

No. R-124. House concurrent resolution designating March 29, 2017 as Turkish Cultural Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.94)

Offered by: Representatives McCormack of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Head of South Burlington, Stuart of Brattleboro, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, in 2012, members of the large community of Turkish Americans in Vermont established the nonprofit Turkish Cultural Center Vermont (TCC), with a dual mission "to respond to social and cultural needs of Turkish Americans," and "to promote cross-cultural awareness that is based on mutual respect and understanding of the Turkish Culture within Vermont," and

Whereas, often in partnership with other civic and social organizations, the TCC presents educational and cultural activities, and

Whereas, the TCC offers interpreter and translation services, both Turkish-English and English-Turkish, for Vermont's Turkish community, and

Whereas, one of the TCC's activities is to match families of Turkish descent with other Vermonters for home dinners as a way for all involved to engage in direct and personal intercultural exchanges, and

Whereas, active support of free speech, freedom of the press, and equal justice in Turkey, as it is experienced in Vermont and the United States, is an important role for the TCC, and

Whereas, the TCC supports a tolerant Islam, which emphasizes altruism, hard work, and education, and

Whereas, Turkish Cultural Day, an annual highlight on the TCC's calendar, is a culinary, musical, and theatrical celebration of Turkish culture's best elements, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 29, 2017 as Turkish Cultural Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Turkish Cultural Center Vermont.