

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.267

Rep. Manoogian 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
11 the Ottoman Empire to eliminate all traces of an ancient, thriving,
12 and noble civilization that had lived in these regions for

1 millennia; and

2

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

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

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

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

25 Whereas, In 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. became only
26 the second president after President Ronald Reagan to officially
27 recognize the Armenian Genocide by name and the first to do so in a
28 Presidential Proclamation. This proclamation declared the Armenian
29 Genocide as a fact of United States policy, and validated the

1 experiences of the survivors, family members and descendants of
2 survivors, and those whose lives were taken during the Armenian
3 Genocide as fact; and

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

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

25 Whereas, By recognizing and consistently remembering the
26 Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and all cases of past and ongoing
27 genocide, we help to protect historic memory, ensure that similar
28 atrocities do not occur again, and remain vigilant against hatred,
29 persecution, and tyranny. The Armenian community of Michigan has

1 used its deep understanding of historic pain and dispersal to stand
2 constantly and consistently alongside other persecuted communities
3 in Michigan and around the world; and

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

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