young Turk regime, the massacres
1-17 of the Armenians constituted one of the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history

1-18 of the world; and

1-19 WHEREAS, The United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau,
1-20 Sr., stated "Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and
2-1 whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination can
2-2 conceive, became the daily misfortunes of other devoted people. I am confident that the whole
2-3 history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and
2-4 persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the
2-5 Armenian race in 1915. The killing of the Armenian people was accompanied by the systematic
2-6 destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art, and cultural monuments in an
2-7 attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than 3,000 years";
2-8 and

2-9 WHEREAS, Contemporary newspapers like the New York Times carried headlines
2-10 including, "Tales of Armenian Horrors Confirmed," "Million Armenians Killed or in Exile,"
2-11 and "Wholesale Massacre of Armenians by Turks"; and

2-12 WHEREAS, Adolph Hitler, in persuading his army commanders that the merciless
2-13 persecution and killing of Jews, Poles, and other groups of people would bring no retribution,
2-14 declared, "Who after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians"; and

2-15 WHEREAS, Unlike other groups and governments that have admitted the abuses and
2-16 crimes of predecessor regimes, and despite the overwhelming weight of the evidence, the
2-17 Republic of Turkey has denied the occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the
2-18 Young Turk rulers, and those denials compound the grief of the few remaining survivors of the
2-19 atrocities and desecrate the memory of the victims; and

2-20 WHEREAS, Nations of the world have suffered reprisals and condemnations by Turkey
2-21 because of efforts to commemorate the Armenian Genocide; and

2-22 WHEREAS, There have been concerted efforts to revise history through the
2-23 dissemination of propaganda suggesting that Armenians were responsible for their fate in the
2-24 period from 1915 through 1923 and by the funding of programs at American educational
2-25 institutions for the purpose of furthering the cause of this revisionism and to counter, in
2-26 the words of a Turkish official, "the Armenian view"; and

2-27 WHEREAS, Leaders of nations with strategic, commercial, and cultural ties to the
2-28 Republic of Turkey should be reminded of their duty to encourage Turkish officials to cease
2-29 efforts to distort facts and deny the history of events surrounding the Armenian Genocide; and

2-31 WHEREAS, The accelerated level and scope of denial and revisionism, coupled with the
2-32 passage of time and the fact that very few survivors remain who serve as reminders of
2-33 indescribable brutality and tormented lives, compel a sense of urgency in efforts to solidify
2-34 recognition of historical truth; and

3-34 WHEREAS, By consistently remembering and forcefully condemning the atrocities
3-35 committed against the Armenians and honoring the survivors, as well as other victims of similar
3-36 heinous conduct, we guard against repetition of those acts of genocide; and

3-37 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is home to a large population of Armenians, and those citizens
3-38 have enriched our state through their leadership in the fields of business, agriculture, academia,
3-39 medicine, government, and the arts and are proud and patriotic practitioners of American
3-40 citizenship; now, therefore be it

3-41 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
3-42 Providence Plantations hereby designates April 24, 2013, as "Rhode Island Remembrance of the
3-43 Armenian Genocide of 1915 - 1923"; and be it further

3-44 RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully memorializes the Congress of the
3-45 United States to likewise act to commemorate the Armenian Genocide; and be it further

3-46 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
3-47 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to The Honorable Barack Obama, President of the
3-48 United States, the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, The Honorable Lincoln Chafee,
3-49 Governor of the State of Rhode Island, and The Armenian National Committee in Washington,
3-50 D.C.

LC02411