|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| By: Shapiro | S.C.R. No. 39 |
|   |
|   | (Hochberg) |
|   |
|   |   |  |

|  |
| --- |
|   |
|   |
|   | 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. |