

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 23, 2024]

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3 **Resolution designating April 23, 2024, as “Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day”**  
4 **in the City and County of San Francisco, marking the 109th anniversary of the**  
5 **Armenian Genocide and the 27th anniversary of the preservation of the Mount**  
6 **Davidson Cross by the Council of Armenian American Organizations of Northern**  
7 **California; and urging members of Congress to support the bipartisan Armenian**  
8 **Genocide Education Act.**

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10 WHEREAS, The Armenian people, living in their historic homeland for thousands of  
11 years, were subjected to severe persecution by the Turkish government of the Ottoman  
12 Empire before and after the turn of the twentieth century, including widespread massacres,  
13 usurpation of land and property, and destruction of cultural institutions and monuments during  
14 the period from 1894 to 1896 and again in 1909; and

15 WHEREAS, The unspeakable horrors experienced by the Armenian people at the  
16 hands of the Ottoman Turkish government culminated in 1915 in what is known by historians  
17 as the first modern-era genocide; and

18 WHEREAS, The Ottoman Turkish authorities planned and implemented the genocide  
19 committed against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923, resulting in the murder of  
20 1.5 million Armenian women, men and children, and the expropriation or destruction of all  
21 their personal and community properties; and

22 WHEREAS, The U.S. House of Representatives adopted House Resolution No. 296  
23 (Schiff) on October 29, 2019, which states it is U.S. policy to commemorate the Armenian  
24 Genocide and the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution No. 150 (Menendez) on December  
25 12, 2019, which formally recognizes and affirms the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide

1 on behalf of the U.S. government and calls for broader education on this heinous crime and its  
2 impact on generations of Armenians; and

3 WHEREAS, On April 24, 2021, President Joseph Biden became the 1st U.S. President  
4 to formally recognize the massacres of Armenians as Genocide; and

5 WHEREAS, On September 17, 2022, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi led a  
6 congressional delegation to Armenia in a show of “the strong and ongoing support of the  
7 United States” for Armenia and for a lasting settlement amid the conflict between the countries  
8 of Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, and visited the  
9 Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan, Armenia’s capital, where a signed copy of  
10 the Resolution urging President Joe Biden to recognize the Armenian Genocide, on file in  
11 Board of Supervisors File No. 210399 – [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 24,  
12 2021], is on permanent display in both English and Armenian; and

13 WHEREAS, California has become home to the largest and most active population of  
14 Armenians in the United States, who have enriched our state through leadership in the fields  
15 of academia, medicine, business, agriculture, government, and the arts and are proud and  
16 patriotic practitioners of American citizenship, including author William Saroyan, America’s  
17 favorite chef and philanthropist George Mardikian, and Bay Area Congressional  
18 Representatives Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo; and

19 WHEREAS, Access to education about the Armenian Genocide is critical to preventing  
20 future atrocities and even preventing hate crimes, which have increased in recent years, with  
21 three separate hate crimes documented over two months in San Francisco in 2020, including  
22 the damaging fire at the St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Laurel Heights, and most  
23 recently a devastating arson fire at Fresno’s Armenian cemetery, a week before the 109th  
24 anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide Education Act was introduced in Congress on  
2 April 24, 2023, by the only Armenian-Assyrian Member of Congress, Representative Anna G.  
3 Eshoo, establishing a new program in the Library of Congress tasked with developing  
4 resources, including digital resources, to foster understanding about why and how the  
5 Armenian Genocide happened, and authorizes \$2 million annually for the program over five  
6 years and allows the Library of Congress to supplement this funding with private donations;  
7 now, therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
9 hereby designates April 23, 2024, as “Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day” in the City  
10 and County of San Francisco, marking the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and  
11 the 27th anniversary of the preservation of the Mount Davidson Cross by the Council of  
12 Armenian American Organizations of Northern California; and, be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges members of Congress to  
14 support the bipartisan Armenian Genocide Education Act; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
16 to transmit copies of this Resolution to the San Francisco Board of Education and the City  
17 Lobbyist, respectively, upon final passage.

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