

## Senate Resolution 258

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Lucas of the 26th, Rhett of the 33rd and Jones II of the 22nd

## A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Armenian Genocide of 1915 through 1923 and recognizing April 24 as  
2 a Day of Remembrance; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, from 1915-1923, one and one-half million ethnic Armenian men, women, and  
4 children were murdered in their ancestral homeland by the Ottoman Turkish Empire; and

5 WHEREAS, during the same time period, the Ottoman authorities killed over one million  
6 Greeks, Assyrians, Pontians, Syriacs, and others as part of the planned complete eradication  
7 of these indigenous communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Near East Relief's efforts, with the active participation of the Peach State,  
9 resulted in delivering \$117 million of assistance between 1915 and 1930, that directly  
10 resulted in the salvation of the Christian Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian refugees from being  
11 completely annihilated by the genocide; and

12 WHEREAS, prior to the implementation of the Holocaust, in order to garner support from  
13 his followers, Adolf Hitler asked, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the  
14 Armenians?"; and

15 WHEREAS, the genocide has been recognized by 44 of the United States and 27 countries,  
16 including: Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, the Vatican, and Argentina; and

17 WHEREAS, Armenia is now a free, independent, democratic ally of the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, other cases of genocide include the killings in Cambodia in 1975, the massacres  
19 in Bosnia in 1992, the slaughter in Rwanda in 1994, and now in the 21st Century the  
20 displacements and deaths in Darfur as well as targeting of religious minorities by ISIL in the  
21 Middle East; and

22 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives has adopted H.Con.Res. 75,  
23 declaring the atrocities perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) against  
24 Christians, Yezidis, and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria constitute war  
25 crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide; and

26 WHEREAS, by recognizing and consistently remembering the Armenian Genocide, we help  
27 protect cultural and historic memory and ensure that similar atrocities do not occur again.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
29 memorialize the Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman Turkish Empire as an issue  
30 of historical and cultural significance that still requires justice and recognize April 24 as a  
31 Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Armenian Genocide.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
33 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
34 press.