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H.R. No. 191

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.