

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Council of Turkic American Associations upon the occasion of its Celebration in the Well of the Legislative Office Building, on June 18, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is furthermore the custom of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to pay tribute to those organizations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Council of Turkic American Associations upon the occasion of its Celebration in the Well of the Legislative Office Building on Tuesday, June 18, 2013, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Council of Turkic American Associations (CTAA) was established in New York City in 2010 as an umbrella organization representing 43 member organizations in nine states in the northeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, A civic organization, CTAA aims to promote and establish closer relations with the Turkic American community and the community at large, as well as with members of other ethnic communities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Many Turkic communities in the United States, including Kazakh, Bosnian, Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Turkmen, Tajik, and Azerbaijan communities, have existed for more than 30 years; however, most were not part of any civil organizations; as migrations to the United States from Turkic countries increased, Turkic-Americans began to establish scores of local organizations for the purpose of creating community and for keeping their cultures alive for future generations as well as for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Realizing the benefits and potential of uniting to better serve the Turkic American community in the region, the leaders of various Turkish-American organizations decided to create an umbrella organization to centrally coordinate events and also to create a network throughout the northeastern states and use it for the benefit of the local communities; and

WHEREAS, CTAA works in coordination with member organizations, supporters throughout the northeast region and affiliated organizations around the nation to ensure that Turkic-Americans keep alive and present the rich heritage of their values and cultural traditions, and to make sure that they are part of a whole community; and

WHEREAS, One such affiliation is with Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan (AFAZ), an organization working to promote the importance of partnership and friendship between the United States of America and the Republic of Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, CTAA brings people together through local and national conferences, panels, luncheons and forums to address important issues that relate to the Turkic American community and US-Turkic relations; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to recognize those organizations of true purpose and worthy accomplishment that

provide opportunities to celebrate their rich ethnic legacy, and strive to preserve their cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body salutes all of the individuals, past and present, who have given their time to this worthy organization, noting their commitment to enhance and improve the quality of life in their community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Council of Turkic American Associations upon the occasion of its Celebration in the Well of the Legislative Office Building; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Council of Turkic American Associations, and Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan.