

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DESIGNATING 2015 AS A YEAR OF COMMEMORATION FOR THE

100TH Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915

WHEREAS, the Armenian people were subjects of a systematic and premeditated Genocidal campaign which began on April 24, 1915, at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government from 1915-1919, and which continued at the hands of the Kemalist government of the Republic of Turkey from 1920-1923, whereby 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were slaughtered or marched to their deaths in an effort to annihilate the Armenian Nation in the first modern genocide; and

WHEREAS, these crimes against humanity also had the consequence of permanently removing all traces of the Armenians and other targeted people from their historic homelands, and enriching the perpetrators with the lands and other property of the victims of these crimes; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Genocide and at the behest of the President Woodrow Wilson and the U.S. State Department, the Near East Relief organization, the first Congressionally-sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to rescue the Armenian Nation and other minorities, was founded and provided unprecedented relief, delivering more than \$117 million of humanitarian assistance between 1915 and 1930, and saving approximately one million refugees, including 130,000 orphans of the Genocide; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey has inexplicably and adamantly denied the occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the Ottoman and Young Turk rulers for many years, and continues to do so a full century since the first crimes constituting genocide occurred despite the Turkish governments' earlier admissions and the overwhelming proof of genocidal intent; and

WHEREAS, the residents of County of San Mateo and Armenians throughout the world are commemorating the centennial anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 1915.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates 2015 as a Year of Commemoration for the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to properly recognize the Armenian Genocide and educate others about the tragic loss of life, land and human rights and the crime of genocide .

Dated: April 14, 2015

SUPERVISORS:

CAROLE GROOM, President

DAVE PINE

DON HORSLEY

WARREN SLOCUM

ADRIENNE J. TISSIER

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors