

HR 9159

2008

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution commending Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
3 for his dedication to religious and human rights and his
4 valuable contributions to global conflict resolution and
5 peace.

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7 WHEREAS, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul,
8 Turkey, is the Sacred See that presides in a spirit of
9 brotherhood over a communion of self-governing churches of the
10 Orthodox Christian world, and

11 WHEREAS, the See is led by Ecumenical Patriarch
12 Bartholomew, who is 269th in direct succession to the Apostle
13 Andrew and holds titular primacy as primus inter pares, meaning
14 "first among equals," in the community of the Orthodox churches
15 worldwide, and

16 WHEREAS, in 1994, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, along
17 with leaders of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, cosponsored
18 the Conference on Peace and Tolerance, which brought together
19 Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religious leaders for an
20 interfaith dialogue to help end the Balkan conflict and the
21 ethnic conflict in the Caucasus region, and

22 WHEREAS, in 1997, the Congress of the United States awarded
23 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with the Congressional Gold
24 Medal, and

25 WHEREAS, following the terrorist attacks on our nation on
26 September 11, 2001, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gathered a
27 group of international religious leaders to produce the first

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28 joint statement with Muslim leaders that condemned those attacks
29 as "antireligious," and

30 WHEREAS, the Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for
31 nearly 2,000 years, numbers approximately 300 million members
32 worldwide with more than 2 million members in the United States,
33 NOW, THEREFORE,

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35 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
36 Florida:

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38 That Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is recognized for his
39 commitment to promoting peace and tolerance among various faiths
40 and for his valuable contributions to ethnic and religious
41 conflict resolution worldwide.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
43 presented to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as a tangible
44 token of the sentiments expressed herein.