

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 284

Designating June 10, 2025, as “DACOR Bacon House Bicentennial Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 17, 2025

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following
resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating June 10, 2025, as “DACOR Bacon House
Bicentennial Day”.

Whereas the DACOR Bacon House (in this preamble referred
to as the “House”) rests upon land originally belonging
to the Anacostian people, who lived in the area between
the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers for generations before
European settlers arrived on their shores;

Whereas the House is built upon land previously owned by
David Burnes, a Revolutionary War veteran who nego-
tiated with President George Washington for the sale of
his property to the Federal Government, which included
the land upon which the White House and much of the
National Mall are built;

Whereas the property was acquired in 1815 by Tobias Lear
V, George Washington’s personal secretary, who was the

last person to whom President Washington spoke before passing and who was instrumental in ending the First Barbary War during his service as Consul General to Algiers;

Whereas Tench Ringgold, United States Marshal for the District of Columbia and Keeper of the Keys of the Capitol, who personally led President James Madison and several members of his Cabinet to safety during the 1814 British burning of the White House, completed building the present-day DACOR Bacon House in 1825, through the use of enslaved people;

Whereas Chief Justice John Marshall, a previous Secretary of State, boarded at the House and was joined at times by Justices Joseph Story, Gabriel Duval, Smith Thompson, and Henry Baldwin;

Whereas former Maryland Governor Samuel Sprigg, who was instrumental in the completion of the historic Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, purchased the House as a gift for his daughter Sally Sprigg and nephew William Thomas Carroll, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States and a member of the prominent Carroll family, which includes signers of the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, United States Constitution, as well as numerous elected officials and the founder of Georgetown University;

Whereas William Thomas Carroll was also known for providing President Abraham Lincoln with the Bible that was used for his first inauguration, which has since become known as the “Lincoln Bible” and has been utilized by other presidents, including President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump, for their oaths of office;

Whereas the DACOR Bacon House served as the official residence of Russian Imperial Minister Nikolai Shishkin, the Russian Federation's top diplomatic representative to the United States, from 1875 to 1878 while he was dispatched to Washington, D.C.;

Whereas Chief Justice Melville Fuller and his family resided at the House from 1896 to 1910, during which time the House remained a fixture in Washington, D.C., high society and hosted President Grover Cleveland, President Theodore Roosevelt, and Secretary of War William Howard Taft;

Whereas, from 1911 to 1925, Alice Cornelia Copley Thaw owned the House and modernized its inner workings;

Whereas Illinois Senator Medill McCormick and his wife, the future Congresswoman Ruth Hanna McCormick, resided in the House during the 1920s when they entertained lawmakers and their spouses;

Whereas socialite Virginia Murray Bacon and her husband, 8-term New York Congressman Robert Low Bacon, owned the House from 1925 to 1980, during which period Virginia Murray Bacon's hosting abilities earned her the reputation of being one of Washington, D.C.'s last grandes dames;

Whereas the House was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, paying homage to its nearly 150 years of contributions to American history and society;

Whereas Virginia Murray Bacon established the Bacon House Foundation, which worked hand in hand with the DACOR Education and Welfare Foundation to establish the DACOR Bacon House Foundation, which was charged with caring for the historic House in perpetuity;

Whereas, on May 23, 1986, Secretary of State George P. Shultz attended the dedication ceremony that marked the DACOR Bacon House Foundation's new ownership and charged those present to "protect and advance the interests and ideals of America";

Whereas, since 1986, the House has served as the headquarters of the Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired (DACOR) organization, a premier organization of foreign affairs professionals, whose members include ambassadors, foreign service officers, military and intelligence officials, political appointees from both major parties, Members of Congress and their staffs, Peace Corps and International Monetary Fund officials, global business leaders, and other professionals dedicated to promoting American interests and diplomatic relations;

Whereas, through DACOR and the DACOR Bacon House Foundation, which host regular educational discussions, policy programs, leadership development opportunities, and musical events, the House continues to be a vibrant center of cultural and diplomatic exchange, a museum of American life, and the home of the foreign affairs community; and

Whereas, 200 years after its construction, the House remains a pillar of strength in the President's neighborhood, pays tribute to the legacy of its prior owners, enslaved workers, and distinguished guests, and serves as a unique prism for understanding the history of both the District of Columbia and the United States of America: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) recognizes the historic importance of the
2 DACOR Bacon House to the history of the United
3 States, including American diplomacy, the Supreme
4 Court, and Congress;

5 (2) applauds the DACOR Bacon House Foun-
6 dation and the Diplomatic and Consular Officers,
7 Retired organization for their decades-long efforts to
8 preserve this historic landmark located in the heart
9 of the capital of the United States; and

10 (3) designates June 10, 2025, as “DACOR
11 Bacon House Bicentennial Day”.

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