

A RESOLUTION

To honor the Bulgarian-American heritage in the State of Ohio.

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Ohio:

WHEREAS, Bulgaria and the United States are strategic partners and allies, sharing ties of culture, tradition, and common interest; and

WHEREAS, The State of Ohio is proud to be called home by a large number of Bulgarian-Americans and their descendants who have contributed significantly to the economic development, multicultural diversity, and enrichment of all aspects of life in the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the United States Senate's ratification of the Protocol for Accession of Bulgaria into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); the 80th anniversary of the rescue of the Bulgarian Jews by the Bulgarian people; and the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria; and

WHEREAS, March 3, 2023, marks the 145th anniversary of the reestablishment of a free Bulgaria; and

WHEREAS, The saving of Bulgarian Jews during World War II is a valuable lesson about the essential role of civic mobilization in support of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. It is a powerful, positive example that inspires today's efforts of the civilized world to fight the modern manifestations of antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, Bulgaria, as a member of NATO and an integral part of the European Union, is a strategic partner to the United States and a key ally in Eastern Europe, contributing to the stability of the Balkan Peninsula and Black Sea Region; and

WHEREAS, Bulgaria and the United States entered into the U.S.-Bulgarian Defense Cooperation Agreement in 2006, providing the U.S. military access to specified Bulgarian military facilities; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, the United States and Bulgaria signed a 10-year Roadmap for Defense Cooperation to foster increased military cooperation and preparation; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 135th General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, honor the Bulgarian-American heritage in the state of Ohio and recognize and applaud the historic significance of the 145th anniversary of the re-establishment of the sovereign and independent Republic of Bulgaria; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we reaffirm the bonds of friendship and cooperation that have existed between the United States, the State of Ohio, and the Republic of Bulgaria for the past 120 years and commit to strengthening these bonds; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Consul General of the Republic of Bulgaria in Chicago.

President _____ of the Senate.

Adopted _____, 20____