

Senate Resolution 919

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending the Istanbul Center; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center is a unit of Global Spectrum Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit  
3 organization with headquarters in Atlanta and a branch location in Norcross, Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center personifies the City of Istanbul, a city with 12 to 14 million  
5 people of various backgrounds, languages, religions, and cultures that live together in peace;  
6 and
- 7 WHEREAS, the City of Istanbul represents civilization and peaceful coexistence, is located  
8 in an area of the world that connects the continents of Europe and Asia, and has historically  
9 experienced intermingling of many ethnic backgrounds, communities, and cultures; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center provides learning opportunities for students in grades K-12  
11 in a variety of subjects, including language, science, and art and sponsors annual art and  
12 essay contests for middle and high school students in partnership with the United Nations,  
13 the Georgia Department of Education, and many other local and national organizations; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center sponsors a Youth Leadership program with Fulton County  
15 and organizes seminars and lectures for adults through partnerships with colleges,  
16 universities and other institutions; and
- 17 WHEREAS, national and international leaders are invited monthly to the center's critically  
18 acclaimed Distinguished Speaker Series, which showcases government leaders, ambassadors,  
19 best-selling authors, CEO's, and civic leaders to educate metro Atlanta communities on local,  
20 national, and international affairs; and
- 21 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center has facilitated greater cultural understanding between the  
22 Turkish people and the people of Georgia by providing opportunities for dialogue with

23 community leaders, many of whom are of different cultures and faith backgrounds, as  
24 evidenced by the center's 2009 international conference, "Alliance of Civilizations: Turkey  
25 at the Crossroads of Cultures," which emphasized peaceful coexistence and dialogue between  
26 people of all races, creeds, and cultures; and

27 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center sponsors a monthly Istanbul Dialogue Night, which  
28 provides a relaxed social environment where members of different communities can develop  
29 friendships and understanding; and

30 WHEREAS, members of the center are devoted to improving the lives of others, assisting  
31 the Istanbul Center with relief programs for victims of natural and other disasters, organizing  
32 donations and food drive programs, and encouraging others in the Turkish-American  
33 community to volunteer at the Atlanta Community Food Bank and several area homeless  
34 shelters.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
36 recognize the Istanbul Center for its assistance to the State of Georgia in promoting better  
37 understanding and closer relationships among diverse communities and commend the center's  
38 programs that focus on dialogue through education, culture, and humanitarian works.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
40 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Istanbul Center.