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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-2210

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June 14, 2013

Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Macedonian Orthodox Church
43123 Ryan Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314

Dear Very Reverend Sinisa, Reverend Antonie, and respected Parishioners of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Macedonian Orthodox Church:

Please accept my deepest condolences over the loss of Polosko-Kumanovski Metropolitan Kiril of the Macedonian Orthodox Church. It is a great loss for Macedonia, the entire Macedonian Orthodox Church and its followers, but particularly to those of you from the Polog/Tetovo region of Macedonia.

I had the privilege of meeting Bishop Kiril in the past at your church and can attest to the strength of his conviction as a member of the Macedonian Orthodox faith as well as his firm and unwavering commitment to the moral betterment of the Macedonian people. Bishop Kiril was a true advocate of both the Macedonian Orthodox Church and the people of the Macedonian heritage worldwide and was instrumental in the development and growth of our Southeast Michigan Macedonian community.

Bishop Kiril played an integral role in resurrecting the Macedonian Orthodox Church – Ohrid Archbishopric, after two hundred years since its abolishment by the Ottoman Sultan, upon returning to Macedonia in 1967 after attending the Moscow Theological Academy. He was the only surviving signatory of the autocephalous declaration and a leading advocate for the establishment of an independent Republic of Macedonia.

Bishop Kiril founded both the American-Canadian and Australian Macedonian Orthodox Dioceses and served as a central administrator in each until 1987 and 1982 respectively. As a result of his steadfast leadership and resonant influence, Bishop Kiril catalyzed an international expansion of the Macedonian Orthodox faith throughout the course of his lifetime. The breadth of his legacy is confirmed in the more than fifteen cities in the world where he has been declared an honorary citizen.

Once again, I offer my deepest condolences for the passing of Bishop Kiril. His presence in the Macedonian Orthodox Church is irreplaceable and his manifold contributions to the people of Macedonia and Macedonians abroad, including our community in Sterling Heights, Michigan, are of lasting value and cornerstone importance. I will cherish my acquaintance with Bishop Kiril, and am truly grateful for his years of service to his Macedonian Orthodox faith and people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Candice S. Miller".

Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress