

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day.]

2  
3 **Resolution declaring April 25, 2006 As Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in San**  
4 **Francisco.**

5 WHEREAS, The Armenian people, living in their 3,000 year historic homeland in  
6 eastern Asia Minor and throughout the Ottoman Empire, were subjected to severe  
7 persecution and brutal injustice by the rulers of the Ottoman Empire before and after the turn  
8 of the twentieth century, including widespread massacres, usurpation of land and property,  
9 and acts of wanton destruction during the period from 1894 to 1896, and again in 1909; and

10 WHEREAS, The horrible experience of the Armenians at the hands of their oppressors  
11 culminated in 1915 in what is known by historians as the First Genocide of the Twentieth  
12 Century; and

13 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide began with the arrest, exile, and murder of  
14 hundreds of Armenian intellectuals, and political, religious, and business leaders, starting on  
15 April 24, 1915; and

16 WHEREAS, The regime then in control of the empire planned and executed the  
17 unspeakable atrocities committed against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923,  
18 which included the torture, starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, death marches  
19 into the Syrian desert, the forced exile of more than 500,000 innocent people, and the loss of  
20 the traditional Armenian homelands; and

21 WHEREAS, Some Turks and others jeopardized their safety in order to protect  
22 Armenians from the crimes being perpetrated by the regime, but the genocide of the  
23 Armenian people constituted one of the most egregious violations of human rights in the  
24 history of the world; and

25 WHEREAS, The United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry  
Morgenthau, Sr., stated "When the Turkish authorities gave the order for these deportations,  
they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race. The killing of the Armenian people  
was accompanied by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of

1 art, and cultural monuments in an attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a  
2 history of more than 3,000 years;" and

3 WHEREAS, Winston Churchill wrote: "As for Turkish atrocities: ... massacring  
4 uncounted thousands of helpless Armenians, men women, and children together, whole  
5 districts blotted out in one administrative holocaust; these were beyond human redress;" and

6 WHEREAS, Adolf Hitler, in persuading his army commanders on the eve of World War  
7 II that the merciless persecution and killing of Poles, Jews, and other peoples would bring no  
8 retribution, declared, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians;" and

9 WHEREAS, Unlike other peoples and governments that have admitted and  
10 denounced the abuses and crimes of predecessor regimes, and despite the overwhelming  
11 weight of evidence, the Republic of Turkey has inexplicably and adamantly denied the  
12 occurrence of the crimes against humanity, and those denials compound the grief of the few  
13 remaining survivors of the atrocities, desecrate the memory of the victims, and cause  
14 continuing trauma and pain to the descendants of the victims; and

15 WHEREAS, The passage of nine decades and the fact that few survivors remain who  
16 serve as reminders of indescribable brutality and torment, compel a sense of urgency in  
17 efforts to solidify recognition and reaffirmation of historical truth; and

18 WHEREAS, By honoring the survivors and consistently remembering and condemning  
19 the atrocities committed against the Armenian people as well as the persecution of the  
20 Assyrian and Greek populations of the Ottoman Empire, we guard against repetition of the  
21 crime of genocide; and

22 WHEREAS, California has become home to the largest population of Armenians in the  
23 United States, and those citizens have enriched our state through leadership in the fields of  
24 academia, medicine, business, agriculture, government, and the arts and are proud and  
25 patriotic practitioners of American citizenship; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is proud to join the Armenian-American community in its  
commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in an effort to educate  
others about the tragic loss of life, land, and human rights of the Armenian people and the  
crime of genocide committed against them; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby declare April  
2 25, 2006 as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the City and County of San  
3 Francisco; and, be it,

4           FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors will send a letter  
5 urging President George W. Bush to give just recognition of the Armenian Genocide.  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25