

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 267

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 8, 2010

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the 20th anniversary of their declarations on the restoration of independence from the Soviet Union.

Whereas the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were occupied in June 1940 by Soviet forces through the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and illegally incorporated into the Soviet Union in August 1940;

Whereas between June and August 1941, the Baltic nations were invaded by Nazi Germany, subject to brutal repression, and occupied as part of the Third Reich

before being re-occupied by Soviet forces in late 1944 until they regained their independence in August 1991;

Whereas their forcible and illegal incorporation into the Soviet Union and Third Reich was never recognized by the United States;

Whereas from 1940 to 1991, thousands of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians were executed, imprisoned, or exiled by Soviet authorities through a regime of brutal repression and Sovietization in their respective nations;

Whereas despite the efforts of the Soviet Union to eradicate the memory of independence, the Baltic people never lost their hope for freedom and their long-held dream of full independence;

Whereas during the period of “glasnost” and “perestroika” in the Soviet Union, the Baltic people played a leading role in the struggle for democratic reform and national independence; and

Whereas in the years following the declaration and subsequent restoration of full independence, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have demonstrated their commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and have actively participated in a wide range of international structures, pursuing further integration with European political, economic, and security organizations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) congratulates Estonia, Latvia, and Lith-
4 uania on the 20th anniversary of their declarations
5 on the restoration of independence from the Soviet

1 Union and commends the significant progress that
2 they have since made, including their membership in
3 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
4 and the European Union (EU); and

5 (2) calls on the President to continue to build
6 on the close and mutually beneficial relations the
7 United States has enjoyed with Estonia, Latvia, and
8 Lithuania since the restoration of the full independ-
9 ence of those nations.

Passed the House of Representatives December 7,
2010.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.