

By Senator Garcia

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the contributions of the Republic of Turkey and the Turkish American Federation of the Southeast and celebrating March 21, 2013, as "Turkish American Day" at the Capitol.

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey and the United States are long-standing allies, cherishing the values of freedom, democracy, and human rights, and

WHEREAS, in its alliance with the United States, the Republic of Turkey has demonstrated its commitment to world peace and liberty, as well as its tolerance of others in both secular and religious venues, and

WHEREAS, more than 15,000 Turkish Americans call Florida home, with more than 2,000 Turkish American businessmen contributing to the state, and

WHEREAS, the Istanbul Cultural Center, with its local branches in Ft. Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Tallahassee, and Tampa, has become the most recognized organization of Turkish culture by disseminating knowledge of the language, history, culture, education, and social life of Turkey in Florida and other states of the Southeast, and

WHEREAS, the Istanbul Cultural Center, along with the Turkish American Federation of the Southeast and the Atlantic Institute for International Affairs, has facilitated greater cultural understanding between Turkish Americans and other people of this state by providing opportunities to connect with community leaders of diverse cultural and faith backgrounds, and by sponsoring television interviews, advertisements, and various

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30 business, education, intercultural, and faith trips to Turkey,
31 and

32 WHEREAS, the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce of the
33 Southeast United States organizes trade missions and trips to
34 Turkey to explore import and export opportunities between Turkey
35 and the United States, and

36 WHEREAS, every spring, the Anatolia Cultural Center
37 organizes the Turkish Festival in Ft. Lauderdale, a worldwide
38 event that is attended by tens of thousands of Floridians, with
39 those numbers continuing to grow, and entertains crowds with
40 contemporary and traditional varieties of Turkish music and
41 performances, NOW, THEREFORE,

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43 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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45 That the Turkish American community of Florida and the
46 Turkish American Federation of the Southeast, the Turkish
47 American Chamber of Commerce, the Istanbul Cultural Center, and
48 the Atlantic Institute for International Affairs be recognized
49 for their contributions to diversity, economic well-being,
50 culture, faith, and quality of life in the state, and that March
51 21, 2013, be celebrated as "Turkish American Day" at the
52 Capitol.