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House Resolution 1279

By: Representative Parrish of the 156th

A RESOLUTION

Expressing cultural, economic, and educational cooperation with the Republic of Hungary, recognizing February 18, 2012, as Hungary Day at the state capitol, and inviting Ambassador György Szapáry to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, there is a bond of friendship between the citizens of Georgia and the Republic of Hungary, and the people of Georgia welcome opportunities to grow our already deep relationship at all levels, including cultural, academic, and business; and

WHEREAS, Ambassador Dr. György Szapáry has long been recognized for his role in leadership and his deep personal commitment to fostering diplomatic relationships with countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 years ago, on May 29, 1989, the Hungarian government in Budapest ordered the dismantling of the 150-mile-long fence along the Austrian border, resulting in the first visible crack in the Iron Curtain; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 1989, Hungary formally opened her borders, thereby igniting free emigration by citizens from behind the Iron Curtain to countries of Western democracies; and

WHEREAS, weeks after the Austrian border of Hungary was opened, the Berlin Wall fell, the Velvet Revolution took place in Prague, the people of Romania deposed a brutal dictator during a bloody revolution, and the Soviet Union fell; and

WHEREAS, most nations of the former Soviet Bloc chose a democratic way of life, making it possible for Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland to join NATO ten years later; and

WHEREAS, today Hungary, as well as most of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, are faithful allies of the United States and proud members of the European Union; and

WHEREAS, Ambassador Szapáry's visit will cement the already close and friendly connections between the State of Georgia and the Republic of Hungary and further promote business and cultural ties between our state and Hungary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body hereby recognize the special friendship between the State of Georgia and the Republic of Hungary, declare February 18, 2012, as Hungary Day at the state capitol, and invite Ambassador György Szapáry to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appreciation is expressed to Ambassador Dr. György Szapáry for his efforts to promote peace and grow commercial, cultural, and educational ties between our two nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ambassador Dr. György Szapáry.