

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND
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APRIL 2, 2019

ARMENIAN HISTORY MONTH

Los Angeles County is home to the greatest number of Armenians outside of Armenia. Each year, during the latter part of April, this Board commemorates the Armenian Genocide that began on April 24, 1915 and resulted in the tragic loss of 1.5 million innocent lives. Since 2017, this Board has also declared the month of April as Armenian History Month in recognition of the rich history of and tremendous contributions by this resilient community.

This past year was significant for Armenian Americans who proudly celebrated the “Armenian Velvet Revolution.” This peaceful revolution sought to bring a new era of democratic growth and empowerment to Armenia. Another important milestone was the launching of the campaign to construct the Armenian American Museum (AAM) and Cultural Center in the jewel city of Glendale. The vision for the AAM is to be the first world class cultural and educational center of its kind in America. The AAM will be the center for Armenian Americans to discover their roots and for people of diverse backgrounds to discover cross-cultural connections and celebrate the rich multicultural tapestry of America. Without a doubt, AAM will also serve as a major destination for local residents and regional visitors alike.

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RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
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Despite the attempt to eradicate them as a people, the Armenians have survived and thrived. The magnitude of the impact by Armenian Americans on our region and nation is significant and spans across many sectors, including science, medicine, technology, arts/entertainment, culture and business. Examples of their early contributions include: Raymond Vahan Damadyan, the scientist who invented the first magnetic scanning machine in 1977 now known as an MRI; Michel M. Ter-Pogossian, one of the founding fathers of the positron emission tomography (PET) in 1973 which was the precursor to brain imaging; Christopher Der Seropian, the chemist who invented the green and black ink colors of the US currency; Gabriel Kazanjian, who was the inventor who first patented a blow dryer in the United States in 1911, Hovhannes Adamian, the engineer who developed the tricolor principle in 1928 which was eventually used to create the color television; Arthur Bulbulian, the inventor of the A-14 oxygen mask used in WWII by the United States Army and Air Force; and the list goes on.

While we may not be able to honor these particular individuals for their outstanding contributions, there are many we can who are right here in our county. It is; therefore, fitting to declare the month of April as Armenian History Month and take the opportunity to honor outstanding Armenian Americans who are making significant contributions to our communities.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim the month of April as Armenian History Month.

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