

By: Shapiro

S.C.R. No. 39

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, As a means of memorializing the victims and the
3 survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides that have occurred
4 throughout history, the Legislature of the State of Texas joins
5 institutions around the world in recognizing the month of April as
6 Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month; and

7 WHEREAS, Across the globe, those atrocities known as
8 genocides have had their origins in the stratification of society
9 and the dehumanization of a group of people by those who harbor
10 intolerance, hatred, and violent proclivities; and

11 WHEREAS, Many of these genocides have stemmed from events
12 that occurred in the month of April, or have had defining moments at
13 that time of year; in April of 1933, the Nazis issued a decree
14 preparing the way for the "Final Solution" to all of Jewish faith or
15 descent, and the tragedy that ensued was one of the world's most
16 horrific; and

17 WHEREAS, In April of 1975, the Khmer Rouge entered the
18 Cambodian capital and initiated massacres that led to the death of
19 two million people; in April of 1992, the siege of Sarajevo began,
20 leading to the deaths of more than 2,000 Bosnian Serbs; in April of
21 2003, the displacement of Darfurians began in Sudan, leading to
22 hundreds of thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions;
23 and in April of 1994, the Rwandan president's plane was shot down,
24 leading to the killing of moderate leaders by Hutu hardliners and

1 the later slaughter of 800,000 Tutsis; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2009, the Texas Legislature unanimously passed
3 Senate Bill 482, which created the Texas Holocaust and Genocide
4 Commission; the commission is dedicated to obtaining, organizing,
5 and distributing information on genocides and to ensuring that
6 schools, organizations, and communities have access to this
7 genocide information and history; and

8 WHEREAS, The legislature has chosen the month of April to
9 emphasize the need to heighten public awareness of the early stages
10 of human behavior that spawn acts of genocide, the need to build
11 strong communities and prevent future genocides, and the need on
12 the state and national levels to continue to honor all who have been
13 victimized by genocide; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby declare the month of April each year from 2011 through 2020
16 Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month in tribute to all whose
17 lives were touched by genocide and as a reminder of the need for the
18 protection of human rights and for vigilance against the forces of
19 intolerance; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in
21 recognition of Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month.