

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 137

Honoring the life of Shimon Peres.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOULTON, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ROKITA, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. ZELDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life of Shimon Peres.

Whereas Shimon Peres was born as Szymon Perski on August 21, 1923, in Vishnev, Poland, today part of Belarus;

Whereas in 1934, he and his family emigrated to Israel, then the British-controlled Palestinian Mandate;

Whereas Peres joined the pre-cursor to the Israeli army, the Haganah, helped found Kibbutz Geva, and became involved in the Hanoar Haoved youth movement;

Whereas in 1945, Peres joined the Young Guard of Mapai, the political party that later became the Labor Party, and was elected to the steering committee;

Whereas in 1945, Peres married Sonia Gelman, to whom he was married for more than 60 years until her passing in 2011;

Whereas in 1952, Peres was appointed deputy director general of the Defense Ministry of the State of Israel;

Whereas Peres was elected as a Mapai member to the Knesset in 1959, where he would go on to serve for 50 years;

Whereas Peres, with David Ben-Gurion, worked to establish the labor party in 1968;

Whereas Peres served in the Golda Meir government in various positions;

Whereas Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appointed Peres as defense minister in 1974;

Whereas Peres led the labor party to victory in 1984, upon which he became Prime Minister, and then foreign minister in the unity government created with the Likud party;

Whereas Peres worked to achieve a peace agreement with the PLO and successfully negotiated the Oslo Accords, which were signed in 1993;

Whereas for his work on the Oslo Accords Peres, along with Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994;

Whereas upon the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995, Peres assumed the role of Prime Minister and

led the country through a difficult period of mourning and unrest;

Whereas in 1996, Peres founded the Peres Center for Peace, dedicated to promoting peace-building and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians;

Whereas in 2007, now a member of the Kadima party, Peres was elected as Israel's ninth President;

Whereas in July 2012, Peres was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas in May 2014, Peres was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal;

Whereas Peres passed away on September 28, 2016, in Israel, leaving a legacy of strong leadership and dedication to achieving peace; and

Whereas Peres is survived by his three children and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) extends its deepest sympathies to the people
3 of Israel and to the family of Shimon Peres in their
4 bereavement; and

5 (2) honors the dedication Peres showed to serv-
6 ing his country and preserving the security, pros-
7 perity, and peace of the State of Israel.

○