

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER

GOVERNOR

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

2022

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to people from all over the world who maintain connections to their cultural, linguistic, and religious heritage, including the Armenian American community; and

WHEREAS, although historically undercounted, data estimates that there are approximately 1.5 to 2 million Armenian Americans living in the United States, including in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, it is beneficial to the rich cultural fabric of our state to recognize such groups and honor their struggles during pivotal moments in their collective history; and

WHEREAS, in Constantinople, on April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire began a campaign of extermination against the Armenian people, a minority group that had long suffered persecution; this brutal campaign resulted in the deaths of approximately one and a half million Armenian people, a genocide that Armenians refer to as Meds Yeghern, or Great Crime; and

WHEREAS, victims who survived the Armenian Genocide were forced to leave their homeland and find new homes and livelihoods all around the globe, including in the United States; in a demonstration of remarkable strength and resilience, Armenian immigrants overcame this great tragedy and to this day continue to flourish as a people; and

WHEREAS, on this day, let us remember tragedies like the Armenian Genocide, and let us strive every day to forge a world community free from the evils of bigotry and intolerance, where human rights are respected, and where all people can pursue their lives in dignity and security;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2022, as "INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.

Roy Coop r Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-second day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.