



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE KNIGHTS OF VARTAN**

Dear Brothers and Friends:

On October 1, 2009, I supported the Joint Statement of Major Armenian-American Institutions Welcoming the President of the Republic of Armenia (“Joint Statement”). At that time, the President of Armenia was coming to the United States for what was purported and what I expected to be a vigorous dialogue regarding the discussions aimed at normalizing Armenia-Turkey relations. While there was criticism of the protocols and those that offer support to the Armenian President, I understood the protocols to be a draft, not a final agreement. In fact, I attended the meeting with leaders of various Armenian organizations and President Sargsyan where I expressed my concerns with the protocols as they were written. I continue to support the process for the betterment of the Armenian people in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and the Diaspora.

During this historical juncture, I pray that if the Armenia-Turkey border is opened, it will foster economic vitality to the people of Armenia, that the undeniable truth of the Armenian Genocide will finally become universally recognized, and that the territorial integrity and self-determination of Nagorno-Karabakh is preserved.

As an organization, we have dedicated ourselves to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, especially through our annual Genocide commemoration in Times Square, New York City, and have contributed, either directly or indirectly, millions of dollars in support of humanitarian causes in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. We remain steadfast and vigilant in continuing all of our activities for the good of every Armenian.

Fraternally,

Haig K. Deranian, Grand Commander

**About The Knights of Vartan**

Founded in 1916, the Knights of Vartan is a Christian, non-sectarian, apolitical International Armenian fraternal service organization that encourages its members to assume leadership roles in cultural, educational, religious, and charitable organizations and activities on the local, national and international level for the betterment of the Armenian nation worldwide. The Knights of Vartan also make substantial financial contributions to Armenian charitable organizations in both the United States and Armenia. Please visit us at [www.knightsofvartan.org](http://www.knightsofvartan.org).

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