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Contact: 805-495-0717

## **MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THANK ARMENIAN FILM FOUNDATION FOR EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF GENOCIDE**

Dozens of members of the United States Senate and Congress have expressed their gratitude to the Armenian Film Foundation for presenting them with the diary of Tacy Atkinson, an important American eyewitness to the Armenian Genocide. Atkinson, an American Christian missionary, lived in Kharpert from 1907 to 1917. Her personal diary provides a wealth of detailed observations about the Genocide that were recorded as they occurred. Thanks to a generous donation from George Mekjian, the Foundation was able to provide a copy of the Atkinson diary to every member of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as the California State Legislature.

Paul Krekorian, Burbank Board of Education Vice President and chairman of the Film Foundation's Heritage Project, said that the Tacy Atkinson diary provides important proof that the Armenian Genocide was premeditated and orchestrated by the Ottoman Turkish government, and demonstrates the complicity of the German government in the Genocide. The diary was discovered by renowned Genocide scholar and filmmaker Dr. J. Michael Hagopian, Chairman of the Armenian Film Foundation, as a result of his years of international research and extensive investigation.

Krekorian said that he had received telephone calls and letters from lawmakers throughout the country who were profoundly moved by Tacy Atkinson's contemporaneous reports of the atrocities committed against Armenians in and around Kharpert by the Ottoman Turks. "The horrors of the Armenian Genocide come alive through the words of this American missionary, who witnessed and wrote about the most despicable and evil acts imaginable," Krekorian said. "We hope that by reading this very personal account, our legislators understand the pain of the Armenian community more deeply than they ever have before."

The diary was published by Gomidas Institute, Princeton, NJ under the title, The German, the Turk and the Devil Made a Triple Alliance. The foreword was written by Dr. Hagopian.

In a letter to Krekorian, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco, the Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, wrote that "Atkinson's detailed account of her experience in Turkey is still powerful today." Congressman E. Clay Shaw, Jr., of Florida

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thanked the Foundation for “these historically significant words of this woman who bore witness to the Armenian genocide.” Congressman Amo Houghton of New York expressed his gratitude for the “absolutely wonderful book [which is] extraordinary and extraordinarily sad.” Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida wrote, “It is amazing that an entire group of people were targeted, and one and a half million killed, and the world never noticed. It is the case that the world should learn of the atrocities that occurred in the past so that we may never again repeat them.”

Tacy Atkinson’s diary is featured in *Voices From the Lake* and *Germany and the Secret Genocide*, the Armenian Film Foundation’s most recent documentary film and the second part of THE WITNESSES trilogy of films. *Germany and the Secret Genocide* focuses on the role played by the Great Powers, particularly Germany, in the Turkish execution and cover-up of the Armenian Genocide.

For more information about *Germany and the Secret Genocide*, the Tacy Atkinson diary or other film projects, please call the Armenian Film Foundation at (805) 495-0717, or visit [www.armenianfilmfoundation.org](http://www.armenianfilmfoundation.org).

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