

Since 2001, Macedonia has been one of the staunchest allies of the United States in the War on Terror. Macedonia was the fourth and fifth largest contributor of troops, per capita, in the mission in Afghanistan. Macedonian troops guarded American troops at the compound in Kabul. And, Macedonia welcomed 50,000 and 400,000 refugees during the wars in Bosnia and Kosovo, respectively. For a country of little over two million, Macedonia has done its fair share and deserves to be in NATO. On that note, I ask that you join me, and 35 colleagues, in cosponsoring H. Res. 56 in support of Macedonia's NATO accession as soon as possible.

With American support, Macedonia has become a model of stability in a region known for ethnic strife and tension. Up until earlier this year, Macedonia was struck with the unprecedented refugee crisis facing Europe, as hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees fled war-torn countries in the Middle East and North Africa. In one year, an estimated one million migrants traveled through Macedonia, and the country's institutions organized an orderly response to the influx of people, including organizing daily trains to ferry migrants from the southern to the northern border. If the partnership between the United States and Macedonia is to remain strong, the country needs our continued support.

I also use this opportunity to urge Macedonia's leaders to continue strengthening their institutions and reforming its democracy and rule of law, especially following the slated December 11, 2016 elections, which will prove a true test of its democracy.

As a way to recognize and strengthen this strategic U.S.-Macedonia partnership, I started the first Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans. This Caucus is a bipartisan group of members of Congress dedicated to maintaining and strengthening a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and the Republic of Macedonia, as well as advocating for the concerns and interests of the Macedonian-American community in the United States.

Michigan's 10th District has one of the largest populations of Macedonian-Americans in the Nation. I would like to acknowledge their contributions to our District and our State, and I look forward to continuing that relationship as we deal with the problems facing our great Nation.

Again, congratulations to all of Macedonian heritage for their achievements as we commemorate this important 25th anniversary of Macedonia's independence.

Long Live Macedonia (Da Zivee Makedonija)

Long Live the United States (Da Zivee Amerika)

“TURN THE PAGE” LITERACY  
INITIATIVE

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every summer youth without access to books lose academic skills, while those who are reading continue to make progress in developing their proficiency. Studies show that summer learning

loss is a significant cause of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth. Students from low-income households learn at the same rate as their peers while school is in session, but while middle- and upper-income students show slight gains in their reading performance after the summer months, lower income students experience a two-month loss in reading achievement.

It is what teachers refer to as the “summer slide” or “summer setback.” This loss is cumulative: while teachers spend 4 to 6 weeks re-teaching material to the students who have fallen behind over the summer, other students are progressing with their skills. The result? By the end of the sixth grade, children who lose reading skills during the summer are on average 2 years behind their peers. Even more startling is the conclusion of University of Nevada research, which has shown that students without access to books are less likely to complete their basic education.

The simple fact is that there are fewer opportunities for daily summer reading when both parents are away at work. Without access to books, our kids fall behind.

My daughter teaches English at Baylor University. She has dedicated her life to edifying the young people of this country by instilling in them a love for reading, and for the intellectual tradition it gives them access to. This love needs to start early, and the inheritance of that tradition should be accessible to all Americans. That is why I am proud of the efforts of KHOU and Star Furniture, who are rolling out a new community effort to increase the literacy rate in Houston. They are soliciting donations for the non-profit group “Books Between Kids,” which provides at-risk children with books that they can keep in their home. We need more programs like this in our country.

IN HONOR OF JAN BLACK

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the remarkable personal and professional achievements of Dr. Jan Black, a great educator, selfless activist, and dear personal friend. Jan is at the same time a model American and a global citizen. Over the years she has devoted countless hours to local political campaigns for offices ranging from the President and Congress to city council and school board. Equally, she has been a tireless advocate and traveled around the world on behalf of international education and human rights.

Jan has taught for many years at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California. She earned her BA in Art and Spanish from the University of Tennessee. She earned her MA in Latin American Studies and PhD in International Studies at the American University School of International Service in Washington DC.

Jan's international experience includes Senior Associate Membership at St. Antony's College, Oxford University; Fulbright, Mellon and other grants and Fellowships in South America, the Caribbean, and India; on-site or short-term teaching and honorary faculty positions in several Latin American countries, and extensive overseas lecturing and research. She was

also a Peace Corps Volunteer in Chile and a faculty member with the University of Pittsburgh's Semester-at-Sea program.

Jan was a research professor in the Division of Public Administration, University of New Mexico, and editor and research administrator in American University's Foreign Area Studies Division. She has also served on some two dozen international editorial and non-governmental organization boards and has published numerous articles and books, including most recently a 2009 book titled “The Politics of Human Rights Protection.”

In 2011, Jan was elected to the Board of Directors of Amnesty International USA, she is a member of the Advisory Boards of the International Political Science Association's Committee on Civil-Military Affairs; the Global Studies Program of California State University, San Jose; and the PhD Fellowship Program of the U.S. Inter-American Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in recognizing Dr. Jan Black for her remarkable personal and professional achievements. The world is a better place because of her efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY  
OF THE CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2016*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the city of Miami Springs on the occasion of its 90th birthday.

Miami Springs was founded in 1926 by aviation pioneer Glenn H. Curtiss. Since that time, Miami Springs has grown to be home to 14,000 Floridians who prize the town for its small-town feel and civic amenities.

Miami Springs has been distinguished with several awards. In recognition of the historic nature of the town and numerous buildings and memorials that illustrate Florida history, the city was designated a “Preserve America Community” by former First Lady Laura Bush in 2008. Today, visitors and residents can tour over twenty historic sites. Additionally, Miami Springs has been certified as a Tree City USA since 1993.

For 90 years, Miami Springs has profited from and contributed to the community surrounding Miami International Airport. The city is a vibrant part of South Florida, and continues to be a wonderful place to live, raise a family, and open a business. I am proud to have collaborated with the thriving City of Miami Springs, and look forward to partnering with its leaders for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the City of Miami Springs on this auspicious milestone, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this exceptional city.

CONSTITUTION WEEK 2016

**HON. TOM RICE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2016*

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following proclamation: