

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 149

Rep. Steenland 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
10 vibrant one that is embedded within the American mosaic partaking
11 in all walks of life, business, medicine, law, technology, civic
12 engagement, government, the military, education, journalism, the

1 arts, culinary world, athletics, and more; and

2 Whereas, The United Macedonian Diaspora estimates there are
3 over 125,000 Americans of Macedonian heritage living in the Great
4 Lakes State; and

5 Whereas, Michigan is home to the largest community of
6 Macedonian language speakers in the United States, according to the
7 U.S. Census; and

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

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

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

26 Whereas, Prominent Macedonian Americans made Michigan history
27 by giving Detroit's Wayne State University nearly \$50 million, the
28 school's largest donation ever; and under the leadership of Ilitch
29 Holdings, Inc. and Ilitch Charities, over \$220 million from youth

1 development to community revitalization philanthropic grants since
2 2000 in Michigan; and

3 Whereas, Four of the eight women's names ever engraved on the
4 Stanley Cup are Michigander Macedonian Americans Marian Ilitch
5 (1997, 1998), Denise Ilitch (1997, 1998), Lisa Ilitch (1997, 1998),
6 and Carole Ilitch Trepeck (1997, 1998) all with the Detroit Red
7 Wings; and ; and

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

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

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

21 Whereas, Michigan is home to several Macedonian Orthodox
22 Churches, and Orthodox Churches and Monasteries built by Macedonian
23 Americans; and

24 Whereas, The Macedonian American Student Association was
25 formed at numerous universities including Oakland University, Wayne
26 State University, University of Michigan Ann-Arbor and Dearborn,
27 Michigan State University, and Eastern Michigan University; and

28 Whereas, This year marks the 10th anniversary of the
29 Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans, founded

1 by former Congresswoman Candice S. Miller, and currently co-chaired
2 by Michigan Congresswomen Debbie Dingell and Lisa McClain; and

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

6 Whereas, The incredible contributions and heritage of
7 Macedonian Americans have helped us build a better Michigan: now,
8 therefore, be it

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

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