



Promoting a Lasting Partnership Between Azerbaijan and America

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alliance Celebrates Independence Day of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan American Alliance celebrates Independence Day on October 18 2013, exactly 22 years ago after the adoption of the Constitutional Act

Washington, D.C.—October 18, 2013: Exactly 22 years ago, after the adoption of the Constitutional Act, Azerbaijan gained its long-awaited independence, having surmounted many challenges. The document reads that based on the Declaration of Independence adopted by the Azerbaijan's National Council on May 28, 1918 and on the democratic principles and traditions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and following the Declaration adopted by the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan on August 30, 1991, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopts this Constitutional Act and founds the state, political and economic institutions of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan.



After the enactment of the Constitutional Act, Azerbaijan held a nationwide vote on December 29, 1991. The ballot paper of the referendum included only one question: "Do you support the Constitutional Act on the state Independence of Azerbaijan?" Over 95 percent of voters took part in the referendum and unanimously voted for independence.

Azerbaijan became a member of the United Nations on March 2, 1992 and the de facto recognition of Azerbaijan by the world community begins from that date. In May 1992, the parliament approved the national anthem of Azerbaijan, and later the national flag as well as the coat-of-arms depicting an eight-pointed star with flames.

Azerbaijan's political and economic mainstays are getting stronger every year. The principles of state independence laid down in 1991 are faithfully protected and upheld. Great attention is paid to the development of the economy, comprehensive strengthening of the state, and the preservation of the national cultural values. Prior to the Declaration of Independence, Azerbaijan had been part of the Soviet Union. Since independence, Azerbaijan has become a leading forward-thinker in the region, and is considered a key U.S. Ally.

In the U.S., members of the Azerbaijani community of Houston and surrounding cities gathered in a state park to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Independence Day of Azerbaijan, as a part of an annual tradition. A new generation of young Azerbaijani Americans participated in the event, which plays a special role in upbringing of national spirit. The event was co-organized by the Houston-Baku Sister Cities Association and Azerbaijani Center of Houston, Azertag reports.

Texas Senator John Whitmire issued proclamation No. 266 on the occasion of Azerbaijan's Independence Day, Azertag news agency reported. It recognizes the contributions of Azerbaijanis in the U.S. to the ethnic diversity of the country and Azerbaijanis around the world for spreading freedom and democracy in the Caucasus.

Also joining in the celebration of 22 years of Azeri independence was Google, changing its Azerbaijan homepage graphic to a festive and colorful national design.

None of the large-scale projects implemented in the region is considered without Azerbaijan's involvement. Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, a 1,768-kilometer crude oil pipeline, implemented within the framework of the "Contract of the Century", brought Caspian oil to world markets. This has greatly contributed to the prosperity of the Azerbaijani people.