



AMERICA WE THANK YOU

An Armenian Tribute to Near East Relief

WYOMING

FACT SHEET

Wyoming was a staunch supporter of Near East Relief, the American-led campaign that quickly sparked an international response with its unprecedented humanitarian endeavor, mobilizing all segments of American citizenry including elected officials, celebrities and laypersons alike, to help rescue victims of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey from 1915-1930.



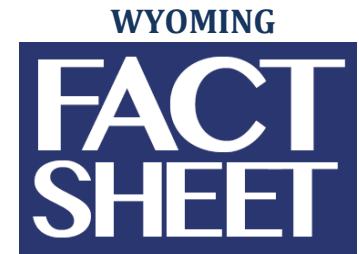
- Wyoming's Near East Relief activities were coordinated through neighboring Colorado's NER office located at 431 Chamber of Commerce Building in Denver.
- Wyoming's NER State Representatives included: Robert D. Carey – Wyoming Governor (1919-1923); U.S. State Senator (1930-1937); Frank C. Emerson – Wyoming Governor (1927-1931); Nellie T. Ross – Wyoming Governor (1925 to 1927). Ross was the first woman to be elected governor of a U.S. state, and remains the only woman to have served as governor of Wyoming.
- NER's official publication, *The New Near East*, ran a compelling article in its July 1921 issue entitled "Obey the Impulse," telling the story of Very Rev. Joseph D. Gill, a Wyoming resident who desired to donate all he could to NER to help the dying Armenians.
- The *New Near East* boasted a readership of over 100,000 persons a month.
- As reported in the article, Rev. Joseph D. Gill worked on a ranch far from the town where he banked and could not arrange for a donation to NER for several months. He thus penned a letter to a "Mr. Morse" on the only paper he could find on his ranch, requesting that he send his donation to Wyoming National Bank in Casper, Wyoming, and arrange for them to send two of his Victory Bonds, each worth \$100 to the Near East Relief Fund.
- The article described how the man understood the value of a good impulse and the imperative to help the starving Armenians, noting that \$200 worth of happiness had gone overseas to help a people "whose existence, through assistance rather than desire, has no regard for superficial convention."



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Wyoming, We Thank You!

Thanks to the generosity of the Near East Relief, its participating organizations and entities, the U.S. Government and State Governments, and especially the American people at large, over 1,000,000 refugees and 132,000 orphans of the Armenian Nation and other Christian minorities were rescued, fed, clothed, and educated. We have survived, thrived, and prospered from the horrors of Genocide at the hands of Ottoman Turkey.

For your unwavering support and unprecedented generosity in donating to Near East Relief's humanitarian efforts, Wyoming, We Thank You!



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