

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 509

Expressing support for designation of August 23 as “Black Ribbon Day”
to recognize the victims of Soviet Communist and Nazi regimes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2014

Mr. SHIMKUS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designation of August 23 as “Black
Ribbon Day” to recognize the victims of Soviet Com-
munist and Nazi regimes.

Whereas, on August 13, 1941, President Franklin D. Roo-
sevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued a
joint declaration “of certain common principles in the na-
tional policies of their respective countries on which they
based their hopes for a better future for the world” and
“the right of all peoples to choose the form of govern-
ment under which they will live and self government re-
stored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them”
and that the people of countries may live in freedom;

Whereas the United States Government has actively advoca-
ted for and continues to support the principles by the
United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

and the United Nations General Assembly resolution 260 (III) of December 9, 1948;

Whereas Captive Nations Week, signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1959, raised public awareness of the oppression of nations under the control of Communist and other nondemocratic governments;

Whereas the European Parliament resolution on European conscience and totalitarianism of April 2, 2009, and the “Black Ribbon Day” resolution adopted by the Parliament of Canada of November 30, 2009, establish a day of remembrance for victims of Communist and Nazi regimes to remember and commemorate their victims;

Whereas the extreme forms of totalitarian rule practiced by the Soviet Communist and Nazi regimes led to premeditated and vast crimes committed against millions of human beings and their basic and inalienable rights on a scale unseen before in history;

Whereas fleeing the Nazi and Soviet Communist crimes, hundreds of thousands of people sought and found refuge in the United States;

Whereas August 23 would be an appropriate date to designate as “Black Ribbon Day” to remember and never forget the terror millions of citizens in Central and Eastern Europe experienced for more than 40 years by ruthless military, economic, and political repression of the people through arbitrary executions, mass arrests, deportations, the suppression of free speech, confiscation of private property, and the destruction of cultural and moral identity and civil society, all of which deprived the vast majority of the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe of their basic human rights and dignity, separating

them from the democratic world by means of the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall; and

Whereas the memories of Europe's tragic past cannot be forgotten in order to honor the victims, condemn the perpetrators, and lay the foundation for reconciliation based on truth and remembrance: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports
- 2 the designation of "Black Ribbon Day" to recognize the
- 3 victims of Soviet Communist and Nazi regimes.

