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Contact: Assessor Paul Dictos

  
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Fresno, CA

An event marking the **Greek Day of Remembrance** is planned for Friday, May 19th to commemorate the **Greek Genocide**, a genocide that took the lives of approximately 1,000,000 Greeks over a 9-year period (1914-1923). This campaign of systematic aggression perpetrated by two successive Turkic regimes against the native Greek population of the former Ottoman Empire (today Turkey), included massacres, forced deportations that amounted to death marches, summary expulsions, executions and the destruction of Christian Orthodox, historical and religious monuments. The extermination of Greeks from the region of Pontus **began in earnest in 1916**. The massacre of Greeks in this region is often referred to as the 'Pontic Genocide', and this year marks its **101st anniversary**

The Greek presence in Asia Minor dates to the time of Homer, around 800 BC. The Turkish Minister of War, Ismail Enver, wanted to solve the "Greek problem" during the war in the same way he, believed he solved the "Armenian problem". Ethnic cleansing was his solution. Henry Morgenthau, the US ambassador to Turkey (1913-1916), accused the Turkish government of driving Greek women into harems, the debauchery of innocent girls, and the sale of many of them at *eighty cents each*.

"This is the first time the Central Valley will have the opportunity to honor survivors and their heritage and to participate in this formal remembrance of this historic event," says event organizer and Fresno County Assessor-Recorder Paul Dictos. Mr. Dictos' older family members were caught up in the horrors of that time. His father, the late Reverend Eddie Dictos, managed to immigrate to the US before the 1916 massacre, while most of the rest of his family left behind in Asia Minor perished.

The public is invited to the event to be held at Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno Street from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Local newscaster Kopi Sotiropoulos is the Master of Ceremonies at this event that will include a flag-raising ceremony and feature the Kamari dancers of the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Fresno. Our own Father Jim Pappas, of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church together with Father John Bakas of Saint Sophia Church in Los Angeles, will offer prayers of remembrance for the victims of the genocide. A number of local, state and national dignitaries will be attending.

Please join us for this very important event and assist in spreading the news. We would love to hear from you directly, even if you cannot attend. Please contact Fresno County Assessor Recorder, Paul Dictos at 559 250-0999 and/or RSVP at [GreekEvent@Dictos.com](mailto:GreekEvent@Dictos.com).

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# WE REMEMBER

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**JOIN US FOR AN EVENT MARKING**  
*The Greek Day of Remembrance*  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**COMMEMORATING the 101st ANNIVERSARY**  
*Greek Genocide of 1916*

**FRIDAY, MAY 19TH**  
**10AM-12PM**

**FRESNO CITY HALL**  
**2600 FRESNO STREET**

*"This is the first time the Central Valley will have the opportunity to honor survivors & their heritage & participate in this formal remembrance of this historic event."*

*-Paul Dictos, Fresno County Assessor-Recorder*

**FLAG RAISING CEREMONY**

*Kopi Sotiropoulos*

**KAMARI DANCERS**

*St. George Greek Orthodox Church*

**PRAYERS OF REMEMBRANCE**

*Fr. Jim Pappas & Fr. John Bakas*



**INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS**  
**PLEASE CONTACT:**

*greekevent@dictos.com*

*Honorable Art Agnos*  
*Former Mayor of San Francisco*

*Honorable Andreas Borgeas*  
*Fresno County Supervisor*

*Honorable Paul Dictos, CPA*  
*Fresno County Assessor-Recorder*

*Honorable Steve Bestolaridis*  
*San Joaquin County Assessor-Recorder*

*Honorable Steve Vagnini*  
*Monterey County Assessor-Recorder*

*Honorable Cruz M. Bustamante*  
*Former California Lt. Governor*

*Honorable Richard Valle*  
*Kings County Board of Supervisors*

*Angelo Tsakopoulos*  
*President and CEO AKT Investments*

*Tom Stephanopoulos*  
*President and CEO Stamoules Produci*

*Dr. Yiannis Stavropoulos*  
*Neurosurgeon*

*Gus Kavalos*  
*West Side Farms*

*Peter Vallis*  
*Executive Director, SJVWA*

*Dr. Athanasios Athanasiou*  
*Professor Fresno State University*

*Kopi Sotiropoulos*  
*KMPH FOX 26*

*Angelo Stalis*  
*KFSN TV - Retired*