



During the construction of the Washington Monument only a handful of nations donated stone. The Ottoman Empire, a

predecessor of the Republic of Turkey, gave this stone as a gesture of friendship to the United States.

This donation was commemorated in President Obama's April 6, 2009 speech to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey: "Turkey's democracy is your own achievement. It was not forced upon you by any outside power, nor did it come without struggle and sacrifice. Turkey draws strength from both the successes of the past, and from the efforts of each generation of Turks that makes new progress for your people. Now, my country's democracy has its own story. The general who led America in revolution and governed as our first President was, as many of you know, George Washington. And like you, we built a grand monument to honor our founding father — a towering obelisk that stands in the heart of the capital city that bears Washington's name. I can see the Washington Monument from the window of the White House every day...Ottoman Sultan Abdulmecid sent a marble plaque that helped to build the Washington Monument. Inscribed in the plaque was a poem that began with a few simple words: 'So as to strengthen the friendship between the two countries.' Over 150 years have passed since those words were carved into marble. Our nations have changed in many ways. But our friendship is strong, and our alliance endures."

The Turkish Coalition of America hopes to work closely with both members of Congress and the Administration to ensure that this friendship continues to endure and grow even stronger. Over the coming weeks, please check back to this same page for a series by TCA on the importance of US-Turkey relations and contributions of Turkish Americans to our nation.



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