

PROCLAMATION

HONORING Azerbaijan Society of Maine

Azerbaijan National Day – May 28, 2012

WHEREAS, The Republic of Azerbaijan was proclaimed on May 28, 1918, stretching from the Caucasus mountains in the north to the Araxes river in the south, Caspian Sea in the east to Kerki in the west, included Karabakh, Zangezur and Nakhichevan regions, and became the first secular Muslim parliamentary democratic republic in the history of the world, and was recognized as such by other democratic nations of the time, including the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, President Woodrow Wilson met with the Azerbaijani delegation on May 28, 1919, the one-year anniversary of Azerbaijan's founding, and later remarked, "Well, one day there came in a very dignified and interesting group of gentlemen who were from Azerbaijan. ... I did find this out immediately: that I was talking to men who talked the same language that I did in respect of ideas, in respect of conceptions of liberty, in respect of conceptions of right and justice"; and

WHEREAS, The territorial integrity, state sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan is unconditionally supported by the United States; and

WHEREAS, Every year for the last 94 years, an estimated 40 million Azerbaijanis around the globe and 400,000 Azerbaijani-Americans, observe May 28 as the National Day of Azerbaijan and remember the contribution of their forefathers to the spread of freedom and democracy in the Caucasus and the greater region; and

WHEREAS, The Azerbaijani-Americans are an ethnic community with a recognized presence in our constituency, actively contributing to the regional diversity, intercultural understanding, peace and prosperity; and the U.S. Azeris Network (USAN), which is the first and largest nationwide grassroots advocacy organization of the Azerbaijani-American voters, has been educating the wider American public and fostering greater understanding about Azerbaijan and the importance of May 28, 1918 as a shining example of early Muslim democracy in the Greater Middle East;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael F. Brennan, Mayor of the City of Portland, Maine and members of the Portland City Council do hereby proclaim May 28, 2012, as "Azerbaijan National Day", and call upon all residents of Portland to join me in observing this day.

Signed and sealed this 28th day of May, 2012



**Michael F. Brennan, Mayor
City of Portland, Maine**