

# Proclamation



CITY OF ATLANTA

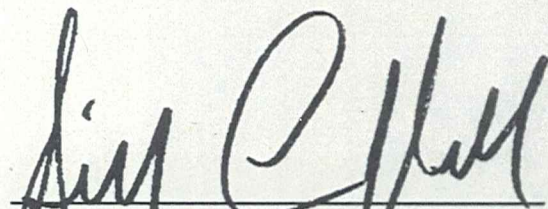
*Office of the Mayor*

## Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day

- Whereas,* The City of Atlanta is proud to join the Armenian community as it honors the victims of the Armenian genocide; and
- Whereas,* Armenia is one of the world's oldest civilizations and was the first country to officially embrace Christianity as its religion; and
- Whereas,* Genocide, as defined in the United Nations' Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, is the destruction of "a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group"; and
- Whereas,* Thousands of Armenians were massacred in 1894 and 1896 in an effort to silence Armenian nationalists; and
- Whereas,* In April 1915, during World War I, Armenians were deported to the deserts of Syria and Mesopotamia by the Turks; and
- Whereas,* In the atrocity that has become known as the greatest unacknowledged genocide in recent history 1.5 million Armenians were murdered or starved to death; and
- Whereas,* The bitterness of genocide has not tarnished the pride of Armenians in their culture and traditions; and
- Whereas,* We commend the Armenian community for remembering those who senselessly lost their lives through the evil of genocide:

**Now, Therefore, I, Bill Campbell,** Mayor of Atlanta, and on behalf of the citizens of Atlanta, hereby proclaim April 24, 2001 as "Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day" in our City.



  
Bill Campbell  
Mayor