

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Meaningful World Launches the Twenty-Sixth Annual Krieger Essay Contest on Preventing Genocides**

**FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**Essay Subject: "What the Legacy of Genocide Means to Me"**

### **2020 Awards**

- \$100.00 for High School student winner (2 Awards)**
- \$200.00 for College/University student winner (2 awards)**

#### **Eligibility and Submission Criteria:**

1. Students must be enrolled in high school (Grades 10-12) or college/university (undergraduate level); they must be residents of New York, New Jersey or Connecticut;
2. Essays must be original and unpublished;
3. Essays must include social, psychological, philosophical or human rights perspectives, and ideally should reference multiple genocides both current and past, multiple references, books, research, and eyewitness accounts;
4. Essays must be in English, typewritten, double-spaced, and 1,000-2,000 words in length;
5. Must include the Ottoman Turkish Genocide of the Armenians and other Christian minorities;
6. All submissions become the property of AASSSG and will not be returned;
7. AASSSG reserves the right to make no award(s) each year if, in the opinion of its three judges, the submissions do not meet its criteria;
8. All entries must be postmarked by **24 April 2020**. The winners will receive personal notifications by May 2019. Awards will be given at the United Nations or at a NYC museum TBA later.

The benefactor of this essay contest was Dr Edmund L. Gergerian, who resolved to establish this award in memory of his late uncle, Father Krikor Guerguerian, aka Krieger and in memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished. Born in 1911 in Gurin, Sebastia, Turkey, Fr Guerguerian was the tenth child of a prosperous Armenian Catholic family, whose ancestors originated from Gargar, a fortress-city dating from the time of the Crusaders. He survived from one of many of the forced death marches, which ended in Syria. As a child, he witnessed the murder of his parents, was taken as an orphan to Damascus, Syria, then moved to Lebanon in 1916.

Krieger's own near-death experiences compelled him to devote his life to gathering documentary evidence on the Ottoman Turkish Genocide of the Armenians. He collected hundreds of documents in Ottoman, authenticated by seals of government agencies and therefore representing incontrovertible evidence of these events as genocide. He had completed about 80% of his work when he died in 1988. Today, his nephew continues his uncle's work. Krieger was interviewed about his life's work by filmmaker Michael Hagopian and that footage can be seen in the collections of the USC Shoah Foundation at <http://vhaonline.usc.edu/>. In addition, Dr. Gergerian, in cooperation with historian Taner Akcam, are scanning the entire original archive to be placed at Clark University's website.

The Armenian American Society for Studies on Stress & Genocide (AASSSG) was founded in 1988 by Dr Ani Kalayjian to advance national and international understanding of the generational and intergenerational effects of traumatic experiences, such as genocide, earthquake, and war. In 1995 AASSSG established this Krieger contest.

**Our Motto: When one helps another, BOTH become stronger!**

**Please include:** cover letter indicating name, address, age, year of study, e-mail & personal contact, name of school/college attending, college major field of study, and career objectives and mail to: AASSSG/Meaningful World, C/O Harry Milian, 187-12 Wexford Terr., Jamaica, NY 11422; Phone: 201-941-2266, E-mail: [DrKalayjian@meaningfulworld.com](mailto:DrKalayjian@meaningfulworld.com); website: [www.Meaningfulworld.com](http://www.Meaningfulworld.com).