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| By: Shapiro | S.C.R. No. 39 |
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|  | (Hochberg) | |
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|  | SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION |
|  | WHEREAS, As a means of memorializing the victims and the |
|  | survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides that have occurred |
|  | throughout history, the Legislature of the State of Texas joins |
|  | institutions around the world in recognizing the month of April as |
|  | Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month; and |
|  | WHEREAS, Across the globe, those atrocities known as |
|  | genocides have had their origins in the stratification of society |
|  | and the dehumanization of a group of people by those who harbor |
|  | intolerance, hatred, and violent proclivities; and |
|  | WHEREAS, Many of these genocides have stemmed from events |
|  | that occurred in the month of April, or have had defining moments at |
|  | that time of year; in April of 1933, the Nazis issued a decree |
|  | preparing the way for the "Final Solution" to all of Jewish faith or |
|  | descent, and the tragedy that ensued was one of the world's most |
|  | horrific; and |
|  | WHEREAS, In April of 1975, the Khmer Rouge entered the |
|  | Cambodian capital and initiated massacres that led to the death of |
|  | two million people; in April of 1992, the siege of Sarajevo began, |
|  | leading to the deaths of more than 2,000 Bosnian Serbs; in April of |
|  | 2003, the displacement of Darfurians began in Sudan, leading to |
|  | hundreds of thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions; |
|  | and in April of 1994, the Rwandan president's plane was shot down, |
|  | leading to the killing of moderate leaders by Hutu hardliners and |
|  | the later slaughter of 800,000 Tutsis; and |
|  | WHEREAS, In 2009, the Texas Legislature unanimously passed |
|  | Senate Bill 482, which created the Texas Holocaust and Genocide |
|  | Commission; the commission is dedicated to obtaining, organizing, |
|  | and distributing information on genocides and to ensuring that |
|  | schools, organizations, and communities have access to this |
|  | genocide information and history; and |
|  | WHEREAS, The legislature has chosen the month of April to |
|  | emphasize the need to heighten public awareness of the early stages |
|  | of human behavior that spawn acts of genocide, the need to build |
|  | strong communities and prevent future genocides, and the need on |
|  | the state and national levels to continue to honor all who have been |
|  | victimized by genocide; now, therefore, be it |
|  | RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas |
|  | hereby declare the month of April each year from 2011 through 2020 |
|  | Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month in tribute to all whose |
|  | lives were touched by genocide and as a reminder of the need for the |
|  | protection of human rights and for vigilance against the forces of |
|  | intolerance; and, be it further |
|  | RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in |
|  | recognition of Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. |