

PROCLAMATION

Armenian Genocide Centennial Remembrance Day

WHEREAS, the year 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide which resulted in the extermination of 1.5 million Armenians and the forced deportation of countless others between the years of 1915 and 1923 by the Ottoman Turks; and

WHEREAS, after being forced to witness the massacre of their relatives and suffering the loss of their ancestral homeland, some survivors of the Armenian Genocide and their descendants found refuge and began new lives in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, many of the twenty thousand Armenian-Americans in Illinois are descendants of survivors of the Armenian genocide and have made significant contributions in all areas of American life including education, medicine, science, business, arts, government and public service in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has affirmed, through the establishment of a Holocaust and Genocide Commission and by creating a public school genocide education curriculum mandate, that raising awareness of the Armenian Genocide and other such atrocities is crucial to the prevention of future crimes against humanity; and

WHEREAS, forty-three state governments of the United States of America, including Illinois; twenty-two countries, including France and Germany; the International Association of Genocide Scholars; the Human Rights Association of Turkey; the Parliament of the European Union and many other international organizations have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian community and people of good conscience around the world will be commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. McLaughlin, Mayor of the Village of Orland Park, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2015 be designated Armenian Genocide Centennial Remembrance Day in the Village of Orland Park, Illinois in honor of the memory of the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide and in the hope that by do so, we will contribute to ridding the world of the scourge of genocide once and for all.

DATED THIS 6th day of April, 2015.

Signed:

Daniel J. McLaughlin, Mayor