PROCLAMATION
Turkish Republic Day
October 29th, 2011

WHEREAS, October 29, 1923 is the date of the founding of the Republic of Turkey by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk; and

WHEREAS, Turkey is the only secular democracy in the Muslim world and has made significant contributions to United States foreign policy in the Balkans, the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Caucasus and has played a critical role in international efforts for peace, prosperity, and stability; and

WHEREAS, Turkey has become an integral part of Europe through its membership in NATO, the Council of Europe, and its impending membership to the European Union; and

WHEREAS, Turkey was one of the first allies to show unconditional solidarity with our Nation in the war against terrorism and has thrice commanded the International Peacekeeping Forces in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Americans of Turkish descent in the State of Michigan have played a significant role in the educational, cultural, economic and civic development of our community through sharing their rich cultural heritage and through their dedication to the responsibilities of good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, all Turks and Turkish Americans will be celebrating Turkish Republic Day on October 29, 2010.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Hieftje, Mayor of Ann Arbor, Michigan, proclaim October 29th, 2011 as Turkish Republic Day and encourage all Ann Arbor citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.

I hereby set my hand and seal
This 29th day of October, 2011

John Hieftje, Mayor