



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Proclamation*

WHEREAS, from 1915 to 1923, 1.5 million Armenian people were systematically persecuted and executed by the governments of the Ottoman Empire in the first genocide of the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, the genocide began on the night of April 24, 1915, when the government arrested more than 200 Armenian community leaders in Constantinople and hundreds more soon after; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian people were then systematically subject to deportation, expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre and starvation; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Armenian men, women and children were forcibly removed from their homes and deported to the Syrian desert, where the majority of the deportees died of dehydration and starvation; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that by 1918, approximately one and a half million people had perished, while hundreds of thousands had become homeless and stateless refugees; and

WHEREAS, by 1923, the entire landmass of Asia Minor and historic West Armenia had been expunged of its Armenian population; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian-American people have a proud heritage and continue to make valuable contributions to the cultural, economic, social and political development of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, April 24, 2007 serves as an important reminder of those who died in 1915 fighting for the rights of freedom of religion and freedom of conscience, a day that allows us to renew our vigilance against tyranny and promote the principles of human dignity and human rights worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian-American people commemorate the 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we join with the Armenian-American community in New Jersey to commemorate the memory of the victims, in hopes that we, as a State and as individuals citizens, will strive to overcome prejudice, hatred and indifference through learning, tolerance and remembrance; and

WHEREAS, all American-American organizations; such as, fraternities, different denominational churches, cultural groups, educational groups are all dedicated to the memory of the 1.5 million victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide and host of Commemorative Events all over the USA, and the world; and

WHEREAS, they all raise awareness of, and advocate for, policies about helping create peace, security and stability to all Armenians whatever regions they may be living in;

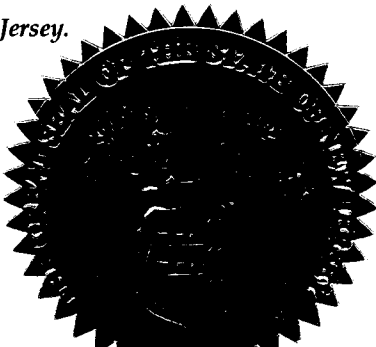
NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD J. CODEY, Acting Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

APRIL 24, 2007

AS

ARMENIAN MARTYRS DAY

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal  
of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-  
fourth day of April in the year two  
thousand seven, the two hundred  
thirty-first year of the Independence  
of the United States.

*Richard J. Codey*