



# CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

## ARMENIAN MARTYRS DAY

**WHEREAS**, more than one and one-half million Armenians were exterminated by the Ottoman Turks and others were deported from their homeland between 1915 and 1923; and

**WHEREAS**, eighty-four years ago, Armenians were forced to witness the slaughter of their relatives and the destruction of their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, many citizens of our great Commonwealth and nation are Armenians who found refuge in the liberty extolled in American documents and on the lips of her citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 1,500 Armenian families live and work in our great Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens of Armenian decent actively contribute to the culture and vitality of Virginia through research, education, medicine, law, business, arts, sports and community service; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, James S. Gilmore, III, do hereby recognize April 24, 1999 as **ARMENIAN MARTYRS DAY** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



  
Governor



Secretary of the Commonwealth