

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 24, 2014]

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3 **Resolution declaring April 24, 2014, as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the**  
4 **City and County of San Francisco.**  
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6 WHEREAS, The Armenian people, living in their historic homeland of 3,000 years,  
7 were subjected to severe persecution by the Turkish government of the Ottoman Empire  
8 before and after the turn of the twentieth century, including widespread massacres,  
9 usurpation of land and property, and destruction of cultural institutions and monuments during  
10 the period from 1894 to 1896, again in 1909; and

11 WHEREAS, The horrible experience of the Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman  
12 Turkish government culminated in 1915 in what is known by historians as the first systematic  
13 genocide of the twentieth century; and

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

17 WHEREAS, The Ottoman Turkish authorities planned and executed the unspeakable  
18 atrocities committed against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923; and

19 WHEREAS, Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term 'genocide' in 1944, and who was  
20 the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of  
21 Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the 20<sup>th</sup> century;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, By honoring the survivors and consistently remembering and condemning  
24 the atrocities committed against the Armenian people as well as the persecution of the  
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1 Assyrian and Greek populations of the Ottoman Empire, we guard against repetition of the  
2 crime of genocide; and

3 WHEREAS, California has become home to the largest and most active population of  
4 Armenians in the United States, and those citizens have enriched our state through  
5 leadership in the fields of academia, medicine, business, agriculture, government, and the  
6 arts and are proud and patriotic practitioners of American citizenship; and

7 WHEREAS, San Francisco Armenian- Americans are predominantly descendants of  
8 the few remaining Armenian Genocide victims; and

9 WHEREAS, Those Armenian Genocide survivors who arrived in San Francisco and  
10 reestablished themselves, built a thriving community that has created churches, civic and  
11 charitable organizations, and a school, and have become an integral part of the dynamic  
12 culture of San Francisco; and

13 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area lost its last remaining Armenian Genocide  
14 survivor, 99 year old Takouhie Keshishian, who passed away on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco is proud to join the Armenian-American community in its  
16 commemoration of the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in an effort to educate  
17 others about the tragic loss of life, land and human rights of the Armenian people and the  
18 crime of genocide committed against them; and now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
20 does hereby declare April 24, 2014, as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the City  
21 and County of San Francisco.

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