Proposed Senate Resolution

A resolution commemorating July 24, 1923 as “Greek Genocide Remembrance Day” and recognizing the Greek Genocide of 1914 to 1923.

WHEREAS, from 1914 to 1923, approximately 1.2 million men, women and children of Greek descent were victims of genocide or were deported and displaced from their homes at the direction of the Ottoman Turks, and

WHEREAS, newspapers confirmed that Greeks in the region of Thrace and at Smyrna were subjected to systematic persecution and the persecution soon thereafter spread to other regions such as Pontus and Asia Minor, and

WHEREAS, Henry Morgenthau, the United States ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, in his 1918 published article, acknowledged this “whole devilish scheme to annihilate the Armenian, Greek and Syrian Christians of Turkey” and further found that “Greeks were the first victims of this nationalizing idea,” and

WHEREAS, after Mustafa Kemal’s army entered the Greek city of Smyrna then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill, stated, that the Ottoman Turks “celebrated their triumph by the burning of Smyrna to ashes and by a vast massacre of its Christian population,” and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 1923, the parties signed the Treaty of Lausanne, formally ending the violence of Ottoman Turks in Anatolia months after the occupation and evacuation of Smyrna, and

WHEREAS, Greek-Americans and Greeks from across the world currently remember the genocide through several remembrance days specific to the regions of Thrace, Pontus, and Asia Minor, and

WHEREAS, eight other states have passed resolutions and commemorations on a regional basis honoring the memory of the Greeks who were victims of the Ottoman Empire, yet no state has passed a resolution recognizing the full genocide of all 1.2 million Greeks, and

WHEREAS, the gravity of this atrocity and the strength of the modern Hellenic diaspora must be made aware, both to understand the unconscionability of this chapter of world history and to use this tragedy as a learning opportunity to eliminate hatred and division from our own communities, and

WHEREAS, the constituents of [INSERT STATE] are strong in their belief that all people should condemn crimes committed against any culture or people in order to prevent similar atrocities in the future, and

WHEREAS, Greek-Americans living in [INSERT STATE] have greatly enriched our state through leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of [INSERT STATE]:

That we recognize July 24, 1923 as “Greek Genocide Remembrance Day” in the State of [INSERT STATE] and commemorate the sacrifice of the Greek martyrs from 1914 to 1923.