



Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, on this day, 92 years ago, the Turkish Grand National Assembly was established to lead the Turkish people toward freedom, justice and peace; and,

WHEREAS, marked in 1921 as Turkish National Day, April 23 has also been celebrated since 1927 as Children's Day to signify the role of future generations in the realization of Turkish progress and prosperity; and

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

WHEREAS, modern Turkey stands as the world's most predominantly Muslim secular parliamentary democracy. It boasts the fastest growing emerging market and remains an important U.S and NATO ally in a vast region stretching from Eastern Europe and North Africa to the Middle East and Central Asia; and,

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

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 23, 2012 as **TURKISH NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY** in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,

this THIRD *day of* APRIL *, in*

the Year of Our Lord two thousand and

TWELVE *, and of the State of Illinois*

the one hundred and NINETY-FOURTH



Debra Weiss

SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR