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WASHINGTON DC'S 'BEST FESTIVAL' RETURNS TO FREEDOM PLAZA

Experience Authentic Turkish Art and Culture at the 9th Annual Turkish Festival on Sunday, October 2nd 2011 at Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, DC

Washington, DC, September 19, 2011 – The American-Turkish Association of Washington D.C. (ATA-DC) is proud to present a free, fun-filled and daylong Turkish Festival, which won the Washington City Paper's reader's choice for 'Best Festival' in March 2011.

Every year, the festival draws tens of thousands of Washingtonians to the streets to enjoy delicious Turkish food and traditional Turkish coffee, to browse and shop at the Turkish Bazaar, and to watch mesmerizing stage performances. This year, once again festival goers will have the opportunity to journey from D.C. to Turkey through experiencing Turkey's rich cultural history, its culinary delights, and a variety of live Turkish music and engaging folk dance performances. The festival will also reach beyond Turkey's borders featuring the rich cultural presence of the Balkans, Central Asia, and the Middle East.

Washington DC and the capital of Turkey to become sister cities

This year, we are also pleased to announce the introduction of Washington D.C. and Ankara Turkey as sister-cities. A short ceremony honoring the cities with the participation of both mayors will take place during the festival.

Festival highlights include:

- ∞ Turkish cuisine from local Washington D.C. Turkish restaurants: Kabobs, vegetarian dishes, pastries and desserts will be available for purchase. Turkish coffee will be offered at the ever-popular Turkish coffee house, and fortune-tellers will read fortunes from coffee grinds.
- ∞ The "Kid's Tent" will present Turkish culture with hands-on activities, offering children and their parents the opportunity to create unforgettable memories.
- ∞ "The Culture and Tourism Tent" will host exhibitions as well as demonstrations of Turkish arts such as calligraphy, paper marbling, tile-making, miniature, and carpet weaving. More than 20 arts and crafts vendors will showcase Turkish jewelry, hand-woven textiles and pottery at the Turkish Bazaar.

Granted by: DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities / Sponsors: The Turkish Cultural Foundation / Turkey Culture and Tourism Ministry / Turkish Airlines

In the meantime, please visit us online: www.turkishfestival.org /
www.twitter.com/turkishfestival / www.facebook.com/washingtoncturkishfestival