



City of Kentwood, Michigan

Office of the Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the horror of the genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina should never be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, May 31, 2015, is commemorated as the 23rd anniversary when the Serb authorities in Prijedor, a town in north-western Bosnia and Herzegovina, ordered all non-Serbs to mark their houses with white flags or sheets and to wear a white armband if they left their houses; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of ethnic cleansing of the Prijedor municipality in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the town of Kozarac, 53,000 of its Bosniak residents were expelled from their homes, some 3,173 unarmed civilians were executed, and 31,000 civilians were interned in various Serb run concentration camps; and

WHEREAS, this anniversary, together with this year's 23rd anniversary since the beginning of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, raise awareness of the tragic suffering of the Bosnia and Herzegovina people and honors and remembers over 100,000 civilians who died as a result of the policies of ethnic cleansing and aggression in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the period of 1992-1995; and

WHEREAS, the tragic history of the genocide offers an opportunity to reflect on the responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments, and serves as an important reminder of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred, and indifference govern; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kentwood recognizes the importance of this event to bring closure for the Bosnian people through justice and truth; now, therefore, be it resolved that

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stephen C.N. Kepley, Mayor of the City of Kentwood, Michigan, do hereby proclaim May 31, as

White Armband Day

In the City of Kentwood in remembrance of the victims of the policies of ethnic cleansing and genocide in Prijedor, Bosnia, and Herzegovina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the representatives of the Congress of North American Bosniaks as evidence of our profound respect and esteem.




Stephen C.N. Kepley
Mayor for the City of Kentwood