

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 4/1/2015 11:24:34 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Recognize Turkish National Day - April 23

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Kerem bolukbasi
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April 1, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Governor of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

On April 23, Turkish-Americans celebrate Turkish National Sovereignty and Children's Day. On that day, 95 years ago, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey was established realizing the aspirations of Turkish people for liberty, justice and peace, and leading to the 1923 founding of the Turkish Republic under the guidance of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Marked as Turkish National Day since 1921, April 23 had also been celebrated as Children's Day since 1927, signifying the role of future generations in building modern Turkey.

Since the early years of establishment, Turkish Republic has demonstrated its strong commitment to the universal values of peace, diversity and social justice. Turkey is the world's first sustainable predominantly-Muslim secular democracy and is among the fastest growing emerging markets. For over 60 years, Turkey has also been a key U.S. and NATO ally in a vast region stretching from Eastern Europe and North Africa to the Middle East and Central Asia. During the 1950-53 Korean War, over 5,000 Turkish soldiers took part and over 700 Turks fell as heroes fighting alongside the U.S. forces. Today, with the ongoing Syrian crisis, Turkey's role as a major U.S. regional partner remains pivotal.

Meanwhile, in less than a century of immigration, Turkish-Americans have also left a positive imprint on a diverse cultural spectrum of America and contributed to its advancement in the fields of business, science, medicine, technology and arts. On this occasion, I join members of the Pax Turcica Institute in requesting an official recognition of Turkish National Day - April 23 in form of a greeting proclamation or a legislative resolution. Sample text of such recognition is available at <http://legiscan.com/MI/text/HR0095/2013>

Sincerely,

Kerem bolukbasi
2038799815