

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the 93rd Anniversary of Turkish National Sovereignty and Children's Day on April 23, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups which comprise and contribute to the richness and diversity of the community of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the 93rd Anniversary of Turkish National Sovereignty and Children's Day on April 23, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Every year on April 23rd, over half a million Turkish-Americans celebrate Turkish National Sovereignty and Children's Day; and

WHEREAS, On this day, 93 years ago, the Turkish Grand National Assembly (Parliament) was established to take lead in realizing the aspirations of Turkish people for freedom, justice and peace; and

WHEREAS, Marked for the first time in 1921 as the Turkish National Day, April 23rd had also been celebrated since 1927 as the Children's Day to signify the role of future generations in realization of the Turkish dream for peace, progress and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Since its establishment, Turkish Republic has demonstrated its commitment to the universal values of liberty, justice, democracy and tolerance as well as to its long-term strategic alliance with the United States; and

WHEREAS, Modern Turkey is the world's only predominantly Muslim secular parliamentary democracy, among the fastest growing emerging markets and remains an important United States and NATO ally in a vast region stretching from Eastern Europe and North Africa to the Middle East and Central Asia; and

WHEREAS, During the 1950-1953 Korean War, over 5,000 Turkish soldiers took part and over 700 of them fell as heroes fighting alongside the Americans; and

WHEREAS, Since 1952, Turkey has been a key NATO member and a major contributor to alliance missions, most recently in Kosovo and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Within less than a century of immigration, Turkish-Americans have had a unique imprint on a diverse cultural spectrum of our nation, and contributed to America's advancement in the fields of business, science, medicine, technology and arts; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to join Turkish-Americans and members of the Turkish Cultural Center in celebration of this most auspicious day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the 93rd Anniversary of Turkish National Sovereignty and Children's Day on April 23, 2013.