

House Resolution 1468

By: Representative Cheokas of the 134<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 21, 2012, as Turkish American Day at the capitol and inviting the  
2 representatives of the Turkish American community and the Istanbul Center to be recognized  
3 by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, there are an estimated 8,000 Turkish Americans residing in the State of Georgia  
5 and 500 Turkish American businesses; and

6 WHEREAS, the Turkish American community makes significant contributions to the  
7 cultural diversity, vitality, and economic well-being of the State of Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia's trade with Turkey has increased by more than 30 percent over the last  
9 year through the efforts of the Turkish American community, the Turkish American  
10 Chamber of Commerce of the Southeast United States, and the Istanbul Center; and

11 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center is a nonprofit organization that is headquartered in Atlanta,  
12 Georgia, and has a branch location in Alpharetta, Georgia, to provide assistance to the State  
13 of Georgia and other areas of the United States by promoting better understanding and close  
14 relations among various and diverse communities; and

15 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center has become the premier representative organization of  
16 Turkish culture by disseminating knowledge of the language, history, culture, education, and  
17 social life of Turkey in Georgia and other states in the Southeast; and

18 WHEREAS, in facing the challenges of today's world, the Istanbul Center encourages  
19 dialogue between the Turkish American community and the world through educational,  
20 cultural, and humanitarian works; and

21 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center promotes programs, such as festivals, cooking classes, art  
22 and handcraft exhibits, and music and dance performances, that help educate and inform the  
23 citizens of Georgia about Turkish culture; and

24 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center has facilitated greater cultural understanding between  
25 Turkish Americans and the people of Georgia by providing opportunities to connect with  
26 community leaders, many of whom are of different cultures and faith backgrounds, as  
27 evidenced by the center's cultural and educational programming; and

28 WHEREAS, Turkish Americans are devoted to improving the lives of others, assisting the  
29 Istanbul Center with relief programs for victims of natural and other disasters; organizing  
30 donations and food drive programs; and encouraging others in the Turkish American  
31 community to volunteer at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, refugee service organizations,  
32 and several area homeless shelters; and

33 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center reciprocally promotes Georgia and the Southeast United  
34 States in Turkey through television programming, interviews, advertisements, and various  
35 business, cultural, and educational trips to Turkey.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
37 the members of this body commend the Turkish American community of Georgia and the  
38 Istanbul Center for their contributions to diversity, economic well-being, culture, and the  
39 quality of life in the State of Georgia; recognize February 21, 2012, as Turkish American  
40 Day at the capitol; and invite the representatives of the Turkish American community and  
41 the Istanbul Center to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time  
42 designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
44 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Turkish American  
45 community and the Istanbul Center.