

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, Tampa, Florida is proud of its rich history and cultural diversity that is unique to our community, and much of it can be attributed to the pioneers and immigrants who contributed to its successful development, growth, prosperity, and strength to our city, state, and nation, and they have influenced our way of life through their rich culture, language, and history; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Turkish community proudly celebrate their heritage, and it is especially meaningful on December 15<sup>th</sup> as it is designated **World Turkic Language Family Day**, named following its adoption at the 2025 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan; and

**WHEREAS**, language is a bridge that connects generations and fosters mutual understanding, respect, and friendships among peoples of all backgrounds, and the Turkic language represents one of the world's major language families and includes more than thirty-five documented languages spoken by millions around the world, and represents a deep and rich cultural heritage that has influenced literature, art, science, and philosophy for centuries; and

**WHEREAS**, the date of December 15<sup>th</sup> is significant and has special meaning as that is the date in 1893 that Danish scientist Vilhelm Thomsen announced he had deciphered the alphabet of the Orkhon inscriptions, one of the oldest written records of the Turkic language, which points to the deep past of the Turkic language family and its shared culture; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa, Florida and the City of Izmir, Turkey officially became Sister Cities in 1993 to build a closer relationship between the two cities and its citizens, and the Tampa Bay region is proud of this alliance, and the community joins the world in celebration of World Turkic Language Family Day; and

**WHEREAS**, Turkish Americans are part of the success story of our nation and the Tampa Bay region, and they are an established and vital component of the neighborhoods in which they live, play, and work, and they serve in vital leadership roles, professions, enterprises, as entrepreneurs, public servants and so much more.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim December 15, 2025, as

## ***“WORLD TURKIC LANGUAGE FAMILY DAY”***

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking the Turkish members of our community for the many contributions they have made and continue to make to our city, state, and nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025.



*Jane Castor*  
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Mayor