

REINTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA AND GREECE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reintroduce legislation to address the long-standing name dispute between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Greece. This House Resolution urges the FYROM to work within the framework of the United Nations process with Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of resolving the name dispute and encourages the United States to work with its NATO allies to uphold previous NATO Summits decisions, with regard to the enlargement issue.

As founder and co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, this is of tremendous importance to me. I believe the United States must send a strong message, supporting a solution to the name issue and to encourage the FYROM and Greece to reach a mutually acceptable solution as soon as possible.

Historical and archaeological evidence shows that the ancient Macedonians were Greek. Macedonia is a Greek name that has designated the northern area of Greece for 2,500 years. In 1944, the name of the Skopje region was changed to Macedonia as part of Tito's imperialist campaign to gain control of the Greek province of Macedonia.

Both NATO and the White House have repeatedly emphasized their support for the unanimous decision made at the NATO Bucharest Summit in 2008 (and reiterated at NATO Summits in Strasbourg/Kehl in 2009 and Lisbon in 2010) that an invitation would be extended once a mutually acceptable solution to the name dispute has been reached. As the United States and its NATO allies consider the future of NATO and possible changes in membership, the United States must abide by this decision. Otherwise, any move by the United States that shows support for extending NATO membership to the FYROM, before a resolution is reached in the name dispute, might be misinterpreted by the government in Skopje as a sign for further intransigence. This would eventually derail the ongoing negotiations, thus undermining U.S. interests in the Western Balkan region.

This resolution urges the FYROM to work within the framework of the United Nations process and in good faith with Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of resolving the name dispute. The resolution also encourages the United States to work with its NATO allies to uphold previous NATO Summits decisions, with regard to the enlargement issue and extend an invitation to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue has been reached.

IN MEMORIAM OF MICHAEL DALE GARRETT

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael Dale Garrett, a Firefighter and EMT-I with the Nutter Fort Volunteer Firefighter Department, who lost his life serving in the line of duty on February 1, 2014.

Michael, or "Mikey" as he is known by his family, attended South Harrison High School, Alderson-Broaddus College and was scheduled to graduate from Fairmont State University in May with an associate's degree in emergency services. Michael's life was serving others as a first responder. He started when he was only a teenager and had experience and knowledge beyond his 28 years. He trained other firefighters and EMT personnel and was proud of his work.

Michael's passion in life was helping others. Every call he took meant the potential for danger but he did his job as a professional up until his last call. His sense of humor and smile will be remembered by his family and friends. The Nutter Fort Fire Department want to stress that he died a hero, doing what he loved and lived for.

I offer my condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and all those who knew Michael Garrett. We honor his memory and his dedicated service to others.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birthday of Frederick Douglass, I introduce a bill that would establish a Bicentennial Commission to study ways that the Federal Government might honor and celebrate the life of Douglass during the bicentennial anniversary of his birth in 2018.

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in 1818 on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He learned basic reading skills from his mistress and continued to teach himself and other slaves to read and write despite the risks he faced, including death. After two attempts, Douglass successfully escaped from slavery to New York and became an anti-slavery lecturer and abolitionist. He went on to serve in several administrations, including as a close advisor to President Abraham Lincoln, U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia under President Rutherford B. Hayes and District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds under President James Garfield. In 1889, President Benjamin Harrison appointed Frederick Douglass to be the U.S. minister to Haiti. He was later appointed by President Ulysses S. Grant to serve as secretary of the commission of Santo Domingo.

Douglass dedicated his life to achieving justice for all Americans. He lived in the District of Columbia for 23 of his 57 years as a free

man and was deeply committed to obtaining equal congressional voting and self-government rights for District of Columbia residents. His home, Cedar Hill, was established as a National Historic Site, in Anacostia in Southeast Washington, DC and his statue in the U.S. Capitol is a gift from the almost 650,000 American citizens of the District of Columbia.

My bill would simply establish a commission to examine ways the Federal Government can honor Douglass during the bicentennial anniversary of his birth, including the issuance of a Frederick Douglass bicentennial postage stamp, the convening of a joint meeting or joint session of Congress for ceremonies and activities relating to Frederick Douglass, a rededication of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, and the acquisition and preservation of artifacts associated with Frederick Douglass. The Commission would report its findings and recommendations to Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REV. DR. KENNETH L. SAUNDERS, SR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr. on his 25th Pastoral Anniversary. As the pastor of North Stelton A.M.E. Church, Rev. Saunders continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership to the Piscataway community.

Rev. Saunders was ordained Itinerant Elder of the A.M.E. Church in 1977 and became pastor of Bright's Temple A.M.E. Church in Warwick, Bermuda. Immediately prior to his service as pastor of North Stelton A.M.E. Church, Rev. Saunders served at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Madison, New Jersey. During the 11 years at Bethel A.M.E., Rev. Saunders oversaw the growth of the church from 7 congregants to 375.

In addition to his service to North Stelton A.M.E. Church, Rev. Saunders is an active member of his community. He has served as a member of the New Jersey State Parole Board, a Councilman-at-Large and Police Chaplain in Piscataway and has been recognized for his many contributions to the community.

Rev. Saunders was born in Jersey City, New Jersey and worshipped at Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church as a child. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army, which he joined after high school. He also worked for the United States Postal Service and enrolled in the Newark College of Engineering before entering the ministry. Rev. Saunders has been married to Sis. Shirley Harris for over 35 years and together they have a son, Kenneth, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 25th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr. His leadership, service and dedication to the church and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.