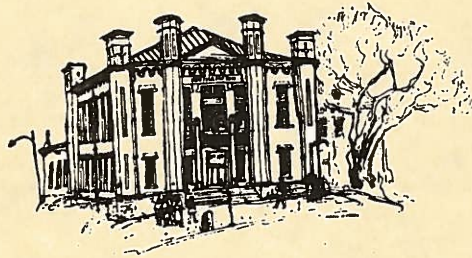


Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Armenian Martyrs Day April 24, 2018

- WHEREAS,** On April 24, 1915 a mass genocide of the Armenian population began in the Ottoman Turkish Empire, the first genocide in the twentieth century; and
- WHEREAS,** Armenian families were uprooted from their ancestral homeland and brutally exposed to varied indignities, resulting in more than half of the Armenian population killed; and
- WHEREAS,** I consider these atrocities against the Armenian people to be repulsive and abhorrent in civilized society; and
- WHEREAS,** That 48 out of 50 states in the U.S. and 29 countries acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, and yet our own government and the government of Turkey will not use the word genocide; and
- WHEREAS,** Americans of Armenian descent have contributed to the quality of life in the United States and Massachusetts in the best traditions of our nation and state, in times of war and peace; and
- WHEREAS,** The Armenian citizens around the world and of the Commonwealth are dedicated to honoring the memory of the brave men and women who died; and
- WHEREAS,** Our thoughts, offered in memory of the 1.5 million Armenians lost during the genocide, will serve to remind everyone that persecution, torture, and killing must cease forever,
- NOW,
THEREFORE.** I, Mayor David J. Narkewicz, do hereby proclaim April 24th, 2018, to be, **Armenian Martyrs Day**, and urge all the citizens of the City of Northampton to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

In Witness whereof, I have set my hand and have affixed the seal of the City of Northampton.



David J. Narkewicz, Mayor