

By Senator Latvala

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 24, 2013, as Armenian  
Martyrs Remembrance Day.

WHEREAS, 1.5 million men, women, and children of Armenian  
descent were victims of the genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman  
Empire in 1915 and thereafter, and

WHEREAS, the killing of the Armenian people was  
accomplished by the systematic destruction of Christian  
churches, schools, libraries, art treasures, and cultural  
monuments in an attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble  
Christian civilization with a history of more than 3,000 years,  
and

WHEREAS, United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire,  
Henry Morgenthau, Sr., stated, "Whatever crimes the most  
perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and whatever  
refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased  
imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of these  
devoted people," and

WHEREAS, contemporary newspapers, including the *New York  
Times*, ran headlines including "Tales of Armenian Horrors  
Confirmed" and "Million Armenians Killed or in Exile," and

WHEREAS, each year, Armenian Americans and Armenians  
throughout the world honor those who perished from 1915 to 1923,  
and 43 other states have passed resolutions and commemorations  
honoring the memory of Armenians who were victims of the Ottoman  
Empire in 1915 and thereafter, and

WHEREAS, we must all do our best to raise awareness about  
the Armenian genocide, not only because it is an undeniable

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30 chapter of world history, but because learning more about this  
31 unconscionable tragedy will help us better understand the  
32 necessity of eliminating hatred from our own communities, and

33 WHEREAS, Floridians are strong in their belief that all  
34 people should condemn crimes committed against any culture or  
35 people in order to prevent similar atrocities in the future, and

36 WHEREAS, Armenian-Americans living in Florida have greatly  
37 enriched our state through leadership in business, agriculture,  
38 academia, government, and the arts, NOW, THEREFORE,

39

40 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

41

42 That we recognize April 24, 2013, as "Armenian Martyrs  
43 Remembrance Day" in Florida and commemorate the sacrifice of the  
44 Armenian martyrs from 1915 to 1923.