

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

By His Excellency

GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

2004

- WHEREAS:** Since 1915, April 24<sup>th</sup> of each year has been immortalized in the memory of the Armenian people world wide, for it was then that the mass genocide of the Armenian people began in the Ottoman Turkish Empire, the first such genocide in the twentieth century, and 2004 marks the 89<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this historic tragedy; and
- WHEREAS:** The Armenian citizens of the Commonwealth are dedicated to honoring the memory of the brave men and women who died in this holocaust; and
- WHEREAS:** Armenian families were separated from their ancestral homeland, brutally exposed to all kinds of indignities, with hundreds of thousands slain, resulting in more than half of the Armenian people killed; and
- WHEREAS:** We consider all atrocities perpetrated by individuals or governments to be repulsive and abhorrent in civilized society; and
- WHEREAS:** In our democracy, the principles of humanity and respect for the dignity of humans constitute the indestructible foundation for life, liberty, freedom, equality, and the pursuit of happiness; and
- WHEREAS:** Americans of Armenian descent have contributed to the quality of life in Massachusetts to the best of their ability of our state and nation, in times of war and peace; and
- WHEREAS:** Our thoughts, offered in memory of the Armenian martyrs of 1915, will serve to remind governments of the world that persecution, torture, and killing must cease forever; and
- WHEREAS:** Even natural tragedies such as the earthquake of 1939 which was responsible for the death of thousands of Armenians, shall serve only as a continued reminder to the resolve and resiliency of the Armenian people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MITT ROMNEY, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004, to be

### ARMENIAN MARTYRS DAY

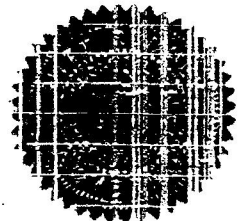
and urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this eleventh day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

MITT ROMNEY

By His Excellency the Governor

WILLIAM F. GALVIN  
Secretary of the Commonwealth



GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS