

R E S O L U T I O N

1        WHEREAS, During World War I, the crumbling Ottoman Empire  
2 began a systematic campaign to eradicate its Armenian population,  
3 which then numbered more than two million; and

4        WHEREAS, Armenians and other minority populations had  
5 contributed to the prosperity of the once-mighty empire for  
6 centuries, but as its borders shrank and its influence diminished,  
7 ethnic tensions flared; after the Ottomans entered World War I,  
8 their armies suffered heavy losses to Russian forces in the  
9 Caucasus, and Armenians in the region were accused of aiding the  
10 Russian victory; on April 24, 1915, the government arrested several  
11 hundred Armenian intellectuals, who were later executed; Armenian  
12 soldiers were disarmed and transferred to labor battalions, in  
13 which they were worked to death or killed outright; and

14       WHEREAS, In the spring and summer of 1915, under the guise of  
15 "resettlement," Armenians were driven from their homes in Armenia  
16 and Anatolia and herded through the Syrian desert to concentration  
17 camps; many of the deportees died along the way from hunger, thirst,  
18 and exhaustion, while others were massacred; by 1918, an estimated  
19 one million Armenians had lost their lives, and survivors endured  
20 tremendous hardships as refugees; and

21       WHEREAS, The end of the war brought a temporary respite, but  
22 in 1920, the atrocities resumed until the ultimate collapse of the  
23 empire and formation of the Republic of Turkey; as many as 1.5  
24 million Armenians perished and today, only 3 million live in

1 Armenia, a country that covers no more than 10 percent of the  
2 ancient Armenian homeland, while the Armenian diaspora numbers 8 to  
3 10 million in countries around the world, including the United  
4 States; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1915, the governments of France, Great Britain,  
6 and Russia decried the slaughter of Armenians as "a crime against  
7 humanity"; American ambassador Henry Morgenthau, who led the  
8 humanitarian response, characterized the imperial deportation  
9 orders as "the death warrant to a whole race"; the persecution is  
10 considered genocide by most historians and has been officially  
11 acknowledged as such by numerous countries, among them France,  
12 Argentina, Greece, and Russia; this horrific event is a dark  
13 chapter in modern history, and the world must never forget the  
14 suffering of the Armenian people; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby recognize the Armenian genocide.