

## Senate Resolution 163

By: Senators Chance of the 16th, Mullis of the 53rd, Orrock of the 36th, James of the 35th, Seay of the 34th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2013, as Turkish American Day at the capitol and commending the  
2 contributions of the Istanbul Center and Turkish Americans to the State of Georgia; and for  
3 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, the Turkish American Federation of  
11 the Southeast, and the Istanbul Center; and

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

16 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center has become the premier representative organization of the  
17 Turkish American alliance by organizing economic, cultural, and educational programs in  
18 Georgia and other states in the Southeast; and

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

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

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

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

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
36 commend the Turkish American community of Georgia and the Istanbul Center for their  
37 contributions to diversity, economic well-being, culture, and the quality of life in the State  
38 of Georgia and recognize February 7, 2013, as Turkish American Day at the capitol.

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 Turkish American community and  
41 the Istanbul Center.