

This memorial honors the victims and descendants of the 1915 Armenian Genocide on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that great tragedy. This “murder of a nation,” as the massacres were described by the US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time, prompted Coloradans to come to the aid of the remaining few who became known as “the starving Armenians.” This Armenian cultural monument is a replica of a khachkar, crafted in 1583, from the medieval Armenian cemetery in Djulfa. The largest collection of these intricately-carved khachkars, Djulfa was deliberately and completely destroyed in 2005. UNESCO has since recognized the value and vulnerability of this art form by declaring it part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

\*Alternative wording for the first sentence: “This memorial honors the victims, descendants, and upstanders of the 1915 Armenian Genocide on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that great tragedy.” The term “upstander” is widely used in genocide prevention circles to describe outside individuals, including those from the perpetrator group, who took risks to defend the victims. A prominent Colorado upstander was Dr. Harry Packard, who saved hundreds of Armenian and other lives.

\*\*The suggested text has been drafted based on input from the leadership of Armenians of Colorado, as well as specialists in Armenian history, law, and conflict, including Dr. Ian McIntosh, Director of International Partnerships at Indiana-Purdue University; Dr. David Nersessian, Professor at Boston University Law School and former program director at Harvard Law School; and Mark Geragos, California-based Armenian-American attorney and CNN contributor.