

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1163

Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Mr. TURNER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Dayton Peace
Accords.

Whereas, December 14, 2020, marks the 25th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and brought peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas ethnic cleansing and concentration camps were used as a tool of war against Bosnian Muslim men, women, and children, culminating in the July 1995 genocide at Srebrenica, where 8,000 Muslim men and teenagers were detained and killed;

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United States initiated airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs to stop grave human rights abuses, which led to ceasefire negotiations and the peace accords;

Whereas negotiations began on November 1, 1995, in Dayton, Ohio, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, led by then-negotiator Richard Holbrooke and then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher, with Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Alija Izetbegović, President of the Republic of Serbia Slobodan Milošević, President of the Republic of Croatia Franjo Tuđman, European Union Special Representative Carl Bildt, First Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Igor Ivanov, and representatives from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy;

Whereas, after days of extensive discussions, a historic peace agreement was signed on December 14, 1995, to halt the conflict and bring peace to the region;

Whereas, despite seemingly insurmountable differences in opinions, the negotiations succeeded due to dedicated foreign service professionals, a common yearning for a peaceful resolution, and an outpouring of support from the global community;

Whereas the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also known as the Dayton Peace Accords, laid the groundwork for NATO and European Union (EU) stabilization missions over the past 25 years, which have allowed the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to live peacefully and prosper;

Whereas the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, established in 2006, remains the only literary peace prize awarded in the United States and recognizes the power of the written word to promote peace, and after the death of Ambassador Holbrooke in 2011, the Lifetime Achievement Award was renamed the Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award;

Whereas the peace negotiations were strongly supported by the City of Dayton, Ohio, its leaders, and community, creating strong relationships between all parties involved, including a sister city relationship with Sarajevo;

Whereas the United States Government reaffirms support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty and upholds the commitment to equality for all ethnicities according to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and

Whereas, since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been working in partnership with the international community towards building a peaceful and democratic society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free-market economy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns human rights abuses that took
3 place during the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
4 and reconfirms the joint United States and EU com-
5 mitment to promote and protect human rights, de-
6 mocracy, and the rule of law worldwide;

7 (2) commends the commitment of the Govern-
8 ment and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to
9 peace and cooperation 25 years after the Dayton
10 Peace Accords;

11 (3) encourages the Government of Bosnia and
12 Herzegovina to continue pursuing NATO and EU
13 membership;

1 (4) encourages the Government of Bosnia and
2 Herzegovina to continue its progress towards solving
3 its constitutional issues and improving its economic
4 policy as it advances towards NATO and EU mem-
5 berships;

6 (5) reiterates the importance of the Dayton
7 Peace Accords as the basis of constitutional reform
8 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the promotion of po-
9 litical, economic, legal, and religious equality
10 through the goals and values laid out by the EU;

11 (6) urges the Government of Bosnia and
12 Herzegovina to pursue constitutional reforms, need-
13 ed to reconcile the past to seek empathy and respect
14 as foundations to build a common future;

15 (7) urges the United States Government to
16 work closely with the governments of the countries
17 that border Bosnia and Herzegovina—especially
18 those who are signatories of the Dayton Peace Ac-
19 cords—to support full implementation of the Sta-
20 bilization and Association Agreement between the
21 EU and the Balkan States, which requires regional
22 cooperation; and

23 (8) recognizes the State of Ohio and the greater
24 Dayton community for their role in fostering the
25 Dayton Peace Accords, and for continuing to sup-

- 1 port diplomacy, security, and peace around the
- 2 world.

