

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 149

Reps. Steenland, Aiyash, Bezotte, Brabec, Breen, Brixie, Tyrone Carter, Cavanagh, Ellison, Haadsma, Hood, Jones, Kuppa, Morse, Pohutsky, Rabhi, Sabo, Shannon, Sneller, Sowerby, Stone, Weiss, Witwer and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare September 2021 as Macedonian American
2 Heritage Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Since the 1880s, tens of thousands of Macedonians
4 fled geographic Macedonia to the United States seeking civil
5 liberties, human rights, religious freedom, and economic
6 opportunities in response to the 1903 Ilinden Uprising against the
7 Ottoman Empire, the 1912-13 Balkan Wars, the two World Wars, the
8 Greek Civil War, and communist Yugoslavian policies; and

9 Whereas, Currently the Macedonian community in Michigan is a

1 vibrant one that is embedded within the American mosaic partaking
2 in all walks of life, business, medicine, law, technology, civic
3 engagement, government, the military, education, journalism, the
4 arts, culinary world, athletics, and more; and

5 Whereas, The United Macedonian Diaspora estimates there are
6 over 125,000 Americans of Macedonian heritage living in the Great
7 Lakes State; and

8 Whereas, Michigan is home to the largest community of
9 Macedonian language speakers in the United States, according to the
10 U.S. Census; and

11 Whereas, Michigan benefits from our hard working and
12 passionate Macedonian American community members who, over several
13 generations, have taken risks, chartered new frontiers, and opened
14 businesses in a wide array of sectors including sports, retail,
15 food and drink, financial, construction, health services, and
16 textiles; and

17 Whereas, The Macedonian Americans in Michigan own businesses
18 that collectively employ thousands of Michigan residents and serve
19 as the backbone of Michigan's economy and the path to financial
20 freedom; and

21 Whereas, Prominent Macedonian Americans in Detroit founded
22 Little Caesars Pizza in 1959 and grew it into the third-largest
23 pizza chain in the world and revitalized the city of Detroit
24 putting it on the global map, through their ownership of the
25 Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Tigers, renovation of Fox Theater,
26 Little Caesars Arena and District Detroit; and played a significant
27 role in the civil rights movement and paid for activist Rosa Parks'
28 rent in Detroit for over a decade; and

29 Whereas, Prominent Macedonian Americans made Michigan history

1 by giving Detroit's Wayne State University nearly \$50 million, the
2 school's largest donation ever; and under the leadership of Ilitch
3 Holdings, Inc. and Ilitch Charities, over \$220 million from youth
4 development to community revitalization philanthropic grants since
5 2000 in Michigan; and

6 Whereas, Four of the eight women's names ever engraved on the
7 Stanley Cup are Michigander Macedonian Americans Marian Ilitch
8 (1997, 1998), Denise Ilitch (1997, 1998), Lisa Ilitch (1997, 1998),
9 and Carole Ilitch Trepeck (1997, 1998) all with the Detroit Red
10 Wings; and ; and

11 Whereas, Macedonian immigrants established their own version
12 of the famous Coney Island hot dog in the early 1900s, which
13 remains a staple dish at Coney Island restaurants throughout
14 Michigan; and

15 Whereas, Michigan's Macedonian Americans have tremendously
16 contributed to American athletics and professional sports including
17 a former professional football player born in Dearborn Heights who
18 played for the Miami Dolphins, Kansas City Chiefs, and St. Louis
19 Rams; and finished his career in the top 35 in NFL history in all
20 kicking categories; and

21 Whereas, Sterling Heights, Michigan is home to the
22 headquarters of the American-Canadian Macedonian Orthodox Diocese,
23 under the current auspices of His Grace Metropolitan Metodi; and

24 Whereas, Michigan is home to several Macedonian Orthodox
25 Churches, and Orthodox Churches and Monasteries built by Macedonian
26 Americans; and

27 Whereas, The Macedonian American Student Association was
28 formed at numerous universities including Oakland University, Wayne
29 State University, University of Michigan Ann-Arbor and Dearborn,

1 Michigan State University, and Eastern Michigan University; and

2 Whereas, This year marks the 10th anniversary of the
3 Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans, founded
4 by former Congresswoman Candice S. Miller, and currently co-chaired
5 by Michigan Congresswomen Debbie Dingell and Lisa McClain; and

6 Whereas, This year is significant for Macedonian Americans
7 because September 8, 2021, marks the 30th anniversary of the
8 independence of the Macedonian Republic; and

9 Whereas, The incredible contributions and heritage of
10 Macedonian Americans have helped us build a better Michigan: now,
11 therefore, be it

12 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
13 this legislative body declare September 2021 as Macedonian American
14 Heritage Month in the state of Michigan. We express warm
15 congratulations and best wishes to all Macedonian people around the
16 world as they mark Macedonian Independence Day and recognize the
17 integral role of Macedonian Americans in the economy, culture, and
18 identity of Michigan. We urge the people of Michigan to observe
19 Macedonian American Heritage Month with appropriate programs and
20 activities that celebrate the contributions of Macedonian Americans
21 to Michigan; and be it further

22 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be presented to the
23 Office of the President of the United States, the Speaker of the
24 House of Representatives, the President of the United States
25 Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.