



## Promoting a Lasting Partnership Between Azerbaijan and America

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Large Turnout for Azerbaijan America Alliance's Flower Day Celebration**

*Flower Day activities were held on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, from 12 to 4pm on the National Mall. Its central location and colorful activities drew over a thousand people to the event, each of whom was curious to learn more about Azerbaijani culture.*

**Washington, D.C. – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013** – On Sunday, the Azerbaijan America Alliance organized a cultural festival on the National Mall to celebrate Flower Day, an Azerbaijani national holiday.

The Flower Day occasion included a number of family-friendly activities, which were both enjoyable and educational. Over 80 students from the greater Washington, DC Metropolitan area created artwork for the event that was displayed in the tented area of the venue. Many students and their families came to view their artwork on display, and many more contributed by creating drawings and tissue paper flowers at the festival. During the event, live dance performances and traditional Azeri music filled the air. Over 1,000 guests joined the festival on a picture-perfect spring day, learning Azeri dance steps and enjoying Flower Day themed t-shirts, face-painting, arts and crafts, and food.

The front of the Capitol building was a fitting backdrop for speeches by the Alliance's Chairman, Congressman Dan Burton, and Elin Suleymanov, the Azerbaijani Ambassador to the United States. Both men remarked on the positive and expanding relationship between their respective nations. "It was a beautiful day and an even more beautiful event," Congressman Dan Burton commented.

In addition to celebrating Azerbaijani culture, the day's festivities highlighted the contributions of the late President Heydar Aliyev. Two local artists spent the event's duration creating original artwork to commemorate the national leader's role in Azerbaijan's independence. The two pieces of art, each 8 feet by 8 feet, will be displayed in Azerbaijan on May 10, during the country's Flower Day Celebrations in Baku, the nation's capital.

The Azerbaijan America Alliance is a non-partisan, non-profit organization providing critical information about the people, culture, society, industry, history, and current events of the Azeri people. Its mission is to foster and strengthen relations between the people of Azerbaijan and the United States. Through academic discussion, cultural programming, and political discourse, the Alliance aims to promote and advance a lasting partnership between the two nations' citizens.

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