

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 865

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight of 1956 and celebrating the deep friendship between Hungary and the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. RUSSELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight of 1956 and celebrating the deep friendship between Hungary and the United States.

Whereas, on October 23, 1956, the people of Hungary rose up against Communist tyranny and Soviet occupation to defend their freedom and sovereignty;

Whereas the United States gave moral support and encouragement to the people of Hungary in their struggle for freedom;

Whereas, on October 23, 1956, Hungarian students organized a solidarity demonstration with the people of Poland and presented a 16-point list of demands, the first of which called for an end to Soviet occupation, thus be-

ginning the first mass scale popular uprising against Communism behind the Iron Curtain;

Whereas, on October 24, 1956, Soviet troops attacked the freedom fighters beginning an intense armed struggle that lasted for several months between the freedom fighters and the largest army in the world;

Whereas for the first time under Soviet occupation anywhere, the Hungarian protesters demolished the hated Stalin statue shattering any remaining illusions about Communism globally;

Whereas, on October 27, 1956, Imre Nagy formed a new government accepting the demands of the revolutionaries and the Hungarian Freedom Fighters halted the attacks of the Soviets, paving the way for Hungary to declare its independence from the Soviet bloc and reintroduce democratic multiparty pluralism;

Whereas in reaction to the Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight President Eisenhower stated on October 31, 1956, that “all the world has been watching dramatic events in Hungary where this brave people, as so often in the past, have offered their very lives for independence from foreign masters. Today, it appears, a new Hungary is rising from this struggle, a Hungary which we hope from our hearts will know full and free nationhood”;

Whereas, on November 4, 1956, the Soviet Union’s invasion of Hungary began anew with overwhelming force, brutally suppressing the democratic uprising and toppling the legitimate government;

Whereas the events poignantly showed the truth that Communist power can only be maintained through brute oppression and violence;

Whereas 400 people were executed in the ensuing reprisals and over 21,000 were imprisoned;

Whereas President Eisenhower called the acts a “brutal Soviet repression of the people of Hungary”;

Whereas the United States Embassy sheltered Cardinal József Mindszenty, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Hungary and an uncompromised moral leader of resistance to Communism for 30 years;

Whereas the United States, recognizing that several thousand freedom fighters were imprisoned and tortured following the Revolution, pursued a concerted and determined policy effort over many years to demand the release of these freedom fighters from imprisonment, thanks to which effort many thousand freedom fighters were ultimately released and could regain their freedom;

Whereas tens of thousands of Hungarians fleeing persecution found a new home in the United States strengthening existing and creating new bonds between the people of Hungary and the United States based on the strongest and most noble value of humankind, that of love of freedom;

Whereas the brutality of the oppression could temporarily halt the advance of freedom, but the Hungarian freedom fighters won the admiration of the world; and

Whereas after 1956, Communism became morally untenable and the Hungarian revolution inspired the 1968 Czechoslovak Spring of Freedom and the 1980 Polish march for freedom, thus started the dismantling and the eventual defeat of Communist tyranny worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1           (1) celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Hun-  
2           garian Revolution and Freedom Fight of 1956 and  
3           values the opportunity to remember the historic  
4           events with many of the Hungarian heroes of the  
5           time still with us today;

6           (2) honors the determination, courage, and sac-  
7           rifice of the people of Hungary, who rose up to fight  
8           for what they believed in, advancing the cause of  
9           freedom in Hungary, Central Europe, and beyond;

10          (3) underlines the strong bonds between Hun-  
11          gary and the United States based on our most ele-  
12          vating and common values, love of freedom, and an  
13          unquenchable thirst for liberty;

14          (4) recognizes the importance of the alliance be-  
15          tween the United States and Hungary in—

16                (A) common security and defense;

17                (B) an enduring shared commitment to-  
18                ward our shared values; and

19                (C) promoting peace and shared pros-  
20                perity;

21          (5) expresses appreciation for the commitment  
22          of the people of Hungary to democratic ideals and  
23          a Europe whole and free; and

24          (6) reaffirms the deep and historical friendship  
25          between the people of Hungary and the United

- 1 States based on the most powerful and most noble
- 2 value of humankind, the love of freedom.

