

EXCERPTS FROM THE STATEMENT GIVEN BY
OUR RETIRED WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR
DR. SUKRU ELEKDAG

Mr. Ayasli is not only a famous scientist, innovator, businessman and investor who was educated in Turkey, but he is at the same time an absolute Ataturk nationalist, an exemplary lover of Turkey and of democracy. Dr. Ayasli has another passion. That is his loyalty to his roots and to the country where he was born and grew up in.

That is why he worked day and night without seeking self-interest and without foregoing any material sacrifices to promote Turkey in the United States and to defend its interests. For this he worked hard and successfully against those circles who try to tarnish our country's image.

Among the promotion activities, the one that I think was the most important were the Turkey trips that were organized for large groups of middle and high school teachers annually. With this, it was possible for more than a thousand teachers to learn more about our country and share this knowledge with their students. Similarly, he organized trips for members of Congress to travel and see our homeland and have formal meetings.

Work for Turkish history to be taught correctly is also invaluable. For this goal, a chair of history was set up through donations made to the University of Utah which allowed for comprehensive academic research on our history to take place. With this, the publication of more than ten academic books and countless articles was made possible to negate the arguments of circles who work feverishly to pervert our history and accuse our nation with genocide. In this context, I have to state that as a result of a donation made 19 years ago, the work of a professorship chair that taught the Turkish language at the University of Chicago has continued without a break.

Political activities at the US Congress have also yielded results that are worthy of notice. With this, the Caucus on U.S.-Turkey relations & Turkish Americans, which was formed within Congress had more than 160 representatives and senators. If our state had done what was necessary and supported Yalcin Ayasli, the resolutions that passed the Congress in December 2019 blaming Turkey for the events of 1915 would not have been this harsh and grave or maybe they could have been prevented.

Ayasli is a source of commendation and pride for Turkey.