

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, New Jersey is proud of its rich ethnic diversity and its status as a gateway for generations of immigrants coming to this country to find freedom and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, New Jerseyans of Greek heritage are an integral part of our social, cultural, and economic fabric; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2022, Greeks throughout the world are celebrating OXI Day, commemorating the  $82^{nd}$  anniversary of Greece's valiant stand against invading Fascist forces; and

WHEREAS, OXI Day provides an opportunity for Greek Americans, and all New Jersey residents, to recognize Greece's proud history and heritage and celebrate the ideals of freedom and democracy, for which Greeks fought and sacrificed 82 years ago; and

WHEREAS, in light of this important day of remembrance to Greeks throughout the world, we also commemorate the Greek Genocide of 1914 to 1923, during which, 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 Empire; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate OXI Day in New Jersey, it is also fitting to honor the sacrifice of Greek heroes and martyrs during the Greek Genocide; and

WHEREAS, this atrocity must be made remembered, 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 and to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Hellenic-American Heritage Commission, as part of the New Jersey Department of State, continues its mission to recognize, promote, and share information regarding and coordinate events observing Hellenic heritage, culture, and history;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

## OCTOBER 28, 2022 AS OXI DAY

in New Jersey and observe Greek Genocide Remembrance.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-first day of October in the year two thousand twenty-two, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR

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