

Nov. 20, 2003
[H. Con. Res. 209]

UNITED STATES-ADRIATIC CHARTER—SUPPORT

Whereas the United States has an enduring interest in the independence, territorial integrity, and security of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and supports their full integration in the community of democratic Euro-Atlantic states;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have taken clear and positive steps to advance their integration into Europe by establishing close cooperative relations among themselves and with their neighbors, as well as their promotion of regional cooperation;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have already contributed to European security and to the peace and security of southeast Europe through the resolution of conflicts in the region and their regional cooperation in the Southeast Europe Defense Ministerial;

Whereas on May 2, 2003, the United States-Adriatic Charter was signed in Tirana, Albania, by Secretary of State Colin Powell, Albania Foreign Minister Ilir Meta, Croatia Foreign Minister Tonino Picula, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva;

Whereas the Adriatic Charter affirms the commitment of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the values and principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to joining the Alliance at the earliest possible time;

Whereas Secretary of State Powell stated that the Adriatic Charter “reaffirms our partners’ dedication to work individually, with each other, and with their neighbors to build a region of strong democracies powered by free market economies * * * [i]t underscores the importance we place on their eventual full integration into NATO and other European institutions * * * [a]nd most importantly, the Charter promises to strengthen the ties that bind the peoples of the region to the United States, to one another, and to a common future within the Euro-Atlantic family”; and

Whereas 75 special forces troops of Albania were sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 29 special forces troops of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were sent to Iraq as part of the postwar stabilization force, and Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia all contributed to the stabilization forces in Afghanistan, as signs of their commitment to promote international freedom and security: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) strongly supports the United States-Adriatic Charter and commends Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for their continued efforts to become full-fledged members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union;

(2) urges NATO to invite Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to join NATO as soon as each of these countries respectively demonstrates the ability to

assume the responsibilities of NATO membership through the Membership Action Plan;

(3) welcomes and supports the aspirations of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to join the European Union at the earliest opportunity;

(4) recognizes that Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are making important strides to bring their economic, military, and political institutions into conformance with the standards of NATO and other Euro-Atlantic institutions; and

(5) commends Secretary of State Powell for his personal support of the Adriatic Charter.

Agreed to November 20, 2003.

MOTORSPORTS—RECOGNITION

Nov. 20, 2003
[H. Con. Res. 320]

Whereas on March 26, 1903, a century of motorsports was inaugurated at an automobile race held on a beach in Volusia County, Florida;

Whereas motorsports are now the fastest growing sports in the United States;

Whereas races are conducted at numerous motorsports facilities located in every State;

Whereas racing fans are able to enjoy a wide variety of motorsports sanctioned by organizations that include Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART), Grand American Road Racing (Grand Am), Indy Racing League (IRL), International Motor Sports Association (IMSA), National Association for Stock Car Automobile Racing (NASCAR), National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), and United States Auto Club (USAC);

Whereas the research and development of vehicles used in motorsports competition directly contributes to improvements of safety and technology in automobiles and other motor vehicles used by millions of Americans;

Whereas 13,000,000 fans will attend NASCAR races alone in 2003;

Whereas fans of all ages spend a substantial amount of time at motorsports facilities participating in a variety of interactive theme and amusement activities surrounding the races;

Whereas motorsports facilities that provide these theme and amusement activities contribute millions of dollars to local and State economies as well as the national economy; and

Whereas tens of millions of Americans enjoy the excitement and speed of motorsports every week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes the importance of motorsports and its evolution over the past century and honors those who have helped create and build this great American pastime.

Agreed to November 20, 2003.