



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Cambodians began emigrating to Illinois in 1975 as refugees fleeing the brutal Khmer Rouge regime and the genocide in Cambodia; and

WHEREAS, a study by Patrick Heuveline, estimates that up to 3.4 million Cambodians and foreigners living in Cambodia were killed by execution, torture, starvation, and illness from 1975 to 1979; and

WHEREAS, these killings were part of a systematic genocide by the Khmer Rouge, and as many as 1.4 million murders were performed at sites now known as the Killing Fields; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Cambodian refugees coming to Illinois have settled in the Chicago area and the Cambodian community in Chicago has grown to approximately 4,000; and

WHEREAS, the Cambodian Association of Illinois (CAI) was co-founded in 1976 by a group of Cambodian volunteers led by Mr. Kompha Seth in cooperation with the Chicago Office of Refugee Resettlement to assist the war-torn Cambodian refugees, many of whom came alone and almost all of whom had lost family; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide hope and renewal to the survivors and to the Cambodian community at large, the Cambodian American community commits to remembering and paying tribute to those lost in the Killing Fields; and

WHEREAS, the Cambodian Community is also dedicated to enhancing the general public's awareness of the Killing Fields, and to healing the Killing Fields survivors, and engaging the generations after; and

WHEREAS, the Cambodian American community in Illinois, led by the Cambodian Association of Illinois and Executive Director Dary Mein, have come together in solidarity to ensure that those who were lost are remembered and to heal those who will forever bear the scars from this atrocity while educating Chicagoans on the rich culture and history of the Cambodian American community:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO do hereby proclaim April 5, 2014 to be CAMBODIAN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN CHICAGO, and encourage all Chicagoans to join the Cambodian community in remembering the sacrifices of those who died, recognizing the survivors, and celebrating those who have worked tirelessly to assist refugees seeking a better life.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2014.

Mayor