

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

**No. 272**

Session of  
1986

---

INTRODUCED BY LINTON, FREEMAN, McHALE, AFFLERBACH, JOSEPHS,  
COHEN, FATTAH AND KOSINSKI, APRIL 9, 1986

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, APRIL 14, 1986

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Proclaiming April 24, 1986, as "Armenian Martyrs' Day" and the  
2 week of April 20 through 26, 1986, as "Armenian Martyrs'  
3 Week" throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The Armenians are an ancient people, having settled  
5 in the vicinity of Mount Ararat in the seventh century B.C., and  
6 have long been fervent believers in Christianity. That religion  
7 became the state religion of Armenia in the fourth century A.D.,  
8 making Armenia one of the first nations to accept Christianity;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Through the actions of St. Gregory the Illuminator,  
11 the Armenian Apostolic Church was established in the fourth  
12 century A.D. and continues to exist to this present day, along  
13 with various other Christian communions to be found among  
14 Armenians in the United States, in Armenia, and elsewhere  
15 throughout the world; and

16 WHEREAS, Armenians have always believed in the principles of  
17 freedom of conscience and worship and hold these principles  
18 sacred to this very day; and

1       WHEREAS, From the period 1915 to 1918, some 1,500,000  
2 Armenians were massacred as a result of actions of the Turkish  
3 Ottoman Empire. Many others were forced to flee from Armenia;  
4 and

5       WHEREAS, These tragic events constitute the first instance of  
6 genocide in the 20th century, serving as a precedent to the  
7 Holocaust occurring prior to and during World War II and as a  
8 reminder of man's inhumanity to man; and

9       WHEREAS, Armenian-Americans have contributed greatly to the  
10 progress of America by their activities in the arts, business,  
11 the learned professions, academia, philanthropy, and also in  
12 government, wherein Armenian-Americans occupy the highest  
13 executive offices; and

14       WHEREAS, April 24 has been observed for over 70 years as  
15 Armenain Martyrs' Day, to honor the memory of those who died for  
16 their beliefs and principles as a result of Turkish persecution;  
17 therefore be it

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
19 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania proclaim April 24, 1986, as  
20 "Armenian Martyrs' Day" and the week of April 20 through 26,  
21 1986, as "Armenian Martyrs' Week" throughout the Commonwealth of  
22 Pennsylvania; and be it further

23       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
24 the Chairman of the Armenian National Committee of Philadelphia,  
25 Joseph Frounjian.