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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to recognize Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople on the historic 30th anniversary of his election on October 22, 1991 and his elevation on November 2, 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch; and

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WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was born to Christos and Merope Archontonis in the village of Zeytinli on the island of Imbros; and

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WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew belongs to the historically indigenous Rum, descendants of the Eastern Roman Empire/Byzantine Empire Greek community in Turkey; and

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WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew attended elementary school in his native Imbros and continued his secondary education in the famous Zographeion Lyceum in Constantinople; soon afterward, he studied theology as an undergraduate at the Patriarchal Theological School of Halki; he graduated with highest honors in 1961 and was immediately ordained deacon, receiving the name Bartholomew; from 1963 to 1968, he pursued his postgraduate studies at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey

1 in Switzerland, and the Ludwig Maximilians University of
2 Munich in Germany; his doctoral research was on the Canon Law;
3 after returning to Constantinople in 1968, he took a position
4 at the Patriarchal Theological Seminary of Halki; and

5 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was ordained a
6 priest on October 19, 1969 by Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras
7 I; and

8 WHEREAS, When Demetrius I became Ecumenical Patriarch in
9 1972 and established the Patriarchal Office, he selected
10 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as its director; on Christmas
11 of 1973, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew became Metropolitan
12 of Philadelphia and was renamed as director of the patriarchal
13 office until his enthronement as Metropolitan of Chalcedon in
14 1990; and

15 WHEREAS, On October 22, 1991, Ecumenical Patriarch
16 Bartholomew was elected the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople
17 New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, for which his enthronement
18 ceremony took place on November 2, 1991 in the Patriarchal
19 Cathedral in the Phanar; and

20 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the
21 longest-serving Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople in the
22 history of Christianity; and

1 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is recognized in
2 the United States and abroad as a leader in the quest for world
3 peace, greater religious understanding, and respect for the
4 Earth's environment; and

5 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual
6 leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church with millions of
7 Orthodox Christians around the world and in the United States,
8 with a significant population here in Illinois and the City of
9 Chicago; and

10 WHEREAS, On his first official visit to the United States
11 in 1997, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received the
12 Congressional Gold Medal, presented by the United States on
13 behalf of Congress in recognition of his outstanding and
14 enduring contributions to religious understanding and peace;
15 he was recognized by the United States in a manner reserved for
16 a very small number of world leaders; and

17 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew enhanced greater
18 religious understanding by initiating a joint declaration
19 stating that it is man's duty to protect the earth, signed by
20 himself and Pope John Paul II, the spiritual leaders of nearly
21 one out of every five people in the world; and

1 WHEREAS, House Resolution 666 of the 95th General Assembly
2 passed the Illinois House of Representatives on October 4,
3 2007, followed by Senate Resolution 70 of the 98th, which
4 passed the Illinois State Senate on May 31, 2013, both
5 remarked on Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's importance to
6 the State of Illinois and his accomplishments; and

7 WHEREAS, House Resolution 348 of the 101st General
8 Assembly passed the Illinois House of Representatives on May
9 30, 2019, recognized the 50th anniversary of Priesthood for
10 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, and
11 remarked on his importance to the State of Illinois and his
12 accomplishments; and

13 WHEREAS, The outstanding accomplishments of Ecumenical
14 Patriarch Bartholomew have been formally recognized and
15 honored by numerous governmental, academic, and other
16 institutions around the world; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare October 22,
19 2021 as Ecumenical See of Constantinople Day in order to
20 commemorate the 30th anniversary of the elevation of
21 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople; and be it
22 further

1 RESOLVED, That we recognize the continuing and historic
2 service by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople; and be
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That we recognize the importance to Illinois,
5 the United States, and to the world of Ecumenical Patriarch
6 Bartholomew's leadership on matters of the environment, peace,
7 and religion and encourage United States foreign policy makers
8 to continue to urge Turkey to grant religious freedom and
9 property rights to the Ecumenical Patriarchate as well as to
10 reopen the theological school at Halki; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we express our support for Ecumenical
12 Patriarch Bartholomew's noble efforts for the betterment of
13 humankind; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as a symbol of
16 our respect and esteem.