

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 39

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Al Park

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM; URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY TO
GRANT THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL
RECOGNITION, ECCLESIASTICAL SUCCESSION AND THE RIGHT TO TRAIN
CLERGY OF ALL NATIONALITIES AND TO RESPECT THE PROPERTY RIGHTS
AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH.

WHEREAS, the ecumenical patriarchate, located in Istanbul,
Turkey, is the sacred see that presides in a spirit of
brotherhood over a communion of self-governing churches of the
orthodox Christian world; and

WHEREAS, the see is led by Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew, who is the two hundred sixty-ninth in direct
succession to the Apostle Andrew and holds titular primacy as
primus inter pares, meaning "first among equals", in the

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 community of orthodox Christian churches worldwide; and

2 WHEREAS, in 1994, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, along
3 with leaders of the appeal of conscience foundation,
4 cosponsored the conference on peace and tolerance, which
5 brought together Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders
6 for an interfaith dialogue to help end the Balkan conflict and
7 the ethnic conflict in the Caucasus region; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1997, the congress of the United States
9 awarded Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with the congressional
10 gold medal; and

11 WHEREAS, following the terrorist attacks on the United
12 States on September 11, 2001, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
13 gathered a group of international religious leaders to produce
14 the first joint statement with Muslim leaders that condemned
15 the September 11 attacks as "anti religious"; and

16 WHEREAS, in October 2005, the ecumenical patriarch, along
17 with Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders, cosponsored the
18 conference on peace and tolerance II to further promote peace
19 and stability in southeastern Europe, the Caucasus region and
20 central Asia via religious leaders' interfaith dialogue,
21 understanding and action; and

22 WHEREAS, the orthodox Christian church, in existence for
23 nearly two thousand years, numbers approximately three hundred
24 million members worldwide with more than two million members in
25 the United States; and

.181168.2

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, since 1453, the continuing presence of the
2 ecumenical patriarchate in Turkey has been a living testament
3 to the religious coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and

4 WHEREAS, the government of Turkey has limited the
5 candidates available to hold the office of ecumenical patriarch
6 to only Turkish nationals, and there remain fewer than three
7 thousand of the ecumenical patriarch's flock left in Turkey
8 today; and

9 WHEREAS, the theological school on the island of Halki was
10 closed in 1971, thus impeding training for orthodox Christian
11 clergy;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the government
14 of the republic of Turkey be urged to hold and safeguard
15 religious and human rights without compromise; grant the
16 ecumenical patriarch appropriate international recognition,
17 ecclesiastic succession and the right to train clergy of all
18 nationalities; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the president of the United States, the majority
21 leader of the United States senate, the speaker of the United
22 States house of representatives, the United States ambassador
23 to the Republic of Turkey, the ambassador of the Republic of
24 Turkey to the United States and to members of New Mexico's
25 congressional delegation.

.181168.2