

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R04-1096.01 Priscilla Hemmerich

HJR04-1050

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Tochtrop,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Takis,

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House Committees

Senate Committees

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 04-1050

101 CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF EACH APRIL 24 AS "COLORADO  
102 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE".

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1 WHEREAS, From 1915 to 1923, 1.5 million men, women, and  
2 children of Armenian descent were murdered during the brutal genocide  
3 perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire, 500,000 more were exiled,  
4 and 500,000 were able to escape the regime of terror and establish  
5 themselves in new foreign lands, and, as a result, today there are only  
6 100,000 people of Armenian heritage left residing within the borders of  
7 modern Turkey; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States' Ambassador to the Ottoman  
9 Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., stated, "Whatever crimes the most  
10 perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and whatever  
11 refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination  
12 can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of this devoted people. I am  
13 confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such  
14 horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past  
15 seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the  
16 Armenian race in 1915. The killing of the Armenian people was  
17 accompanied by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 treasures of art, and cultural monuments in an attempt to eliminate all  
2 traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than 3,000 years.";  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Contemporary newspapers, such as the New York  
5 Times, carried headlines including "Tales of Armenian Horrors  
6 Confirmed", "Million Armenians killed or in Exile", and "Wholesale  
7 Massacre of Armenians by Turks"; and

8 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide has been acknowledged by  
9 countries and international bodies such as Argentina, Belgium, Canada,  
10 the council of Europe, Cyprus, the European parliament, France, Great  
11 Britain, Greece, Lebanon, Russia, the United Nations, and Uruguay; and

12 WHEREAS, Modern Turkey continues to deny and distort the  
13 facts of the genocide and to honor the perpetrators of that crime against  
14 humanity as national heroes; and

15 WHEREAS, The Armenian people have been denied the right to  
16 self-determination on their ancestral lands and have received no form of  
17 reparations for their tragic loss; and

18 WHEREAS, Each year, Armenians throughout the world honor  
19 those who perished from 1915 to 1923, and all the world's people should  
20 commemorate the Armenian Genocide and condemn any attempt to deny  
21 its historical truth or mischaracterize the episode as anything less than  
22 genocide, a crime against humanity; and

23 WHEREAS, We must all do our best to raise awareness about the  
24 Armenian Genocide not only because it is an undeniable chapter of world  
25 history, but also because learning more about this unconscionable tragedy  
26 will help people better understand the necessity of eliminating hatred in  
27 our own communities, and to that end, we support the efforts of  
28 Armenians of Colorado, Inc., to encourage the educators in Colorado to  
29 include the Armenian Genocide in the school curriculum; and

30 WHEREAS, Residents of Colorado are highly sensitive to the  
31 need for consistently remembering and openly condemning the crimes  
32 committed against any culture or people to prevent similar atrocities in  
33 the future; and

34 WHEREAS, On April 11, 2002, and April 24, 2003, this  
35 legislative body unanimously passed a similar joint resolution to which  
36 the roll calls were added as cosponsors designating April 24 as "Colorado  
37 Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide"; and

38 WHEREAS, Armenian-Americans living in Colorado have greatly  
39 enriched our state through their leadership in business, agriculture,  
40 academia, government, and the arts; now, therefore,

41 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fourth*  
42 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*  
43 *herein:*

1           1. That this legislative body pause in its deliberations to  
2 commemorate the 89th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide to be  
3 recognized at a memorial service on Sunday, April 25, 2004, at the  
4 Armenian Genocide memorial plaque located in the northeast quadrant  
5 on the State Capitol grounds;

6           2. That we, the members of the General Assembly, hereby  
7 designate each April 24 as "Colorado Day of Remembrance of the  
8 Armenian Genocide";

9           3. That the State of Colorado respectfully urges the United States  
10 Congress to likewise commemorate the Armenian Genocide.

11           *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be  
12 sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States;  
13 the members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation; the Honorable  
14 Bill Owens, Governor of Colorado; the Armenian Assembly of America  
15 in Washington, D.C.; and the Armenian National Committee in  
16 Washington, D.C.