



HR0348

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of
4 Priesthood for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of
5 Constantinople on October 19, 2019; and

6 WHEREAS, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
7 was born in the village of Zeytinli on the island of Imbros to
8 Christos and Merope Archontonis; and

9 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew belongs to the
10 historically indigenous Rum, descendants of the Eastern Roman
11 Empire/Byzantine Empire Greek community in Turkey; and

12 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew attended
13 elementary school in his native Imbros and continued his
14 secondary education in the famous Zographeion Lyceum in
15 Constantinople; soon afterwards, he studied theology as an
16 undergraduate at the Patriarchal Theological School of Halki;
17 he graduated with highest honors in 1961 and was immediately
18 ordained deacon, receiving the name Bartholomew; from 1963 to
19 1968, he pursued his postgraduate studies at the Pontifical
20 Oriental Institute in Rome, the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey
21 in Switzerland, and the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich
22 in Germany; his doctoral research was on the Canon Law; after

1 returning to Constantinople in 1968, he took a position at the
2 Patriarchal Theological Seminary of Halki; and

3 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was ordained a
4 priest on October 19, 1969 by Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras
5 I; and

6 WHEREAS, When Demetrius I became Ecumenical Patriarch in
7 1972 and established the Patriarchal Office, he selected
8 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as its director; on Christmas
9 of 1973, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew became Metropolitan
10 of Philadelphia and was renamed as director of the patriarchal
11 office until his enthronement as Metropolitan of Chalcedon in
12 1990; and

13 WHEREAS, On October 22, 1991, Ecumenical Patriarch
14 Bartholomew was elected the 270th Archbishop of
15 Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, for which
16 his enthronement ceremony took place on November 2, 1991 in the
17 Patriarchal Cathedral in the Phanar; and

18 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is recognized in
19 the United States and abroad as a leader in the quest for world
20 peace, greater religious understanding, and respect for the
21 Earth's environment; and

1 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual
2 leader of nearly 300,000,000 Orthodox Christians around the
3 world and millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States,
4 with a significant population here in Illinois and the City of
5 Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, On his first official visit to the United States
7 in 1997, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received the
8 Congressional Gold Medal, presented by the United States on
9 behalf of Congress in recognition of his outstanding and
10 enduring contributions to religious understanding and peace;
11 he was recognized by the United States in a manner reserved for
12 a very small number of world leaders; and

13 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew enhanced greater
14 religious understanding by initiating a joint declaration
15 stating that it is man's duty to protect the earth, signed by
16 himself and Pope John Paul II, the spiritual leaders of nearly
17 one out of every five people in the world; and

18 WHEREAS, House Resolution 666 of the 95th General Assembly
19 passed the Illinois House of Representatives on October 4,
20 2007, followed by Senate Resolution 70 of the 98th, which
21 passed the Illinois State Senate on May 31, 2013, both remarked
22 on Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's importance to the State
23 of Illinois and his accomplishments; and

1 WHEREAS, The outstanding accomplishments of Ecumenical
2 Patriarch Bartholomew have been formally recognized and
3 honored by numerous governmental, academic, and other
4 institutions around the world; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Priesthood
8 for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople on
9 October 19, 2019; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we recognize the importance to Illinois, the
11 United States, and to the world of Ecumenical Patriarch
12 Bartholomew's leadership on matters of the environment, peace,
13 and religion and encourage United States foreign policy makers
14 to continue to urge Turkey to grant religious freedom and
15 property rights to the Ecumenical Patriarchate as well as to
16 reopen the theological school at Halki; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we express our support for Ecumenical
18 Patriarch Bartholomew's noble efforts for the betterment of
19 humankind; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as a symbol of

1 our respect and esteem.