

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 10/22/2014 8:51:05 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: The 91st anniversary of the Republic of Turkey

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October 22, 2014

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

Dear Governor Haley:

On October 29, over half a million Turkish Americans will celebrate the 91st anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. On that day in 1923, under the guidance of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the Turkish Grand National Assembly proclaimed the Republic realizing the aspirations of Turkish people for freedom, peace, and progress in their homeland. Through the ambitious reforms implementing Ataturk's vision of modern statehood, Turkey had transformed from its imperial past into a sustainable secular democracy and an emerging market.

For over 60 years, Turkey has been a key partner in a vital region stretching from Eastern Europe and the Middle East to the Caucasus and Central Asia. Over 5,000 Turkish soldiers took part and over 700 of them fell fighting alongside the Americans in the 1950-53 Korean War. In the last two decades, Turkey considerably contributed to the NATO and U.S.-led missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan. With the unraveling crisis in Syria, Turkey's role as an influential regional power and U.S. partner remains pivotal.

Meanwhile, within less than a century of immigration, Turkish Americans have left a unique imprint on America's diverse cultural spectrum and have

contributed to its advancement in the fields of business, science, medicine, technology and arts.

Ahead of this important anniversary for Turkish Americans, I join members of the Pax Turcica Institute to request a greeting proclamation or a legislative resolution recognizing Turkish Republic Day. Sample text is available at <http://www.paxturcica.org/drafts/TurkishRepublicDay.pdf>

Sincerely,

Kerem Bolukbasi
2039799815