

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.267

Reps. Manoogian, Brabec, Breen, Haadsma, Hood, Hope, Koleszar, Kuppa, Morse, Pohutsky, Rogers, Sabo, Sneller, Stone, Thanedar, Weiss and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 24, 2022 as a Day of Remembrance
2 in the state of Michigan for the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923.

3 Whereas, With the passage of Public Act 58 of 2002, the state
4 of Michigan has legally recognized that the Armenian Genocide
5 occurred from 1915 to 1923. Beginning on April 24, 1915, Armenians,
6 - as well as Greeks, Assyrian-Chaldeans, Syriacs, Arameans,
7 Maronites, and other Christians, were subject to torture,
8 starvation, mass murder, lethal human medical experimentation, and
9 exile from their historic homeland. Over 1.5 million lost their
10 lives. The Armenian Genocide represented a deliberate attempt by

1 the Ottoman Empire to eliminate all traces of an ancient, thriving,
2 and noble civilization that had lived in these regions for
3 millennia; and

4
5 Whereas, The majority of the Armenian population was displaced
6 from their homes and forced to escape to neighboring and faraway
7 communities and countries, many refugees fled to the United States.
8 Today, Michigan is honored to be home to a vibrant Armenian-
9 American population of more than 17,000 Michiganders. This thriving
10 community is a proud reminder of survival and perseverance in the
11 face of extreme injustice; and

12 Whereas, Michigan Armenian American churches and community
13 organization have organized numerous charity and community drives
14 across the state, including, but not limited to, providing college
15 scholarships for deserving students and serving Armenian refugee
16 communities across the state; and

17 Whereas, In 2015, on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian
18 Genocide, the Armenian Church canonized the 1.5 million Armenians
19 who were killed in the Armenian Genocide as saints-holy martyrs who
20 died for their faith and homeland; and

21 Whereas, Both houses of the 116th Congress of the United
22 States voted to commemorate and recognize the atrocities of the
23 Armenian Genocide, rejected efforts to associate the United States
24 government with those that deny the existence of the Armenian
25 Genocide or any genocide, and encourage education and public
26 understanding about the Armenian Genocide; and

27 Whereas, In 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. became only
28 the second president after President Ronald Reagan to officially
29 recognize the Armenian Genocide by name and the first to do so in a

1 Presidential Proclamation. This proclamation declared the Armenian
2 Genocide as a fact of United States policy, and validated the
3 experiences of the survivors, family members and descendants of
4 survivors, and those whose lives were taken during the Armenian
5 Genocide as fact; and

6 Whereas, As the world's first modern genocide, the Armenian
7 Genocide has served as a model for other mass atrocities across the
8 past century, including, but not limited to, the Holocaust, the
9 genocide of Cambodians by the Khmer Rouge, the Rwandan Genocide,
10 the Bosnian Genocide, the genocide of the Yazidis by the Islamic
11 State, and the Rohingya Genocide; and

12 Whereas, Some governments, such as those of the Republic of
13 Turkey and Republic of Azerbaijan, continue to deny the occurrence
14 of the Armenian Genocide or the involvement of the Ottoman
15 government in its planning or execution. These governments continue
16 to engage in what is commonly referred to as the tenth stage of
17 genocide, denial, further inflicting this heinous, cruel act on
18 Armenians and Armenian-Americans. Moreover, by destroying Armenian
19 cities, churches, and cultural sites within the Republic of
20 Armenia, Republic of Artsakh, and Turkey, the Turkish and Azeri
21 governments continue their campaigns to erase Armenian cultural
22 heritage and existence within their own historic homeland in the
23 Caucasus. Ongoing incursions into Artsakh and the Republic of
24 Armenia by the Republic of Azerbaijan have resulted in the deaths
25 of countless innocent Armenians and Artsakhis, reminding us of
26 the cost of engaging in government denial of genocide; and

27 Whereas, By recognizing and consistently remembering the
28 Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and all cases of past and ongoing
29 genocide, we help to protect historic memory, ensure that similar

1 atrocities do not occur again, and remain vigilant against hatred,
2 persecution, and tyranny. The Armenian community of Michigan has
3 used its deep understanding of historic pain and dispersal to stand
4 constantly and consistently alongside other persecuted communities
5 in Michigan and around the world; and

6 Whereas, Armenian, Assyrian-Chaldean, Greek, Syriac, Aramean,
7 and Maronite communities around the world commemorate the tragedy
8 of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2022. On this day, we honor
9 the holy martyrs of the Armenian Church who were killed during the
10 Genocide, the survivors of the Genocide and their descendants, and
11 reaffirm our commitment to preventing future atrocities from being
12 committed against any people; now, therefore, be it

13 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
14 this legislative body declare April 24, 2022 as a Day of
15 Remembrance in the state of Michigan for the Armenian Genocide of
16 1915-1923.